

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols



The Adoration of the Magi (1616) Peter Paul Rubens

The Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys

Andrew Nethsingha – Guest Director

Kenneth Bos – Organist

Scott Bosscher – GRCMB Director of Music

St. Paul's Episcopal, Muskegon

Friday, December 12 – 7 PM

St. Andrew's Cathedral, Grand Rapids

Saturday, December 13 – 7 PM

Sunday, December 14 – 3 PM

Friday, December 19 – 7 PM (Bosscher Directing)



The Service Shall Begin Here

~ **Prelude** ~

Two Noels

Claude Balbastre (1724-1799)

Noel Joseph Revenant un Jour

Noel il est un petit L'ange

~ **Words of Welcome** ~

~ **Call to Worship** ~

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Words: Anonymous

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance:

*Sing, oh! my love, my love, my love,
This have I done for my true love.*

Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance
Thus was I knit to man's nature
To call my true love to my dance.

~ **Introit** ~

Psallite Unigento

English Words: John Rutter

Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

Psallite Unigento

Sing your Psalms to the Holy Child

Christo Dei Filio

Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Redemptori Domino,

Holy Redeemer,

puerolo, iacenti in praespicio.

Little One, now lying in a manger.

Lo, in a manger bed there lies an infant small.
Angel hosts their homage pay before the Lord of all,
low before Him fall.

“Glory to God on high” the choirs of angels sing;
“Peace on earth, goodwill to men” their voices echoing,
praise the newborn King.

~ Silent Procession ~

Once in Royal David's City

Words: C.F. Alexander (1818-95)

H.J. Gauntlett (1805-76)

Arranged: Philip Stopford (b. 1977)

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 meek and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

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.

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.

~ Bidding Prayer ~

The congregation, standing, shall be bidden to prayer.

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide 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 brotherhood within the Church he came to build.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, 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 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 man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

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

All: Our Father, which 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 them that 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.

Then shall the Congregation sit.

~ Bidding Carols ~

What Sweeter Music

Words: Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

John Rutter (b.1945)

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol,
For to sing the birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden?
Come and see the cause, why things thus fragrant be:

Tis he is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven and the underearth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who, with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room to welcome him.

The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honor; who's our King,
And Lord of all this revelling.
What sweeter music can we bring than a carol,
For to sing the birth of this our heavenly King?



The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from Paradise (1791)
Benjamin West (1738 – 1820)

~ First Lesson ~

Genesis 3:8-15

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

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day; and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, "Where art thou?" And he said, "I heard thy voice in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

And he said, "Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?" And the man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat." And the Lord God said unto the woman, "What is this that thou has done?" And the woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." And the Lord God said unto the serpent, "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Adam Lay Ybounden

Words: 15th Century

Boris Ord (1905-1987)

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
Abeen heavené queen.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias, Deo gracias, Deo gracias!

~ Second Lesson ~

Genesis 22:15-18

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

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, "By myself have I sworn," saith the Lord, "for because thou has done this thing, and has not withheld thy son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice."

This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob

Words: Matthew 2:1-2

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Numbers 24:17; Psalm 2:9

When Jesus, our Lord, was born in Bethlehem, in the land of Judea; behold, from the east to the city of Jerusalem there came wise men, who said:

Oh, where is he born, the king of Judea?
For we have seen his star, and are come adoring.

There shall a star come out of Jacob,
and a sceptre shall rise out of Israel.
With might destroying princes and nations.

How bright the star of morning gleams,
So Jesus sheds His glorious beams
Of light and consolation!
Thy Word, O Lord.
Radiance darting, Truth imparting, Gives salvation.
Thine be praise and adoration!

~ Third Lesson ~

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace. Of the 'increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Sans Day Carol

Words: Cornish Trad. Carol Arranged by Philip Stopford (b.1948)

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk,
And Mary bore Jesus who was wrapped up in silk.

Refrain: And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Saviour for to be,
And the first tree of the greenwood it was the holly.

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass,
And Mary bore Jesus who died on the cross.

(Refrain)

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal,
And Mary bore Jesus who died for us all.

(Refrain)

Now the holly bears a berry as blood is it red,
Then trust we our Saviour who rose from the dead.

(Refrain)

~ Fourth Lesson ~

Micah 5

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephrata, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting. Therefore will he give them up, until the time that she which travaileth hath brought forth: then the remnant of his brethren shall return unto the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God; and shall abide: for now shall he be great unto the ends of the earth.

This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Words: P. Brooks (1835-93) Ralph Vaughan Williams(1869-1941)

(Verses 1 & 2 - Choir & Congregation)

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.**

**O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep the Angels keep their watch of wondering
love.**

(Verse 3 – Choir Only)

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His Heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

(Verse 4 - Choir & Congregation)

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

I Wonder as I Wander

Words: Collected John Jacob Niles

Philip Stopford (b.1948)

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I...
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God's angels in heav'n for to sing,
He surely could have it, 'cause he was the King.

~ Fifth Lesson ~

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women." And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou has found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Then said Mary unto the angel, “How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” And the angel answered and said unto her, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” And Mary said, “Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.” And the angel departed from her.

This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.



Annunciation - Henry Assawa Tanner - (1898)

Mary's Magnificat

Words: Andrew Carter

Andrew Carter (b.1939)

Softly a light is stealing,
Sweetly a maiden sings,
Ever wakeful, ever wistful.
Watching faithfully, thankfully, tenderly
Her King of kings.

My soul doth magnify the Lord:
And my spirit hath rejoiced,
rejoiced in God my Saviour.

Mary her song to Jesus Softly, serenely sings:
'I will love you,
I will serve you,
May my lullaby glorify,
magnify My King of kings.'



Gerard Van Honthorst (1590 – 1656)

~ Sixth Lesson ~

Luke 2: 1, 3-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of

David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while she was there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Dormi, Jesu

Words: Latin Unknown Origin

John Rutter (b. 1945)

English: S. T. Coleridge (1772-1834)

Dormi, Jesu! Mater ridet Quae tam dulcem somnum videt,
Dormi, Jesu, dormi, Jesu blandule.

Si non dormis, mater plorat Inter fila cantus orat,
Blande, veni, blande, veni, somnule.
Dormi, Jesu, dormi, Jesu blandule.

Sleep, sweet baby! My cares beguiling: Mother sits beside thee, smiling:
Sleep, my darling, sleep, my darling, tenderly.
Dormi, Jesu, dormi, Jesu blandule.

It has become a longstanding tradition with the Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys for a boy chorister to lead the congregation in our next carol.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words: C.Wesley (1707-1788)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Words: G.Whitefield (1714-1770)

Arr. David Willcocks (b.1919)

(Verse 1 - Choir & Congregation)

**Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.**

(Verse 2 – Choir Only)

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.

(Verse 3 - Choir & Congregation)

**Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of
Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the newborn King.**

~ Seventh Lesson ~

Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men." And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.



Angel and the Shepherds Carl Bloch (1834-1890)

O Leave Your Sheep

Words: French Carol Arranged: Kenneth Leighton (1929-1988)

O leave your sheep, your lambs that follow after,
O leave the brook, the pasture and the crook.
No longer weep, turn weeping into laughter,
O shepherds seek your goal,
Your Lord, your Lord,
Who cometh to console.

You'll find Him laid within a simple stable,
A babe newborn, in poverty forlorn.
In love array'd, A love so deep, 'tis able
To search the night for you,
'Tis He, 'tis He,
"Tis He the Shepherd true.

O kings so great, a light is streaming o'er you,
More radiant far than diadem or star,
Forego your state, a baby lies before you,
whose wonder shall be told,
Bring myrrh, bring myrrh,
Bring frankincense and gold.



Adoration of the Magi - Albrecht Durer (1471-1528)

~ Eighth Lesson ~

Matthew 2: 1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the King, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, “Where is he that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.” When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, “In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.”

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, “Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.” When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts, gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

I Saw Three Ships

Words: English Traditional

Philip Marshall (1921-2005)

I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
I saw three ships come sailing in,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas day in the morning.

Our Saviour Christ and his lady
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Our Saviour Christ and his lady,
On Christmas day in the morning.

Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Pray whither sailed those ships all three?
On Christmas day in the morning.

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the bells on earth shall ring,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the Angels in Heaven shall sing,
On Christmas day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
And all the souls on earth shall sing,
On Christmas day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice, amain,
On Christmas day, on Christmas day,
Then let us all rejoice, amain,
On Christmas day in the morning.

~ **Offertory** ~

Partita on Adeste Fideles Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

~ **Ninth Lesson** ~

(Please stand for the Gospel reading)

John 1: 1-14

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was

made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

This is the word of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Heaven's Always Here

Words: James Gertmenian (Job 7:6)

Larry Visser (b. 1962)

The weaver's shuttle swiftly flies across the tapestry;
Then patterns, textures, varied hues emerge for all to see.
And so our days are woven fine as in that weaver's hand.
A fair design and richer still than we can understand.

The Weaver's shuttle swiftly flies across the earthly loom.
Our stories all too quickly pass from cradle to the tomb.
Day follows day and year on year; they fade as in a dream.
And none can hold the shuttle still or stop the flowing stream.

Who knows the patterns of our lives before our days are spun?
Who knows the reason why, and how, before it's all begun?
The One whose hand weaves all with love and mystery and care;
The One whose thread and warp and weft are flesh and earth and air!

When will we find the true design intended for our days?
In heav'n to come, when life is done and nothing's left but praise?
Or shall we see in glimpses now the pattern God reveals,
And here embrace this earthly race that wounds us and that heals?

O gentle Weaver, loving God, we are Your works of art,
And so we see eternity within each human heart.
In all we think and do and say, in all we hope and fear,
Give us the eyes to recognize the heaven always here.

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And with thy spirit.

Minister: Let us pray.

CLOSING PRAYER

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Oakeley, Brooke Anon. 1700's – Arr. David Willcocks (b.1919)

(Choir & Congregation)

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!*

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten not created:
*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 heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n,
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*



~ Parting Blessing ~

Minister: The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil; yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul. The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and for evermore. He shall defend thee under his wings. Be strong, and he shall comfort thine heart. Put thou thy trust in the Lord.

~ Postlude ~

Fantasy on *“Joy to the World”*

Michael Helman (b. 1956)