

New England Annual Conference
Christmas Eve Candlelight Lessons and Carols 2020

Prelude

‘Christmas Favorites (A Medley of Hymns)’
MCMLXI, J. Fisher & Bro

Juhee Lee, violin
Christine Song, violin
Beverly Rathbun, organ

Bidding Prayer

Eric Milner-White, 1918

Charlotte Pridgen-Randolph

Carol

‘O Come, All Ye Faithful’ (vs. 1,3,6)

UMH #234

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;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Juhee Lee, violin
Christine Song, violin
Beverly Rathbun, organ

First Lesson

Isaiah 9.2,6

Isaiah Robinson

Carol

‘O Come, O Come, Emmanuel’ (vs. 1, 6)

UMH #211

O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
our spirits by thy justice here;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death’s dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Steve Smith, flugelhorn

Second Lesson

Isaiah 11.1-2,6-7,9

Robert Kambo

Carol

'It Came Upon the Midnight Clear'

UMH #218

It came upon the midnight clear,
 that glorious song of old,
 from angels bending near the earth
 to touch their harps of gold:
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all,
 from heaven's all-gracious King."
 The world in solemn stillness lay,
 to hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
 whose forms are bending low,
 who toil along the climbing way
 with painful steps and slow,
 look now! for glad and golden hours
 come swiftly on the wing.
 O rest beside the weary road,
 and hear the angels sing!

Still through the cloven skies they come
 with peaceful wings unfurled,
 and still their heavenly music floats
 o'er all the weary world;
 above its sad and lowly plains,
 they bend on hovering wing,
 and ever o'er its Babel sounds
 the blessed angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
 by prophet seen of old,
 when with the ever-circling years
 shall come the time foretold
 when peace shall over all the earth
 its ancient splendors fling,
 and the whole world send back the song
 which now the angels sing.

Emily Adams, organ and voice

Third Lesson

Luke 1.26-38 & Matthew 1.19-24

David Alexandre
Ana Arroyo

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. For no word from God will ever fail."

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary

home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel” (which means “God with us”). When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Carol

‘Joy to the World’

UMH #246

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 world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, & plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Conference Korean Choir
Aaron Hyungkyu Yi, organ and conductor

Fourth Lesson

Luke 2.1-7

Nami Yu

Carol

‘Away in a Manger/Happy Birthday’

UMH #217
Sung to: CRADLE SONG

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.

Laura E. Merrill Church, piano and voice
Margaret Merrill Church, voice

Fifth Lesson

Luke 2.8-20

Gwyneth Arrison

Carol

‘Hark! the Herald Angels Sing’

UMH #240

Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the new-born 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!"
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 a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Ann Rowell, organ

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 2.1-12

Ernest Belisle

Anthem

‘See, Amid the Winter’s Snow’
Words by Edward Caswall Music by Sir John Goss
#164 Ghanian Methodist Hymnbook

Ishmael and Mercy Cronze, Georgina Maison-Riley, Josehine Behanzin and Helen Marcil, voice
Joshua Birns-Sprague, piano (recorded in 2019)

**Meditation
Anthem**

‘O Holy Night’
Composed in 1847 by Adolphe Adam (1803-1856),
English Translation written in 1855 by John Sullivan Dwight

Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

Adam Hall, voice
Thomas Jones, piano

Offering

Erica Robinson-Johnson

Doxology

Sung to: THE FIRST NOEL
UMH #95 & #245 Refrain

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the king of Israel.

Juhee Lee, violin
Christine Song, violin
Beverly Rathbun, organ

Seventh Lesson

John 1.1-5,9-12,14

Kevin Tansey, sign

Carol

‘Silent Night’(vs.1-3)

UMH #239

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.

Ralph Cheney, classical guitar

Blessing

May God bless and keep you on this holy night.

Postlude

‘It Came Upon the Midnight Clear’

Arr. Cathy Moglebust

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Karen James, bell tree and piano

‘Away in a Manger’

Christmas Carols for Twelve Bells Arr. Jason Krug Copyright 2013 Choristers Guild

Karen James, Ann Reed, Ellen Wakker, Bobbie Fillioe, bells

Thank you to all who participated in this worshipful work. A special expression of gratitude is extended to Lucas Fonseca of Mosaic Chapel and Beth DiCocco, NEAC Director of Communications.

UMH stands for United Methodist Hymnal

Most of the scripture readings are from the New International Version.