



ORDER FOR THE
PUBLIC WORSHIP *of* GOD

December 23, 2012
Nine Lessons and Carols



Order for the Public Worship of God

*As you enter the Sanctuary, please assume a quiet and respectful attitude of worship.
Please silence your mobile devices.*

ORCHESTRAL PRELUDE: "Overture from *Messiah*" G.F. Handel

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

Patrick, Jennifer, Katie, and Caroline Danehy

CHORAL INTROIT: "Savior of the Nations, Come" J.S. Bach

Savior of the nations, come; Virgin's Son, here make Thy home!
Marvel now, O heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.

Praise to You, O Lord, we sing; praise to Christ, our newborn King!
With the Father, Spirit, one, let Your lasting kingdom come.

The Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, and Orchestra

CALL TO WORSHIP Dan G. Burns
Assistant Pastor, World Missions

The First Lesson

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

GENESIS 3:8-15 (*page 3 in pew Bible*)

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF DIVINE PARDON

✦HYMN OF ADVENT: No. 194 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" arr. John Rutter
stanzas 1 & 3

✦PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Second Lesson

God promises to faithful Abraham that his seed shall the nations of the earth call blessed.

GENESIS 22:15-18 (*page 16 in pew Bible*) Catherine S. Burns

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

✦HYMN OF ADVENT: No. 196 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" arr. Fergeson
stanzas 1, 3 & 4

The Third Lesson

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

ISAIAH 9:2, 6 & 7 (*page 573 in pew Bible*) Michael G. Stokke
Assistant Pastor, Middle Adults

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "And the Glory of the Lord" G. F. Handel
from *Messiah*, text from Isaiah 40:5

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
And all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

The Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, and Orchestra

The Fourth Lesson

The peace that Christ will bring us is foreshown.

ISAIAH 11:1-9 (page 575 in pew Bible) Heidi J. Stokke

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHORAL RESPONSE: "A Centone on Two Carols" arr. Griffith Bratt

Jesus Christ lay sweetly sleeping in a cradle filled with hay:
Ox and ass their watch were keeping o'er the manger where He lay:
As the bells of heav'n were ringing, rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born today.

Come, then let us all adore Him; at His feet in homage fall:
Bend the knee in praise before Him; Born in lowly cattle stall;
Humbly there our praises singing;
Rejoice, for peace has come to Earth today O Isreal.

The Youth Choir

The Fifth Lesson

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.

LUKE 1:26-35, 38 (page 855 in pew Bible) Timothy L. Russell
Assistant Pastor, Adult Ministry

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Shepherd's Farewell" Hector Berlioz
from *L'Enfance du Christ*

Thou must leave Thy lowly dwelling,
The humble crib, the stable bare,
Babe, all mortal babes excelling,
Content our earthly lot to share,
Loving father, loving mother,
Shelter Thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore Thee
With humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before Thee,
Forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling,
Ever to Thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure,
Thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well Your heav'nly treasure,
The Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you,
Guide you safely through the wild!

The Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, and Orchestra

**The first Noel, 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.**

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
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.**

Refrain

✦ PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

✦ GREETINGS

The Sixth Lesson

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

MATTHEW 1:18-25 (page 807 in pew Bible) Katherine W. Russell

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

✦ HYMN OF WORSHIP:

No. 230 "Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendor" QUELLE EST
CETTE ODEUR AGREABLE

The Seventh Lesson

The shepherds go to the manger.

LUKE 2:8-20 (page 857 in pew Bible) Gail G. Turner
Caring Ministry Director

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

CHORAL RESPONSE "Sussex Carol" arr. June Nixon/John Hodges

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring.
News of great joy, news of great mirth. News of our merciful King's birth.
Then why should men on earth be sad, Since our Redeemer made us glad.
When from our sin He set us free. All for to gain our liberty.
When sin departs before His grace, then life and health come in its place.
Angels and men with joy may sing. All for to see the newborn King.
All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night.
"Glory to God and peace to men. Now and forevermore, Amen."

*Youth Choir
Carter Coleman and Gracie Donoghue, soloists*

ADVENT HOMILY

Good News of Great Joy

Sanders L. Willson

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:
For Thine is the Kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

The Eighth Lesson

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

MATTHEW 2:1-11 (*page 807 in pew Bible*) Allison G. Willson

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

CHORAL ANTHEM: "Gentle Mary" Margaret Sandaresky

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
There He lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can He be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found His favor.

Angels sang about His birth; Wise men sought and found Him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around Him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.

Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
He is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God, of humble birth, beautiful the story;
Praise His name in all the earth, Hail the King of glory!

The Youth Choir

The Ninth Lesson

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

♠JOHN 1:1-14 (*page 886 in pew Bible*) Robert S. Roaten
Director of Communications

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

♠HYMN OF JOY: No. 203 "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN

♠BENEDICTION

♠CONGREGATIONAL THREE-FOLD AMEN

ORGAN POSTLUDE: "Rise Up Shepherd, and Follow!" arr. Karl Osterland

♠Indicates congregation standing CCLI License #252778

Today we are led in worship by The Chancel Choir, Gabriel Statom, director; The Youth Choir, Ginger Statom, director; and our Chamber Orchestra.