



CHRISTMAS

BEGINS WITH

Christ.



CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsive)*

On this holiest of nights,
*we come, joining the shepherds
who are stunned by wonder.*

On this most silent night,
*we come, our hopes and dreams
joining those of Mary and Joseph.*

On this night of carols and candlelight,
*we come, our glad songs joining
with the choirs of angels.*

On this sacred night,
Let us worship God!

*OPENING HYMN

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

No. 113

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (2x)

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (2x)

*Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.*

Gloria in excelsis Deo! (2x)

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-5

David Allshouse

God Creates the world, the light is good

*CAROL

"Angels, from the Realms of Glory"

No. 143 (vs. 1 & 4)

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:*

Come and worship, come and worship,

worship Christ,

the newborn king!

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:*

Come and worship, come and worship,

worship Christ,

the newborn king!

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace creation

CAROL

"Love Has Come Down"

No. 110

*Love has come: a light in the darkness!
 Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.
 See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;
 hear how their song of joy arises:
 Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!
 Love! Love! Glory to God on high.*

*Love is born! Come, share in the wonder.
 Love is God now asleep in the hay.
 See the glow in the eyes of his mother;
 What is the name her heart is saying?
 Love! Love! Love is the name she whispers.
 Love! Love! Jesus, Emmanuel.*

*Love has come and never will leave us!
 Love is life everlasting and free.
 Love is Jesus within and among us.
 Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.
 Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.
 Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!*

SHARING WITH THE CHILDREN

ANTHEM

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

St. Andrew Bells Choir

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER (p. 35 in Hymnal)

. . . on this holiest of nights

God's love is born in Jesus!

ANTHEM

"African Noel"

St. Andrew Choir

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Pat Manning

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child

*CAROL

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

No. 119 (vs. 1 & 2)

*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 the angelic host proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn king!"*

. . .

...

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.*

*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"*

FOURTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-23

Eileen Mihm

God tells Joseph Mary is with child and to name him Emmanuel

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

No. 121 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.*

*O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!*

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Myles Billheimer

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child

ANTHEM

"Her Little Child"

St. Andrew Choir

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Sandy Petznick

Angels appear to shepherds and announce the birth of the Messiah

CAROL

"The First Nowell"

No. 147 (vs. 1 & 2)

*The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

...

...
*They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.*

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

OFFERTORY

"Still, Still, Still"

St. Andrew Bell Choir

SEVENTH LESSON:

Matthew 2:1-11

Kathryn Adkins

Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to baby Jesus

CAROL

"The Three Kings of Orient Are"

No. 151 (vs. 1, 2, 3)

*We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.*

Refrain { *O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!* }

*Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.*

(No Refrain)

*Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
prayer and praising gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.*

Refrain

EIGHTH LESSON:

John 1:1-14

Gene Burk

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth

*CAROL

"Joy to the World!"

No. 134 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

*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 heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*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.*

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST CANDLE

*We will process outside into the patio where we will form a circle,
light our candles, sing Silent Night and receive the Benediction.*

"Silent Night"

*Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"*

*Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.*



The first historical Service of Lessons and Carols was held in 1880 at the cathedral of Truro in Cornwall, England. In 1918, King's College, in Cambridge, England, established the Festival of Lessons and Carols as a traditional closure to the Advent season, with their first performance on Christmas Eve. Since the early 1900's, the service has become a traditional holiday celebration of God's loving purpose, from Creation to the Incarnation, presented in Scripture and carols.

*Pastor Anne and the staff of St. Andrew Church
wish you all a joyous and blessed Christmas!*