



CHRIST THE KING  
— PRESBYTERIAN —

LESSONS & CAROLS – DECEMBER 24, 2023

# CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** *O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, mightily and sweetly ordering all things,*

**People:** Come and teach us the way of peace.

**Leader:** *O Lord, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai,*

**People:** Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.

**Leader:** *O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths;*

**People:** Come quickly to deliver us.

**Leader:** *O Key of David and scepter of the House of Israel; you open and no one can shut; you shut and no one can open;*

**People:** Come and rescue the prisoners who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.

**Leader:** *O Morning Star, splendor of eternal light  
and sun of righteousness,*

**People:** Come and enlighten those who dwell in  
the shadow of death.

**Leader:** *O King of the nations, the cornerstone uniting all people,*

**People:** Come and save the human race, whom you fashioned from dust.

**Leader:** *O Emmanuel, our king and our judge,  
the hope of the nations,*

**People:** Come and save us, O Lord our God.



**Leader:** *Come, Lord Jesus, come—sent forth from the Father in the power of the Holy Spirit, who, with you, live and reign, one God, now and forever.*

**People:** Amen.

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

*by Henry Sloane Coffin, John Mason Neale,  
and Thomas Helmore*

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 Rod of Jesse, free -  
thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
from depths of hell thy people save,  
and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel

O come, thou Key of David, come  
and open wide our heav'nly home;  
make safe the way that leads on high,  
and close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

# FIRST LESSON

**Genesis 3:8-19**

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

*by Robert J. Hughes and Charles Wesley*

Come Thou long expected Jesus,  
Born to set Thy people free  
From our fears and sins release us;  
Let us find our rest in Thee.



Israel's strength and consolation,  
Hope of all the earth Thou art,  
Dear desire of every nation,  
Joy of every longing heart.

Come to earth to taste our sadness,  
He whose glories knew no end;  
By His life He brings us gladness,  
Our redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.

Leaving riches without number,  
Born within a cattle stall;  
This the everlasting wonder,  
Christ was born the Lord of all!

Born Thy people to deliver,  
Born a child and yet a King  
Born to reign in us forever,  
Now Thy gracious Kingdom bring.

By Thine own eternal Spirit;  
Rule in all our hearts alone  
By Thine all sufficient merit,  
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

# SECOND LESSON

**Genesis 22:15-18**

“Once In Royal David's City”

*by Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander  
and Henry John Gauntlett*

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

And our eyes at last shall see Him  
Through His own redeeming love  
For that child so dear and gentle  
Is our Lord in heaven above  
And He leads His children on  
To the place where He is gone

# THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7



# FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

“It Came Upon The Midnight Clear”

*by Edmund Hamilton Sears  
and Richard Storrs Willis*

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 men  
From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To 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 over its Babel sounds  
The blessed 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

For lo the days are hastening on  
By prophet bards foretold  
When with the ever-circling years  
Comes round the age of gold

When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendors fling  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing

# FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

“Silent Night! Holy Night!”

*by Joseph Mohr and Franz Gruber*



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,  
Heav'nly 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.

# SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

# “Angels From The Realms Of Glory”

*by Henry Thomas Smart and James Montgomery*

Angels from the realms of glory  
Wing your flight o'er all the earth  
Ye who sang creation's story  
Now proclaim Messiah's birth  
Come and worship come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

Shepherds in the field abiding  
Watching o'er your flocks by night  
God with us is now residing  
Yonder shines the infant Light  
Come and worship come and worship  
Worship Christ the newborn King

Saints before the altar bending  
Watching long in hope and fear  
Suddenly the Lord descending  
In His temple shall appear  
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

# SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

# “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*Words: Charles Wesley*

*Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy*

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 new-born King.”

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ, the ever-lasting Lord!  
Late in time behold him come,  
Off-spring of the Virgin's womb.

Veiled in flesh the God-head see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King."

Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.



Mild he lays his glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King.”

# EIGHTH LESSON

**Matthew 2:1-12**

# “We Three Kings”

*by John Henry Hopkins, Jr.*

We three kings of Orient are;  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
Following yonder star.

O, star of wonder, star of light,  
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.

O, star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Frankincense to offer have I;  
Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising, voices raising,  
Worshiping God on high.



O, star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume  
Breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
Sealed in the stone cold tomb.

O, star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Glorious now behold Him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice;  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
Sounds through the earth and skies.

O, star of wonder, star of light,  
Star with royal beauty bright.  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

# NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

# “Joy To The World”

*by George Frederic Handel and Isaac Watts*

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 heav'n and heav'n and nature sing



Joy to the earth the Savior reigns  
Let men their songs employ  
While fields and floods  
Rocks hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat the sounding joy  
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

No more let sins and sorrows grow  
Nor thorns infest the ground  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as the curse is found  
Far as far as the curse is found

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

## BENEDICTION - Romans 15:13

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. Amen*



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