



First Sunday after Christmas

A Service of Lessons & Carols

**December 31, 2023
8:00 AM and 10:00 AM**

St. Martin's Evangelical Lutheran Church
1120 Spa Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21403
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Reverend Dr. David G. Oravec, Pastor

Prelude

The First Nowell

Arr. by Craig Curry

Processional Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

ELW 289

Please stand as you are able.

Chaplain

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger. Therefore, let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and good will within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

(Said by all, in unison)

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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

The Carol

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

ELW 288

The Nine Lessons

First Lesson:

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed the of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:8 – 15.

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus, ELW 254

Second Lesson:

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 22:15-18.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, ELW 257 (vs. 1 & 6)

Third Lesson:

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Isaiah 9:2,6-7.

Once in Royal David's City, ELW 269 (vs. 1 & 2)

Fourth Lesson:

The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-38.

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came, ELW 265 (vs. 1 & 4)

Fifth Lesson:

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Micah 5:2-4.

O Little Town of Bethlehem, ELW 279 (vs. 1 & 4)

Sixth Lesson:

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1:18-23.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember, Christ, our Saviour
Was born on Christmas day
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray

2 In Bethlehem, in Israel,
This blessed Babe was born
And laid within a manger
Upon this blessed morn
The which His Mother Mary
Did nothing take in scorn.

3 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 other doth deface.

Refrain:

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

Refrain

Refrain

Seventh Lesson:

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-16.

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, ELW 270

Eighth Lesson:

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-11

As With Gladness Men of Old, **ELW 302** (verses 1, 2)

Ninth Lesson:

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

John 1:1-14

(Please Stand)

***O Come, All Ye Faithful, ELW 283**

We pass the peace, share announcements, and return thanks to God through the Offering

Offertory Anthem

I'll Walk With God

Arr. by Dan Coates

Diane Cvitko, solo (10:00 AM)

Offertory Response

What Child is This, **ELW 296**

Prayer

The Words of Institution and Invitation to the Lord's Table

You are welcome at the Lord's Table! About Communion– At the Lord's Table we share in the gift of Jesus' body and blood. Please bring an empty glass from the head of the aisle to receive wine from a pouring cup. Grape juice is available in the pre-filled glasses near the empty ones. If you need a gluten-free option for bread, please indicate that to the person with bread. Peel away communion kits are also available for any who so desire. Blessings will be given to those not yet communing.

Prayer

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, so we may, with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Blessing

Now, may he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World

ELW 267

The Postlude

The Song of the Angels

Robert J. Hughes