

Lessons & Carols Service

Minneapolis Area Synod & Church Anew
December 2021

Gathering

Welcome

*Rev. Ann Svennungsen,
Bishop of the Minneapolis Area Synod (ELCA)*

Gathering Carol

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Holy Trinity Worship Team

Opening Responses

Leader: Into our world
 as into Mary’s womb . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: Into the forgotten places,

Leader: Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope;
 into the lives of the powerful, bringing caution;
 into the lives of the weary, bringing rest;
 into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness;
 and into our lives and longings,
 whatever our estate . . .

All: Come, Lord Jesus.

Leader: The angels proclaimed,
 the shepherds heard,
 a mother and child,
 God’s promise is born.

All: God’s promise is born for you and for me. Amen

Leader: Let us pray. God of promise and life, you have come to us in the birth of Jesus, moving into the neighborhood, moving into our hearts. We praise you for your salvation. Renew us and your whole creation. Be born in us anew – casting out sin, injustice, and despair. In the name of Emmanuel, God with us, we pray.

All: Amen.¹

Lessons & Carols

Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-3, 6-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Carol

“Cold is the Night” (The Oh Hellos)

Nate Crary & Hannah Sackett

Time for Children

Rev. Matthew Ian Fleming

¹ Opening Responses adapted from John Bell, *Cloth for the Cradle: Worship Resources and Readings for Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany*. Used by permission.

Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Carol

"Mary Did You Know?"

Holy Trinity Worship Team

Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Reflection

Rev. Ian McConnell

Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol

“Glory to God (Gloria a Dios)”, All Creation Sings #911

Normandale Choir

Lesson

John 1:1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Reflection

Christine Belfrey

Carol

“Ave Maria” (Franz Biebel)

Cantus Vocal Ensemble

Responsive Prayer of Carols

Leader: Lo, how a rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung

All: Of Jesse’s lineage coming as seers of old have sung.

Leader: Mothering God, you give us birth,

All: in the bright morning of this world.

Leader: Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav’n to earth come down.

All: Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.

Leader: Be near us, Lord Jesus, we ask you to stay,

All: close by us forever, and love us we pray.

Leader: O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray,

All: cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.

Leader: O children of the forest free, the angel song is true

All: the holy child of earth and heav’n is born today for you.

Lord's Prayer

**Our father, our mother in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Offering Invitation

Announcements

Sending

Benediction

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
and the everlasting peace of Jesus
who is Savior, † Christ, and Lord.
Amen.

Sending Song

Joy to the World

Cantus Vocal Ensemble

Thank you to all who participated!

Church Anew

Rev. Matthew Ian Fleming
 Ross Grant
 Alyson Brinker
 Jack Lynch



Minneapolis Area Synod, ELCA

Bishop Ann Svennungsen
 Bob Hulteen
 Jeni Huff
 Eric Howard



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church | New Prague, MN

Rev. Ben Hilding
 Rev. Alicia Hilding
 Mandi Becher
 Tobias Thietje
 Jonathan Saylor
 Rita Sapp
 Jordan Leggett
 Michael Lunder
 Sean Szetho
 Angela Schoenbauer



Normandale Lutheran Church | Edina, MN

Rev. Rebecca Gamble
 Rev. Ian McConnell
 Grant Wothe
 Loren Wolthoff
 The Normandale Choir



University Lutheran Church of Hope | Minneapolis, MN

Rev. Jen Nagel
 Morgan Strudthoff
 M'taleni Nashandi
 Nathan Obrestad
 Nate Crary
 Hannah Sackett



Special Thanks

Christine Belfrey, Preacher
 Gina Alvarado, ASL Interpreter
 Cantus Vocal Ensemble