

• **CAROL - #143 Joy To the World**

2. Joy to the earth, 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.

3. He 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.

• **CAROL - #167 Go Tell It On The Mountain**

While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
Behold throughout the heavens,  
there shone a holy light.

The shepherds feared and trembled  
when, lo! above the earth,  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed the Savior's birth:  
[Refrain]

*Refrain:*  
*Go tell it on the mountain,*  
*over the hills and everywhere.*  
*Go tell it on the mountain*  
*that Jesus Christ is born.*

Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn.  
[Refrain]



We are a Bible-based, English-speaking, international, interdenominational, ecumenical, friendly and welcoming community.

VCC welcomes you to the

## CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE OF 2020

24 December 2020, 21:00



*"Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord!"*

Merry  
Christmas

## O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL ONES

Prelude

Tomasz Piętak

Words of Welcome

Rev. Dr. Neil Parker

### • CAROL - #148 O Come, All Ye Faithful Ones

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, in the highest.

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Soloist

*O Holy Night*

Kristin Lewis

## HEAR THE STORY OF THE BIRTH

### ✦ Luke 1:26-38: (NIV) - The Angel Visits Mary

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

**26** In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27** to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28** The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

**29** Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30** But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. **31** You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. **32** He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, **33** and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

**34** "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

**35** The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the

## VCC PAGEANT

Departing Prayer: The Canticle of Simeon

**L:** Having travelled to Bethlehem together and having beheld the child, born a king, let us pray using the words of Simeon, a righteous and devoted man who looked forward to the consolation of Israel and who beheld his coming:

**P:** Lord, let your servants now depart in peace, according to your word; for our eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.

Benediction

## PROCEED TO THE COURTYARD

### • CAROL - #145 Silent Night!

1. 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!

2. Silent night! Holy night!

Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

3. 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.

### • CAROL - #143 Joy To the World

1. 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...

I confess our ever-lasting need of God:  
 The need of forgiveness for our selfishness and greed, the need of new  
 life for empty souls, the need of love for hearts grown cold.  
 I believe in God who gives us the best of God's own self.  
 I believe in Jesus, the son of the living God, born in Bethlehem this  
 night, for me and for the world.

## TELL THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD-WITH-US

### • CAROL - #150 Hark The Herald Angel Sing

Hark! the herald-angels sing,  
 "Glory to the new-born King;  
 peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
 God and sinners reconciled!"  
 Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
 join the triumph of the skies;  
 with the angelic host proclaim,  
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
 Hark, the herald-angels sing,  
 "Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail, the heaven-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 we no more may die,  
 born to raise us from the earth,  
 born to give us second birth.  
 Hark, the herald-angels sing,  
 "Glory to the new-born King!"

### Lighting the Advent Candles

### Family Barner



power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born  
 will be called<sup>[a]</sup> the Son of God. **36** Even Elizabeth your relative is going  
 to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to  
 conceive is in her sixth month. **37** For no word from God will ever fail."

**38** "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be  
 fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Footnotes: (a) [Luke 1:35](#) Or So the child to be born will be called holy,

### • CAROL - The Angel Gabriel

The angel Gabriel from heaven came  
 With wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame  
 All hail said he thou lowly maiden Mary  
 Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

For known a blessed mother thou shalt be  
 All generations laud and honour thee  
 Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold  
 Most highly favoured lady. Gloria!

### ✦ [Luke 2:1-7: \(NIV\)](#) - The Birth in Bethlehem

#### The Birth of Jesus

**1** In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should  
 be taken of the entire Roman world. **2** (This was the first census that  
 took place while<sup>[a]</sup> Quirinius was governor of Syria.) **3** And everyone  
 went to their own town to register.

**4** So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea,  
 to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and  
 line of David. **5** He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to  
 be married to him and was expecting a child. **6** While they were there,  
 the time came for the baby to be born, **7** and she gave birth to her  
 firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger,  
 because there was no guest room available for them.

Footnotes: (a) [Luke 2:2](#) Or This census took place before

Soloist

Mary Had a Baby

Kristin Lewis

✦ **Luke 2:8-14: (NIV)** - The Angels & The Shepherds

**8** And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. **9** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. **10** But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. **11** Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. **12** This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

**13** Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

**14** "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests."

• **CAROL - #163 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly***

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle-stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all.	Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new; saw the glory, heard the story-- tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you.
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✦ **Luke 2:15-20: (NIV)** - The Shepherds Worship

**15** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

**16** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

**17** When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child,

**18** and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

**19** But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

**20** The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

• **CAROL - #151 *The First Noel***

The first Noel 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.	They looked up 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:
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Refrain:  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,  
born is the King of Israel.

**A Christmas Confession**

The peace of the Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

I believe in Jesus Christ and in the beauty of the gospel begun in Bethlehem.  
I believe in the one whose spirit glorified a little town; and whose spirit still brings music to persons all over the world, in towns both large and small.  
I believe in the one for whom the crowded inn could find no room, and I confess that my heart still sometimes wants to exclude Christ from my life today.  
I believe in the one who the rulers of the earth ignored and the proud could never understand; whose life was among common people, whose welcome came from persons of hungry hearts.  
I believe in the one who proclaimed the love of God to be invincible:  
I believe in the one whose cradle was a mother's arms, whose modest home in Nazareth had love for its only wealth, who looked at persons and made them see what God's love saw in them, who by love brought sinners back to purity, and lifted human weakness up to meet the strength of God.