

A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

(Bell rings)

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M: Dear people of God, in this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us—the Christ-Child lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall into sin to the glorious redemption brought to us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for people all over the world who would delight with us to know the good news of Jesus Christ, and who would join with us in singing his praises. Let us pray for the people of this city and for all those in our own congregation.

And, because this would please our Lord, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who are sad, the lonely and the unloved, the elderly and the little children. We especially remember all those who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light than we, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, who died in faith, and who live before the throne of God and praise him each day in his temple. We confess that we are united with them as we are united with one another.

To sum up all these petitions, please stand and let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

**Our Father 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.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and
forever. Amen.**

PLEASE BE SEATED.

Carol *All the Stars Shone Down* Girl's Choir

First Lesson **Genesis 3:8-15**
The seed of the woman will crush the serpent's head.

Carol (Congregation) *Once in Royal David's City* Hymnal #50

Second Lesson **Genesis 22:15-18**
God's promises to Abraham

Carol *To Shepherds as They Watched by Night* Trumpets

Third Lesson **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great Light.

Carol (Congregation) *Behold, a Branch Is Growing* Hymnal #47

Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1-9
A Branch from the stem of Jesse

Carol *Were You There?* Guitar & Vocalists

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38
The angel Gabriel visits Mary

Carol (Congregation) *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* Hymnal #61

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-7
The birth of Jesus

Carol *Away in a Manger* Woodwinds

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-20
The shepherds visit the manger.

Carol (Congregation) *Your Little Ones, Dear Lord* Hymnal #46

Eighth Lesson Matthew 2:1-12
The Magi worship the newborn King.

Carol

What Child Is This

Guitar, Cello, Flute

Ninth Lesson Luke 21:25-28

Jesus will come again.

Carol (Congregation) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Hymnal #65

OFFERING (*O, Holy Night,* Piano, French Horn)

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, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

May Christ fill us with joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. The blessing of God Almighty –the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit –be with us all.

C: Amen.

(PLEASE BE SEATED.)