

Lessons  
and  
Carols

Christmas Eve  
2022

*Good evening. It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to our historic little church for a Christmas Eve tradition: "The Service of the Lessons and Carols."*

*We're so grateful that you're here!*

*Our church is one of the most historic structures in Saugatuck/Douglas. It was built in 1882, and just a few years after that, the Christmas Eve tradition of the "Lessons and Carols" began.*

*Tonight, we are going to be hearing the story of the birth of Jesus told through readings from the Bible, as well through beloved Christmas Carols that we all know and love.*

*So, prepare yourself, get ready, and keep watch, for the Light is on its way! Let every heart prepare him room.*

*Pastor Sal*

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

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,  
O Come let us adore Him,  
O Come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.  
Glory to God, glory in the highest. (refrain)

Yea Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n.  
Word of our God, now in flesh appearing. (refrain)

Reading I – Micah 5: 2-5

Read by Michael Valdez

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie.

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by; Yet in the dark streets shineth  
the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the  
years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above.  
While mortals sleep the angels keep their watch of  
wond'ring love; O morning stars together proclaim  
the holy birth, and praises sing to God our King and  
Peace to all on earth.

O holy child of Bethlehem descend to us we pray.  
Cast out our sin and enter in be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings  
tell; O come to us, abide in us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Reading II – John 1: 1-14

Read by Sue Scott

## God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

God rest you merry gentlemen let nothing you  
dismay. For Jesus Christ our Savior 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.

In Bethlehem in Judah the blessed babe was born,  
And laid within a manger upon this blessed morn;  
For which his mother Mary did nothing take in  
scorn. (refrain)

From God our great Creator 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. (refrain)

Reading III – Luke 1: 26-38

Read by Robert Trenary

## Jesus, Jesus, O What a Wonderful Child

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;  
new life, new hope, the child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing.

“Glory, Glory, Glo—ry”

let the heavens ring.

Jesus, Jesus, Oh, what a wonderful child.

Jesus, Jesus, so holy, meek and mild;  
new life, new hope, the child will bring.

Listen to the angels sing.

“Glory, Glory, Glo—ry”

let the heavens ring.

Reading IV – Matthew 1: 18-24

Read by Gail Babel

## It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song  
of old, from angels bending near the earth to touch  
their harps of gold. "Peace on the earth, good will to  
all, great news of joy we bring." The world in solemn  
stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with  
peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly  
music floats o'er all the weary world. Above its sad  
and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing, and  
ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards  
foretold, when with the ever circling years comes  
round the age of gold; When peace shall over all the  
earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world  
send back the song which now the angels sing.

Reading V – Luke 2: 1-7

Read by Chris Clark

## Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he  
lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love you Lord Jesus look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.



Reading VI – Luke 2: 8-12  
Read by Kathleen Mueller

## Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply,  
echo back their joyous strains.

Glo- - -ria, in excelsis Deo, Glo- - -ria, in excelsis Deo

Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
See what may the tidings be,  
which inspire your heavenly song. (refrain)

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord the newborn King. (refrain)



Reading VII – Luke 2: 15-20

Read by Jack Ridl

## Angels From the Realms of Glory

Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er  
all the earth; You who sang creations story, now  
proclaim the Messiah's birth.

Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ the newborn King.

Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er your  
flocks by night, God on earth is now residing,  
Yonder shines the infant light. (refrain)

Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions  
beam afar; Seek the great desire of nations,  
You have seen the morning star. (refrain)

Reading VIII – Matthew 2: 1-11

Read by Lynne Snyder

## The First Nowell

The first Nowell the angel 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

They looked above 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. (refrain)

And by the light of that same star three wise men  
came from country far, to seek for a king was their  
intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (refrain)

Reading IX– Isaiah 9: 2,6-7 & 11:6-9

Read by Rev. Sal Sapienza

## Joy to the World

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!

Joy to the world, the savior reigns! Let all their songs  
employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding  
joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Christ 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.

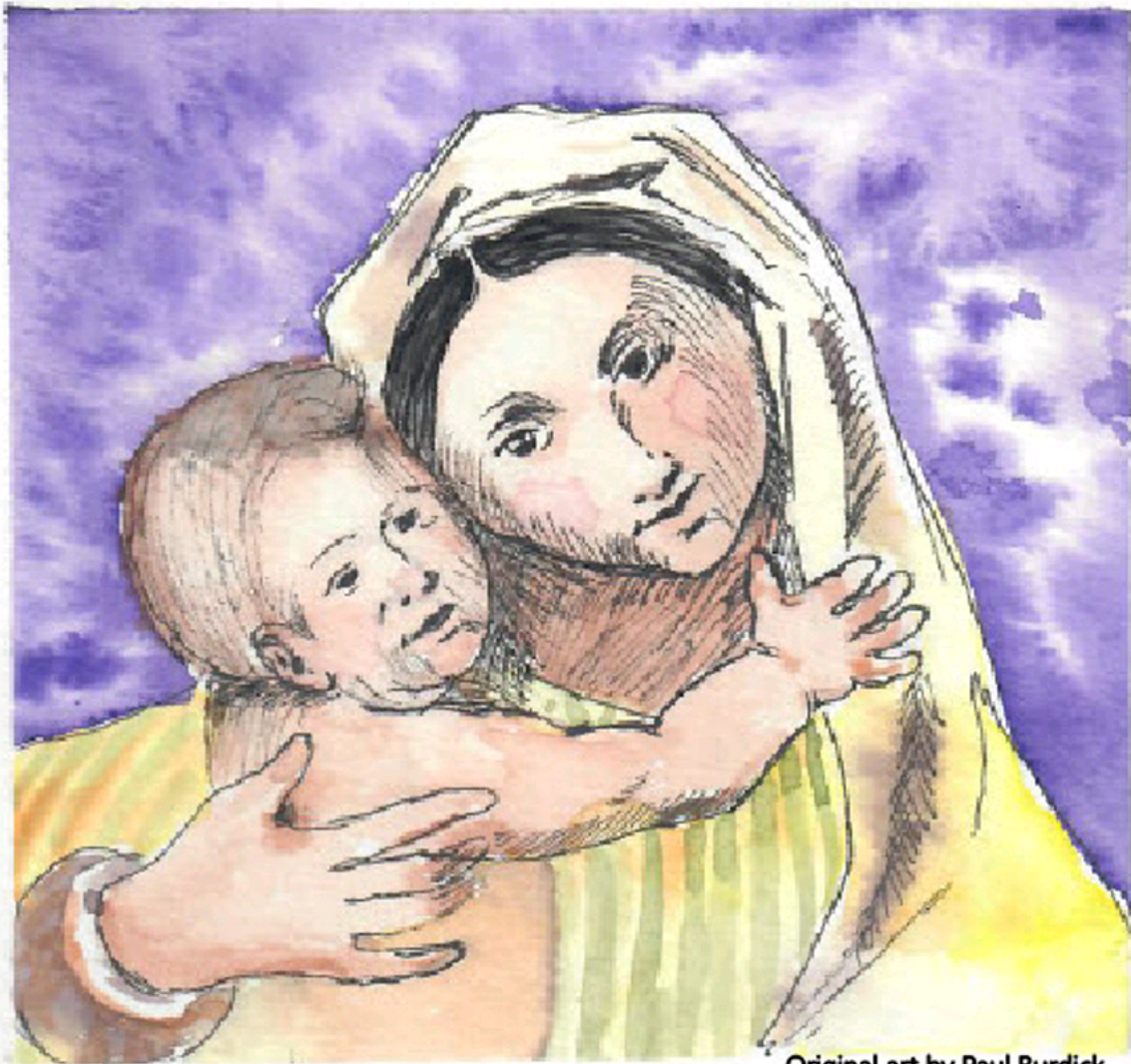
## Silent Night

Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant  
so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night, shepherds quake at the  
sight; Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly  
hosts sing Alleluia; Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night, Holy night, son of God, love's pure  
light, radiant beams from thy holy face, with the  
dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus Lord at thy  
birth, Jesus Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright.  
Round yon virgin mother and child, Holy infant  
so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.



Original art by Paul Burdick

**A big thank you to the Douglas UCC Holiday Choir:**

**Song Leader - Jeff Spangler**

**Flutist - Lauri Donaldson**

**Soloists - Jim Kern and Jeff Spangler**

**El Clough, Laurie VanDenBelt, Lauri Donaldson, Jim Kern, Lynne Synder, Jeremy Lund, Mark Johnston, Doug Sipsma, Toni Perrine, Mike VerMerris, Ruth VandenBosch, Scott Dewitt, Shannon Connell, Kathleen Mueller, Nancy Plantinga**

**Pianist - Peter Black**

**Front cover art by George Brown**