



December 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 2020

St. Margaret of Scotland Anglican Church

161 Hanmer St. West, Barrie ON L4N 7S1 (705) 721-9528

www.stmargaretbarrie.ca Email: stmarg@rogers.com

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Lessons and Carols

December 21, 22, & 23, 2020

7:00 p.m. Service

Processional: *“Once in David’s Royal City”*

Call to Worship

Like the shepherds, we come to the stable, uncertain of what we have heard and seen,

longing to hear a word of peace and joy.

Like the wise ones, we have journeys to make, gifts to offer, and hope in our hearts,

that this world can change for the better.

Here, in the stillness of a winter’s night, we gather to share the light of Christ, a light that shines in the nightfall. **We gather in the wonder of this night to share our joy and thanks for new life.**

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Advent, the season of preparing, is nearly over. Our waiting is nearly finished. Now is a time of fulfillment and celebration. In the darkness of night, we give thanks for light.

We light a candle of hope: hope for ourselves, and for God’s beloved world.

We light a candle of peace: peace in our hearts, and on earth.

We light a candle of joy: joy to the world, and within our whole being.

We light a candle of love: the promise of God's love for us, and for all creation.

And now the hour has come and the season is fulfilled.

We light the Christ candle, the light of the world, the light of possibility. Amen.

FIRST LESSON: John's Prologue

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Thanks be to God!

Carol: *"Oh Come Emmanuel"*

SECOND LESSON: John the Baptist

I am 'the voice of one shouting in the desert: Get the road ready for the Lord; make a straight path for him to travel! Every valley must be filled up, every hill and mountain leveled off. The winding roads must be made straight, and the rough paths made smooth. All humankind will see God's salvation!"

"I baptize you with water, but someone is coming who is much greater than I am. I am not good enough even to untie his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Thanks be to God!

Carol: *"There is a Voice in the Wilderness"*

THIRD LESSON: Jesus is born

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Thanks be to God!

Carol: *“Away in a Manger”*

FOURTH LESSON: The Shepherds

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you; you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, **“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those who he favors!”**

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So

they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Thanks be to God!

Carol: *Hark the HeraldAngels Sing*

FIFTH LESSON: The Wise Men

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea: for so it has been written by the prophet: Then Herod secretly called for the wisemen and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then, he sent them to Bethlehem saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out and there ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Thanks be to God!

Carol: *“What Child is This”*

SIXTH LESSON: And then.....

When the shepherds saw him, they told them what the angel had said about the child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said. Then, the shepherds went back to their fields, singing praises to God for all they had heard and seen.

The wisemen returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

An angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph and said, "Herod will be looking for the child in order to kill him. So get up, take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you to leave." So, Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and left during the night for Egypt, where he stayed until Herod died.

Thanks be to God!

Carol: ***"Silent Night"***(vs. 1,2,4)

Prayers of the People

God of star and stable, you lead us to wonder and to hope. You gather us together to hear your promise of love. As we gather, we offer our concerns and our dreams, our hopes and fears... (silence)

Like the shepherds who sought the stable, we seek your promise of peace. We pray for your people broken by violence, those who live with fear, and those who live without hope, and we pray for your courage and peace... (silence)

Like the wise ones who dedicated their gifts, we remember those in need. We pray for those who are lonely, hungry, or forgotten; for those who are ill in body and in spirit; for those who are confused or afraid. We pray for your joy and love, for all your people, especially those we remember now... (silence)

Holy One, you came as a child, offering renewal of spirit and of living. May our prayers be a new beginning: for healing, truth, and trust. May we embody love that is forgiving, compassionate, and gracious. May we send back the angels' song of peace and joy. We pray these things in the name of Jesus who became the Christ, who taught us when we pray to say...

Our Father

Celebrant: And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing,

People: 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction

Celebrant: From this house to yours, may you share in the gifts of this season. May love, the promise of generations, attend you. Joy, the gift of life together, fill you. Peace, the desire of neighbour and nations, find you. Hope, the horizon of faith, sustain you. And may a very Merry Christmas be yours. **Amen.**

Blessing

Closing

Hymn: *“Joy to the World”*

Dismissal

+++++++



Assisting Fr. Simon tonight:

Celebrant: The Rev. Simon Bell

Lessons:
1st & 4th Fr. Simon
2nd & 5th Amy Pauley
3rd & 6th Kevin Hamann
Prayers:
Music: Craig Snider
Chancel: Sharon Zacchigna

Credit:

Text for six reading taken from

<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2012/06/family-friendly-christmas-eve-service.html>

The United Church of Canada 2016, “Lessons and Carols: Christmas Eve Service” posted on AdventUnwrapoped.ca