

WELCOME

Thank you for joining us for Christmas Eve today. If you're visiting, we hope you experience Jesus' hospitality. Would you consider being a regular part of what God is doing in and through this church? To indicate your presence with us, please visit the welcome table and fill out an information card.

VISITORS WITH CHILDREN IN THE SERVICE

Children of all ages are welcome during this service. We don't mind a little noise or commotion! Please note our nursery is available for the littlest ones.

For information about our Children's Ministry, reach out to Caroline Huxell at families@ gracepasadena.org.

UPCOMING DATES

DEC 25 — Christmas Day — No Service DEC 31 — New Year's Eve — No Service JAN 7 — Sunday Service Resumes @ 10am

Cover Art: "Seeing Shepherds" by Daniel Bonnell

REFLECTIONS

"For whatever reason God chose to make man as he is—limited and suffering and subject to sorrows and death—he had the honesty and the courage to take his own medicine. Whatever game he is playing with his creation, he has kept his own rules and played fair. He can exact nothing from man that he has not already exacted from himself. He has himself gone through the whole of human experience, from the trivial irritations of family life and the cramping restrictions of hard work and lack of money to the worst horrors of pain and humiliation, defeat, despair, and death. When he was a man, he played the man. He was born in poverty and died in disgrace and thought it well worthwhile."

DOROTHY L. SAYERS | Letters to a Diminished Church

"The Lord did not come to make a display. He came to heal and to teach suffering men. For one who wanted to make a display the thing would have been just to appear and dazzle the beholders. But for Him Who came to heal and to teach the way was not merely to dwell here, but to put Himself at the disposal of those who needed Him, and to be manifested according as they could bear it, not vitiating the value of the Divine appearing by exceeding their capacity to receive it."

ST. ATHANASIUS | On the Incarnation

"For me it is the virgin birth, the Incarnation, the resurrection which are the true laws of the flesh and the physical. Death, decay, destruction are the suspension of these laws. I am always astonished at the emphasis the Church puts on the body. It is not the soul she says that will rise but the body, glorified."

FLANNERY O'CONNOR | THE HABIT OF BEING

"It is not simply that we need poetry and the other arts to help us apprehend the mystery of incarnation but that the mystery of incarnation is what makes the imaginative arts possible."

MALCOLM GUITE | LIFTING THE VEIL

A SERVICE OF LESSON AND CAROLS*

OPENING CAROL: JOY TO THE WORLD / J. WATTS

- 1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing!
- 2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
- 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found!
- 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.

CALL TO WORSHIP & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader Lift up your hearts in prayer: lift up your voices in praise.

Let your eyes rise in expectation and your hands in exultation,

for the Lord has drawn near and dwells among us.

All We lift them up!

Leader But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves,

for those who have not heard the good news of God,

or who do not believe it;

for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death, for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity within the Church in this place and everywhere,

that it may be freed from all evil and fear,

and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

Let us now gather all our prayers into the prayer Jesus Christ taught us to say:

All Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. AMEN.

^{*}The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first celebrated at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve, 1918. The nine lessons were reordered in 1919, and what follows is an adaptation inspired by a service offered by Calvin Seminary. The Festival is often observed as a Christmas Eve service, and the lessons move deliberately from the season of Advent into Christmastide.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING / C. WESLEY

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; With th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!

RFFRAIN

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

- 2. Christ, by highest Heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord; Late in time, behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity, Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
- 3. Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings. Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die; born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.

LESSON #1: GENESIS 3:8-15

⁸ And [Adam and Eve] heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

LESSON #2: ISAIAH 9:2; 6-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

⁶ For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

LESSON #3: ISAIAH 11:1-9

- ¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- ² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear,

- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
- and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH / TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

REFRAIN

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

- 2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
- 3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
- 4. See Him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

LESSON #4: LUKE 1:26-35

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

- ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"
- ³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.

LESSON #5: LUKE 1:39-55

³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."

⁴⁶ And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

52 he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

55 as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL / J. WADE

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; come and behold Him, born the King of angels;

RFFRAIN:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

- 2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest;
- 3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;

CHRISTMAS EVE MESSAGE

MARC CHOI

"Mary's Joy / Mary's Sorrow"

LESSON #6: LUKE 2:1-7

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

LESSON #7: LUKE 2:8-20

⁸ And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶ And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷ And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸ And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰ And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

O HOLY NIGHT / P. CAPPEAU

- 1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining; it is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'till He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born! O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
- 2. Truly He taught us to love one another; his law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we; let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim! His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

LESSON #8: MATTHEW 2:1-11

¹ Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

6 "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'"

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹ After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

GOD REST YOU MERRY GENTLEMEN / ARR. REINDER TRIBE

- 1. God rest you merry gentlemen, let nothing you dismay; Remember Christ, our Savior, was born on Christmas Day To save us all from Satan's pow'r, when we were gone astray. O tidings of comfort and joy, tidings of comfort and joy.
- 2. From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came and unto certain shepherds, brought tidings of the same, how that in Bethlehem was born, the son of God by name. O tidings of comfort and joy, tidings of comfort and joy.
- 3. "Fear not," then said the angel, "Let nothing you affright; this day is born a Savior, the true and radiant light, to free all those who trust in him, from Satan's pow'r and might." O tidings of comfort and joy, tidings of comfort and joy.
- 4. Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and in true love and fellowship, each other now embrace; This holy tide of Christmas, is filled with heav'nly grace. O tidings of comfort and joy, tidings of comfort and joy.

LESSON #9: JOHN 1:1-14

- ¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.
- ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.
- ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.
- ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

COMMUNION

GUIDELINES: The sacrament of Communion is also called the Lord's Supper or Eucharist. It is the family meal for those who are willing to forsake their sin and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation. The invitation is from Jesus Christ alone, not from this church or any minister. If you are baptized and can call yourself a Christian, come to the table.

DIRECTIONS: When instructed, please come forward to receive Communion. Receive the bread and juice from the servers. Participate as you feel comfortable.

CHILDREN: Children who are baptized, can profess faith in Jesus Christ in an age appropriate manner, and have talked to a pastor or an elder may participate in communion.

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN / Words: R. Boyce; Arr. Reindeer Tribe

1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night, Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

RFFRAIN

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;

2. Down in a lowly manger our humble Christ was born, and brought us all salvation that blessed Christmas morn.

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth, rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.

Gloria in excelsis deo (4x)

LESSON #10 & THE BENEDICTION: REVELATION 22:20-21

Leader He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen.

Come, Lord Jesus! The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all. Amen.