

Church on the Hill

A Congregation of the
Reformed Church in America

167-07 35th Avenue, Flushing, NY 11358

December 24, 2021

Worship Service 8:00 PM



Rev. Ian Rottenberg

Mr. Sean Cotty – Music Director

Rev. Robert A. Perless – Pastor Emeritus

A Christmas Eve 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 Trio Sonata from "The Musical Offering" J.S. Bach
Simon Walsh, Flute: Maxfield Parish, Violin: Sean Cotty, Keyboard

Choral Prelude Christmas Hymn Hugo Jungst

*While by my sheep I watched at night
Glad tidings brought an angel bright:
How great my joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high.*

*There shall be born, so he did say,
In Bethlehem a child today.
How great my joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high.*

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:

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The 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

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.*

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Hymn No. 173

O Come All Ye Faithful

*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.*

*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.*

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Instrumental Trio

Deux Interludes

(I. Andante espressivo) - Jacques Ibert

Simon Walsh, Flute - Maxfield Panish, Violin - Sean Cotty, Keyboard

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Choral Anthem

If You Would Hear The Angels Sing

David H. Williams

Soloist - Maureen Saepia-Chen

*If you would hear the angels sing
"Peace on earth and mercy mild,"
Think of him who was once a child
On Christmas Day in the morning.*

*If you would hear the angels sing,
Christians! See you let each door
Wider stand than e'er before,
On Christmas Day in the morning.*

*Rise, and open wide the door;
Christians, rise! The world is wide,
Many are they who stand outside,
Yet Christmas comes in the morning.*

*If you would hear the angels sing,
Rise and spread your Christmas fare:
Still the merrier more who share,
On Christmas Day in the morning.*

If you would hear the angels sing,

*Rise, and light your Christmas fire;
Pile the logs on ever higher
On Christmas Day in the morning.*

*Rise and bake your Christmas bread;
Christians, rise! the world is old,
Time is weary, and worn, and cold,
Yet Christmas comes in the morning.*

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Choral Anthem

All My Heart This Night Rejoices
Randall Stroope

*All my heart, all this night rejoices,
As I hear far and near sweet angel voices,
"Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!"
All the air, and everywhere, "Gloria!"*

*Come let us all both great and small sing "Gloria!"
Hail the star where hope is burning, "Gloria!"
Love who with love is yearning ever yearning,
"Gloria, gloria! Gloria!"*

*Come and dwell in glory forever and ever.
Far on high in joy that can alter never.
Dwell in the house of Love forever,
Ever and ever gloria! Gloria! Gloria!*

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Choral Anthem

Sing We Now of Christmas

John Leavitt

*Sing we now of Christmas, Noel sing we here.
Hear our grateful praises to the Babe so dear.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!*

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Angels called to shepherds, "Leave your flocks at rest,

*Journey forth to Bethl'hem, find the lambkin blest."
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!*

*From the eastern country came kings from afar,
Bearing gifts to Bethl'hem, guided by a star.
Sing we Noel, the King is born, Noel!
Sing we now of Christmas, sing we all Noel!*

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Choral Anthem

Christmas Lullaby

Rutter

*Clear in the darkness a light shines in Bethlehem:
Angels are singing, their sound fills the air.
Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah:
But only a mother and baby lie there.*

"Ave Maria, Ave Maria:"

Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.

"Ave Maria, Ave Maria,

Maiden and mother of Jesus our King."

*Where are his courtiers, and who are his people?
Why does he bear neither sceptre nor crown?
Shepherd his courtiers, the poor for his people,
With peace as his sceptre and love for his crown.*

"Ave Maria, Ave Maria:"

Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.

"Ave Maria, Ave Maria,

Maiden and mother of Jesus our King."

*What though your treasures are not gold or incense?
Lay them before him with hearts full of love.
Praise to the Christ child, and praise to his mother
Who bore us a Saviour by grace from above.*

"Ave Maria, Ave Maria:"

Hear the soft lullaby the angel hosts sing.

*"Ave Maria, Ave Maria,
Maiden and mother of Jesus our King."*

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

Choral Anthem *My Lord Has Come*

Will Todd

*Shepherds, called by angels,
Called by love and angels;
No place but a stable.
My Lord has come.*

*Sages, searching for stars,
Searching for love in heaven;
No place for them but a stable.*

My Lord has come.

*His love will hold me,
His love will cherish me,
Love will cradle me.*

*Lead me, lead me to see him,
Sages and shepherds and angels;
No place for me but a stable.
My Lord has come.*

HOMILY

Solo *O Holy Night* Soloist - Elizabeth Mahowald

*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.*

Choral Anthem *Still, Still, Still* Norman Luboff

*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**

Prayer Requests

*If you would like to add a loved one to the prayer list,
please contact the church office*

The Bermudez Family

Timothy Betjeman

Austin Bird

Diane Blagburn

Susan Brooks

Angela Brunges

Ralph Carnesecchi

Rosina Cuticone

Lucas Ditta

Annie Jankowski

Lynn Lauterbach

Pat Lenox

Steve Lenox

Connie McKinstry

Jean Mendler

Tom Mendler

The Family of Eleanor Molino

Jeni Pollack

Joseph Ragusa

Neal Seltzer

The Family of Patrick Symes

Sandy Westen



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