

The Second Sunday of Advent

6 December 2020 AD

ADVENT LESSONS & CAROLS AND COMMUNION IN THE BACK LOT AT 11

Concerning This Service

THE FESTIVAL of Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve in 1918. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons. In almost every year some carols have been changed and some new ones added. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.

The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880. A.C. Benson recalled: "My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve — nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop."

Almost immediately other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider frame began to grow when the service was first broadcast in 1928. It is estimated that there are millions of listeners worldwide.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted the main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God seen through the windows and words of the Bible. The centre of the service is still found by those who consent to follow where the great story of salvation leads. This version is marked by the anticipatory hope of the season of Advent.

Prelude

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Opening Hymn 65 *Prepare the Way O Zion*

1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.

O, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

2 He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.

His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth and love.

Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.

O, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior's rule embrace.

His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.

O, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.

The Bidding to Keep Festival

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Priest: Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect of the Day,

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the advent
of the
messiah

The First Lesson - Zephaniah 3:14-18 *sit*

God is in our midst and gives us victory

Hymn 66 (verses 1, 2 & 3) *Come Thou Long Expected Jesus*

- 1 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.
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
- 3 Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

The Second Lesson - Jeremiah 23:5-8

God will raise up a king who will rule wisely and righteously

Canticle: The Song of Mary

The Third Lesson - Isaiah 7:10-15

Promise of a child to be conceived to be known as "God with us"

Hymn 56 (verses 3 and 4) *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

- 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law in cloud and majesty and awe.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

- 4 O come thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from Satan's tyranny!
that trust thy mighty power to save, and give them vict'ry o'er the grave.

Refrain

The Fourth Lesson - Micah 5:2-4

The One who is to rule Israel will be born in Bethlehem

Hymn 76 (verses 1, 2 & 3) *On Jordan's Bank*

- 1 On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and hearken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings.
- 2 Then cleansed be every breast from sin; make straight the way for God within,
and let each heart prepare a home where such a mighty guest may come.
- 3 For thou art our salvation, Lord, our refuge and our great reward;
without thy grace we waste away like flowers that wither and decay.

The Fifth Lesson - Jeremiah 31:31-34

A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts

Hymn 72 *Hark the Glad Sound*

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! the Savior comes, the Savior promised long:
let every heart prepare a throne, and every voice a song.
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.

3 He comes, the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure;
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.
4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace, thy welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring with thy beloved Name.

The Sixth Lesson - Romans 1:1-7

The Good News of Jesus Christ who was descended from David

Hymn 724 [WLP] (*verses 1, 4 and 5*) *People Look East*

1 People, look east. The time is near Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way. . . .
4 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim One more light
the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, Bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.
5 Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings
new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming With the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

At the Announcement of the Gospel, the People say:

“Glory to you, Lord Christ.”

✠ The Holy Gospel ✠

Mark 1:1-8

At the conclusion of the reading, the People say:

“Praise to you, Lord Christ.”

The Peace *Reach out to someone today to share God's peace.*

Anthem *Deliver Us, O Lord Our God* - Adrian Batten

The Lord's Prayer

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As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

All pray the Lord's Prayer

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 100 (*verses 1 and 4*) *Joy to the World*

1 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 heaven, and heaven and nature sing. . . .
4 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.

Dismissal

Priest Let us bless the Lord.

People *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude



Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24th

The Holy Eucharist

in the Back Parking Lot

Broadcast to your car radio

and featuring a Brass Quartet

at Half Past Four O'Clock

This will be a complete Eucharist with safe Communion.

Friends, family and neighbors invited.

On Sundays we receive the gifts of the people for the support of the church and its mission in the world. Please mail your gifts to **The Church of the Messiah, P O Box 70367, Myrtle Beach, SC 29572.**

Following this service of Lessons and Carole, please make an act of spiritual communion using this prayer if you are not able to come for Back Lot Communion.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, (and remembering particularly my own church and those who worship there) I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory. And particularly for the blessings given me: [*name your blessings*]. I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. Amen.

*The Episcopal Church of The Messiah in the City of Myrtle Beach
Love without reservation. Serve without reward. Share without return.*

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