



Third Lesson The annunciation Luke 1

Carol *The angel Gabriel from heaven (Gabriel's message)* **156**

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame: "All hail," said he, "O lowly maiden Mary," most highly favored lady: Gloria!

"For know a blessed mother you shall be, all generations praise continually, your Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold," most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleases God," she said. "my soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name," most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born In Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn, and Christian folk through-out the world will ever say: most highly favored lady. Gloria!

Fourth Lesson The birth of Jesus

Children's participation: The children are invited to come forward to sing away in a manger and to meet a very special Christmas guest.

Away in a manger (Cradle Song) **149**

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.

The Thaumaturge of Myra (St. Nicholas)

Fifth Lesson The shepherds go to the manger Luke 2

Carol *While shepherds watched (Winchester Old)* **138**

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of
the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind; "Glad tidings of
great joy I bring to you, all humankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line, a Saviour who is Christ the
Lord, and this shall be the sign."

“The heavenly babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid.”

Thus spake the Seraph, and forthwith appeared a shining throng of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high and to the earth be peace; good will henceforth from heaven to earth begin and never cease!"

Carol *The first Noel (the first Noel)* **136**

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.

Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell! Born is the King of Israel.

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

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to search for a King was their intent, and to follow the Star wherever it went.

Refrain

This Star drew nigh to the North West; o'er Bethlehem it took it's rest; and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.

Refrain

Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there, in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Refrain

Then let us all with one accord, sing praises to our heavenly Lord; that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our souls hath bought.

Refrain

Sixth Lesson Wise men Matthew 2

Carol *We three Kings (Kings of Orient)* **173**

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar, field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star.

Refrain: O Star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright. Westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

Refrain

Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh, prayer and praising, voices raising, worshiping, God on high.

Refrain

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom, sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

Refrain

Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice: hallelujah, hallelujah, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

* **Seventh Lesson** | John

The Rev. Dr. David Thompson

A Christmas Meditation

* **Carol** *Hark the herald angels sing (Mendelssohn)*

139

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 the angelic host proclaim: "Christ is born in Bethlehem"

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord, late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail the incarnate Deity! Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Refrain

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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 the lost of earth, born to give us second birth.

Refrain

Offering and Offering Anthem

Good King Wenceslas

from *Piae Cantiones*; arr. R. Jacques (©1961)

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen, when the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even; brightly shone the moon that night, though the frost was cruel, when a poor man came in sight gathering winter fuel. "Hither page and stand by me, if thou know'st it, telling, yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?" "Sire he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain, right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes' fountain." "Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine logs hither.

Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.” Page and monarch forth they went, forth they went together, through the rude wind’s wild lament and the winter weather. “Sire, the night is colder now, and the wind blows stronger; fails my heart, I know not how – I can go no longer.” “Mark my footsteps, good my page; tread thou in them boldly. Thou shalt find the winter’s rage freeze thy blood less coldly.” In his master’s steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted. Heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed. Therefore Christian men, be sure, wealth or rank possessing, ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

Candle light service

Solo *O Holy Night* A. Adam (1803-1856); arr. M. Hayes (©1999)
 Laura Nielsen, soprano

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Saviour’s birth! Long lay the world in sin and error pining, ‘til He appeared and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn! Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine! O night when Christ was born! O night divine! Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by His cradle we stand; so, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here come three wise men from Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, in all our trials born to be our friend; He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger. Behold your King, before Him lowly bend! Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace. Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, and in His name all oppression shall cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we. Let all within us praise His holy name. Christ is the Lord, oh, praise His name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim!

Carol *Silent night with candle light (Stille Nacht)* **154**

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, heavenly hosts sing “Hallelujah, Christ, the Saviour is born! Christ, the Saviour 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 they birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Benediction

- * **Carol** *O Come, All Ye Faithful (Adeste Fideles)* **159**
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.
Refrain: 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:

Refrain:

See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle, leaving their flocks draw nigh with
holy fear; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps:

Refrain:

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation, sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; glory to
God in the highest:

Refrain:

Yes Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus to Thee be glory given; Word
of the Father, now in flesh appearing

Refrain:

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS—CHOIR

Postlude *Angels from the Realms of Glory (Regent Square)* E.C. Johnson (©1999)

Happy and Holy Christmas

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