



Carl Gustafson

# A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI**  
The Twenty-First Day of December, Two Thousand Twenty Five at Four and Six o'clock

**Organ Voluntary** — “I Wonder as I Wander”..... Robert Hebble

**Orchestral Prelude** — “Christmas Fantasy for Orchestra”..... Dan Goeller

**Processional Hymn** — “Once in Royal David’s City” ..... David Willcocks

**Choir**

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 mean, and lowly,  
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

**Choir and Congregation**

**And through all His wondrous childhood  
He would honor and obey,  
Love, and watch the lowly maiden,  
In whose gentle arms he lay;  
Christian children all must be  
Mild, obedient, good as He.**

**For He 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 feeleth for our sadness,  
And He shareth in our gladness.**

**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.**

**Not in that poor lowly stable,  
With the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him; but in heaven,  
Set at God’s right hand on high;  
When like stars His children crowned  
All in white shall wait around.**

**Call to Worship**.....The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain

**Carol** — “Ding! Dong! Merrily on High”..... Mack Wilberg

Ding! Dong! Merrily on high  
In heav’n the bells are ringing!  
Ding! Dong! Verily the sky  
Is riv’n with angels singing!

E’n so here below, below,  
Let steeple bells be swungen,  
And “Io, io, io!”  
By priest and people sungen!

Pray you, dutifully prime  
Your matin chime, ye ringers!  
May you beautifully rime  
Your evetime song, ye singers!

*Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*

## FIRST LESSON

**Genesis 3:8-15 — God announces that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.**

**Carol** — “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” ..... Taylor Scott Davis

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, desire of nations bind  
All peoples in one heart and mind.  
From dust Thou brought us forth to life;  
Deliver us from earthly strife.

## SECOND LESSON

**Isaiah 11:1-9 — Christ’s birth and kingdom is foretold.**

**Carol** — “Sweet Little Jesus Boy” ..... Jalen Scott

Sweet little Jesus boy,  
They made you be born in a manger.  
Sweet little holy child  
We didn’t know who you were.  
Didn’t know you come to save us Lord.  
To take our sins away.  
Our eyes were blind,

We could not see.  
We didn’t know who you were.  
You have told us how  
We are trying.  
Master, you have shown us how,  
Even when you were dying.  
Just seems like we can’t do right,

Look how we treated you.  
But please, sir, forgive us, Lord.  
We didn’t know it was you.  
Sweet little Jesus boy  
Born long ago.  
Sweet little holy child  
And we didn’t know who you were.

## THIRD LESSON

**Luke 1:26-33 — The angel Gabriel visits the virgin Mary.**

**Carol** — “O Magnum Mysterium” ..... Marten Lauridsen

O great mystery,  
And wondrous sacrament,  
That animals should see the new-born Lord,  
Lying in their manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb  
was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

## FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7 — Luke tells of the birth.

Hymn — “God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen” ..... David Willcocks

God rest you merry, gentlemen,  
Let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour  
Was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan’s power  
When we were gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,  
comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heav’nly Father  
A blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds  
Brought tidings of the same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born  
The Son of God by name:

The shepherds at those tidings  
Rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding,  
In tempest, storm and wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway  
This blessed babe to find:

But when to Bethlehem they came,  
Whereat this infant lay,  
They found Him in a manger,  
Where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling,  
Unto the Lord did pray:

Now to the Lord sing praises,  
All you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood  
Each other now embrace;  
This holy tide of Christmas  
All others doth deface:

Joy Gift Offering for Retired Ministers and Their Wives

Carol — “Nunc Dimittis” ..... Rene Clausen

Lord now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word,  
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared for all people.  
A light to lighten the Gentiles, a light to Thy servant Israel, to the glory of Thy people Israel. Amen.

## FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16 — The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol — “Wexford Carol” ..... Elaine Hagenberg

Good people all, this Christmas time,  
Consider well, and bear in mind,  
What our good God for us has done,  
In sending His beloved Son.  
With Mary holy, we should pray  
To God with love this Christmas day;  
In Bethlehem upon that morn,  
There was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
Their flocks of lambs, and feeding sheep;  
To whom God’s angels did appear,  
Which put the shepherds in great fear.  
“Prepare and go,” the angels said,  
“To Bethlehem. Be not afraid.  
For there you’ll find this happy morn  
A princely babe sweet Jesus born.”

With thankful heart and joyful mind,  
The shepherds went the babe to find,  
And as God’s angels had foretold,  
They did our Saviour Christ behold.  
Within a manger He was laid,  
And by His side the virgin maid  
Attending on the Lord of Life  
Who came to earth to end all strife.

## SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11 — The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Carol — “Festival First Nowell” ..... Dan Forrest

*Choir and Congregation*  
The first Nowell the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay, keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep:  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

*Choir*  
They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far;  
And to the earth it gave great light,

And so it continued both day and night.  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

*Choir and Congregation*  
Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heav’nly Lord  
That hath made heav’n and earth of nought,  
And with His blood mankind hath bought:  
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

## SEVENTH LESSON

John 1:1-14 — The Word is made flesh.

Homily ..... The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain

Carol — “Worthy Is the Lamb” ..... G. F. Handel

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, and hath redeemed us to God by His blood,  
to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.  
Blessing and honour, glory and power, be unto Him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

Benediction ..... The Reverend Dr. David T. A. Strain

Recessional Hymn — “O Come All Ye Faithful” ..... David Willcocks

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,  
Christ the Lord!*

God of God,  
Light of Light,  
Lo! He abhors not  
the virgin’s womb;  
Very God,  
Begotten, not created:

Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens  
Of heav’n above;  
Glory to God  
In the highest:

Yea, Lord we great thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee  
Be all glory giv’n;  
Word of the Father,  
Now in flesh appearing:

Organ Voluntary — “In Dulci Jubilo” ..... Denis Bédard



GUESTS, WE ARE SO GLAD YOU ARE WITH US THIS EVENING.  
PLEASE JOIN US IN THE WELCOME CENTER FOLLOWING THE  
SERVICE FOR REFRESHMENTS.