

# Church on the Hill

A Congregation of the  
Reformed Church in America

167-07 35<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Flushing, NY 11358

**December 24, 2020**

**Worship Service 8:00 p.m.**



**Rev. Blaine D. Crawford – Pastor**  
**Mr. Sean Cotty – Music Director**

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

# A Service of Lessons and Carols

*The service of Lessons and Carols was developed in the late nineteenth century and first used at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, UK. The service is a re-telling of the story of the coming Christ. It follows a simple pattern: each lesson is told through a song and a Scripture reading. May you hear anew the story of the birth of Jesus as we listen, sing, and worship God this evening.*

## ORDER FOR WORSHIP

**BOLD** – Congregation responds

\* – Congregation Stands

PRELUDE            Improvisation on Christmas Carols    Sean Cotty

SENTENCES

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

WELCOME

\* HYMN No. 161

*Once in Royal David's City*

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*He came down to earth from heaven who is God and  
Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle*

*was a stall: with the poor and meek and lowly lived on earth, our Savior holy.*

*Jesus is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew, he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew: and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING: Christ

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

**Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the Kingdom and the power  
And the glory, forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

Solo

*The First Christmas*

Darwin Wolford

Soloist: Dorien Day

*The earth was bathed in clean, pure light,  
As heavenward the star burned bright,  
A sign from God to men on earth*

*To tell the world of Jesus' birth,  
As angel choirs sang "Gloria,"  
Mary hummed a lullaby,  
Rocked and hushed her tiny child,  
while Joseph watched o'er both and smiled.*

*Ye shepherds, wisemen homage bring,  
Come kneel before this tiny king,  
See love, God's greatest gift to all,  
Personified in lowly stall.  
As angel choirs sang "Gloria,"  
Mary hummed a lullaby,  
Rocked and hushed her tiny child,  
while Joseph watched o'er both and smiled.*

## SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Hymn No. 167

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
and with fear and trembling stand;  
ponder nothing earthly minded,  
for with blessing in his hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
as of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture,  
in the body and the blood,  
he will give to all the faithful  
his own self for heavenly food.*

*Rank on rank the host of heaven  
spreads its vanguard on the way,  
as the Light of Light descendeth  
from the realms of endless day,  
that the powers of hell may vanish  
as the darkness clears away.*

### THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Solo

*A Hallelujah Christmas*

Cloverton

Soloist: Judelaine Catalano

*I've heard about this baby boy  
Who's come to earth to bring us joy  
And I just want to sing this song to you  
It goes like this, the fourth, the fifth  
The minor fall, the major lift  
With every breath, I'm singing Hallelujah*

*A couple came to Bethlehem  
Expecting child, they searched the inn  
To find a place, for You were coming soon  
There was no room for them to stay  
So in a manger filled with hay  
God's only Son was born, oh, Hallelujah  
The shepherds left their flocks by night  
To see this baby wrapped in light  
A host of angels led them all to You  
It was just as the angels said  
"You'll find Him in a manger bed"  
Immanuel and Savior, Hallelujah*

*A star shone bright, up in the east  
To Bethlehem, the wise-men three  
Came many miles and journeyed long for You  
And to the place at which You were  
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh  
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah*

#### FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

\*Hymn No. 155

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*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 and King, and peace to men  
on earth.*

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given;  
so God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his  
heaven!*

*No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him still the dear Christ  
enters in.*

## FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Solo

Ave Maria

Bach-Gounod

Soloist: Maureen Saepia-Chen

*(Sung in Latin)*

*Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.*

*Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,  
Jesus.*

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.*

## SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

\*Hymn No. 173

O Come All Ye Faithful

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come yet 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.*

*True God of true God, Light from Light eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;  
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.*

## SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Flute Solo

*Largo from Fantasia No. 8*

Telemann

Soloist: Simon Walsh - Flute

## EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Hymn No. 152

*Angels We Have Heard On High*

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

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say, what may the tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song?*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*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,  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

## NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Duet

*O Holy Night*

Soloists: Elizabeth Mahowald and  
Maureen Saepia-Chen

*O holy night the stars are brightly shining  
it is the night of the dear Saviour's birth  
Long lay the world in sins and error pining,  
'till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world 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 divine.*

*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, then ever, ever praise we,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim,  
His power and glory evermore proclaim.*

## HOMILY

DUET

*Still, Still, Still*

Norman Luboff

Soloists: Joe Mahowald and Elizabeth Mahowald

*Still, still, still*

*One can hear the falling snow.*

*For all is hushed,*

*The world is sleeping,*

*Holy Star its vigil keeping.*

*Still, still, still,*

*One can hear the falling snow.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep,*

*'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.*

*The night is peaceful all around you,*

*Close your eyes,*

*Let sleep surround you.*

*Sleep, sleep, sleep*

*'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.*

*Dream, dream, dream,*

*Of the joyous day to come.*

*While guardian angels without number*

*Watch you as you sweetly slumber.*

*Dream, dream, dream,*

*Of the joyous day to come*

\*Hymn No. 164

Silent Night! Holy 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.*

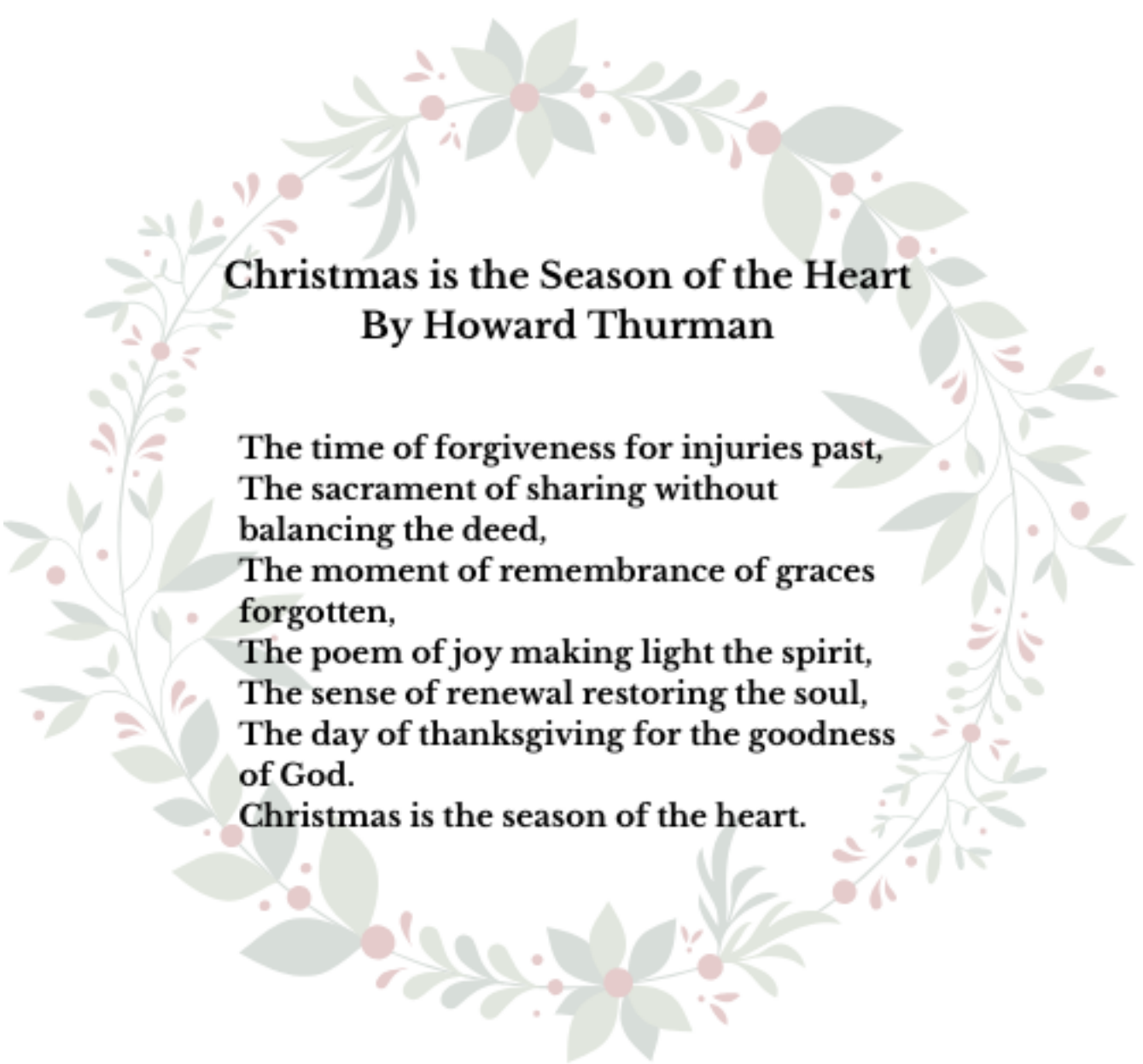
*Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light,  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Love, at thy birth.*

\*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on  
*Joy to the World*

Sean Cotty



**Christmas is the Season of the Heart**  
**By Howard Thurman**

**The time of forgiveness for injuries past,  
The sacrament of sharing without  
balancing the deed,  
The moment of remembrance of graces  
forgotten,  
The poem of joy making light the spirit,  
The sense of renewal restoring the soul,  
The day of thanksgiving for the goodness  
of God.  
Christmas is the season of the heart.**