

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



Christmas Eve 2021
Peninsula Bible Church Cupertino

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Christmas Eve 2021

Prelude

Cello: Rebecca An & Lachlan Wong
Piano accompaniment: Roberta Wong

O Holy Night

Welcome & Prayer of Invocation

Bernard Bell

First Lesson

Christine Koehn, Children's Pastor

Genesis 3

The terrible lie: Adam and Eve lose everything.

Adam and Eve lived happily together in their beautiful new home. And everything was perfect — for a while.

Until the day when everything went wrong.

God had a horrible enemy. His name was Satan. Satan had once been the most beautiful angel, but he didn't want to be just an angel — he wanted to be God. He grew proud and evil and full of hate, and God had to send him out of heaven. Satan was seething with anger and looking for a way to hurt God. He wanted to stop God's plan, stop this love story, right there. So he disguised himself as a snake and waited in the garden.

Now, God had given Adam and Eve only one rule: "Don't eat the fruit on that tree," God told them. "Because if you do, you'll think you know everything. You'll stop trusting me. And then death and sadness and tears will come."

(You see, God knew if they ate the fruit, they would think they didn't need him. And they would try to make themselves happy without him. But God knew there was no such thing as happiness without him, and life without him wouldn't be life at all.)

As soon as the snake saw his chance, he slithered silently up to Eve. “Does God really love you?” the serpent whispered. “If he does, why won’t he let you eat the nice, juicy, delicious fruit? Poor you, perhaps God doesn’t want you to be happy.”

The snake’s words hissed into her ears and sunk down deep into her heart, like poison. Does God love me? Eve wondered. Suddenly she didn’t know anymore.

“Just trust me,” the serpent whispered. “You don’t need God. One small taste, that’s all, and you’ll be happier than you could ever dream...”

Eve picked the fruit and ate some. And Adam ate some, too.

And a terrible lie came into the world. It would never leave. It would live on in every human heart, whispering to every one of God’s children: “God doesn’t love me.”

And it wasn’t a dream. It was a nightmare.

A dove flew from Adam’s hand. A deer darted in a thicket. It was as if they were frightened by something. A chill was in the air. Something strange was happening. They had always been naked — but now they felt naked, and wrong, and they didn’t want anyone to see them. So they hid. Later that evening, as God was taking his walk, he called to them. “Children?”

Usually Adam and Eve loved to hear God’s voice and would run to him. But this time, they ran away from him and hid in the shadows.

“Where are you?” God called.

“Hiding,” Adam said. “We’re afraid of you.”

“Did you eat the fruit I told you not to eat?” God asked them.

Adam said, “Eve made me do it!”

“What have you done?” God asked.

Eve said, “The serpent made me do it!”

And terrible pain came into God’s heart. His children hadn’t just broken the one rule; they had broken God’s heart. They had broken their wonderful relationship with him. And now he knew everything else would break. God’s creation would start to unravel, and come undone, and go wrong. From now on everything would die — even though it was all supposed to last forever.

You see, sin had come into God’s perfect world. And it would never leave. God’s children would be always running away from him and hiding in the dark. Their hearts would break now, and never work properly again. God

couldn't let his children live forever, not in such pain, not without him. There was only one way to protect them.

"You will have to leave the garden now," God told his children, his eyes filling with tears. "This is no longer your true home, it's not the place for you anymore."

But before they left the garden, God made clothes for his children, to cover them. He gently clothed them and then he sent them away on a long, long journey — out of the garden, out of their home.

Well, in another story, it would all be over and that would have been... The End.

But not in this Story.

God loved his children too much to let the story end there. Even though he knew he would suffer, God had a plan — a magnificent dream. One day, he would get his children back. One day, he would make the world their perfect home again. And one day, he would wipe away every tear from their eyes.

You see, no matter what, in spite of everything, God would love his children — with a Never Stopping, Never Giving Up, Unbreaking, Always and Forever Love.

And though they would forget him, and run from him, deep in their hearts, God's children would miss him always, and long for him — lost children yearning for their home.

Before they left the garden, God whispered a promise to Adam and Eve: "It will not always be so! I will come to rescue you! And when I do, I'm going to do battle against the snake. I'll get rid of the sin and the dark and the sadness you let in here. I'm coming back for you!"

And he would. One day, God himself would come. (JSBB)

Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Latin, *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, 12th cent.; trans. John M Neale, 1851

Kelley Miller, Sue Bell, Jamie Kelly, *Veni Emmanuel*, plainsong, arr. Thomas Helmore, 1854

Lucinda King, Lois Marella, Roberta Wong

Piano: Jean Lim

O come, O come Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease,
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.

Second lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

The Mathew Family

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

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.” (NIV)

Choir Anthem

PBCC choir, dir. Dave Hibbert

Piano accompaniment: Derek Sanders

Come Messiah, Come Emmanuel

arr. Joel Raney; based on *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*;

Charles Wesley, 1744; *Hyfrydol*, Rowland Prichard, 1830

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a Child, and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit,
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Third Lesson

The Moore Family

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned...

For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this. (NIV)

Carol

The Moore Family

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Phillips Brooks, 1867
St Louis, Lewis H Redner, 1868

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 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 the King,
For peace has come to earth.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still
The dear Christ enters in.

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 with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

The Tan Family

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—
and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;
but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

Righteousness will be his belt
and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

The cow will feed with the bear,
their young will lie down together,
and the lion will eat straw like the ox.

The infant will play near the cobra's den,
and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest.

They will neither harm nor destroy
on all my holy mountain,
for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea. (NIV)

String Quartet

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

The Tan Family

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

The Parris Family

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to the Galilean village of Nazareth to a virgin engaged to be married to a man descended from David. His name was Joseph, and the virgin's name, Mary. Upon entering, Gabriel greeted her:

Good morning!
You're beautiful with God's beauty,
Beautiful inside and out!
God be with you.

She was thoroughly shaken, wondering what was behind a greeting like that. But the angel assured her, "Mary, you have nothing to fear. God has a surprise for you: You will become pregnant and give birth to a son and call his name Jesus.

He will be great,
be called 'Son of the Highest.'
The Lord God will give him
the throne of his father David;
He will rule Jacob's house forever—
no end, ever, to his kingdom."

Mary said to the angel, "But how? I've never slept with a man."

The angel answered,

The Holy Spirit will come upon you,
the power of the Highest hover over you;
Therefore, the child you bring to birth
will be called Holy, Son of God.

"And did you know that your cousin Elizabeth conceived a son, old as she is? Everyone called her barren, and here she is six months' pregnant! Nothing, you see, is impossible with God."

And Mary said,

Yes, I see it all now:
I'm the Lord's maid, ready to serve.
Let it be with me
just as you say.

Then the angel left her. (Message)

Carol

Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Greek, *Sigisato pasa sarx*, 4th cent.; trans. Gerard Moultrie, 1864

Sue & Bernard Bell; *Picardy*, 17th cent. French melody, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Ray, Lynda, Travis & Alex Barbieri

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,
And with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded,
For with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth,
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,
As of old on earth He stood,
Lord of lords, in human vesture,
In the body and the blood;
He will give to all the faithful
His own self for heavenly food.

Rank on rank the host of heaven
Spreads its vanguard on the way,
As the Light of light descendeth
From the realms of endless day,
That the powers of hell may vanish
As the darkness clears away.

At His feet the six wingèd seraph,
Cherubim with sleepless eye,
Veil their faces to the presence,
As with ceaseless voice they cry:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Lord Most High!

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

The Wong Family

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

At that time the Roman emperor, Augustus, decreed that a census should be taken throughout the Roman Empire. (This was the first census taken when Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All returned to their own ancestral towns to register for this census. And because Joseph was a descendant of King David, he had to go to Bethlehem in Judea, David's ancient home. He traveled there from the village of Nazareth in Galilee. He took with him Mary, to whom he was engaged, who was now expecting a child.

And while they were there, the time came for her baby to be born. She gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him snugly in strips of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no lodging available for them. (NLT)

Carol

The Wong Family

Away in a Manger

vv. 1-2 unknown; v. 3 John T. McFarland, c. 1906
vv. 1,3 *Away in a Manger*, James R. Murray
v. 2 *Cradle Song*, William J. Kirkpatrick

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
The stars in the 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 Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

The Hsi Family

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. (KJV)

Carol

The Hsi Family

Angels We Have Heard on High

Traditional French carol. *Gloria*, traditional French melody

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
Say what may the tidings be,
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria...

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

Gloria...

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

The Dabaghian Family

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”

King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”

“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:

‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
are not least among the ruling cities of Judah,
for a ruler will come from you
who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”

Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”

After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod. (NLT)

Carol

Carol Day

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Latin, *Adeste, fideles*, John F Wade, 1751;
trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841
Adeste Fideles, John F Wade, 1751

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;

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
Glory in the highest!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing.

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

The Westall Family

John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation.

The Word was first,
the Word present to God,
God present to the Word.
The Word was God,
in readiness for God from day one.

Everything was created through him;
nothing—not one thing!—
came into being without him.
What came into existence was Life,
and the Life was Light to live by.
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;
the darkness couldn't put it out.

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. He came to show everyone where to look, who to believe in. John was not himself the Light; he was there to show the way to the Light.

The Life-Light was the real thing:
Every person entering Life
he brings into Light.
He was in the world,
the world was there through him,
and yet the world didn't even notice.
He came to his own people,
but they didn't want him.
But whoever did want him,
who believed he was who he claimed
and would do what he said,
He made to be their true selves,
their child-of-God selves.

These are the God-begotten,
not blood-begotten,
not flesh-begotten,
not sex-begotten.

The Word became flesh and blood,
and moved into the neighborhood.
We saw the glory with our own eyes,
the one-of-a-kind glory,
like Father, like Son,
Generous inside and out,
true from start to finish. (Message)

Carol

The Westall Family

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Charles Wesley, 1739

Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn, 1840,

arr. William H Cummings, 1857

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.”*

Christ, by highest heav’n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come,
Off-spring of the Virgin’s womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th’incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris’n 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.

Spreading the Light

Carol

Liviu Bocaniala
(Romania)

French, Placide Clappeau, 1847; trans. John S Dwight (1812-93)
Cantique de Noël, Adolphe Adam (1803-56)

O Holy Night

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth;
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul 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, O holy night, O night divine!

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;
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Carol

The Paaske Family

Silent Night

German, Joseph Mohr, 1818; trans. John F Young, ca. 1850

Stille Nacht, Franz Grüber, 1818

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 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.

Prayer & Benediction

You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your 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 again, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever. *Amen.*

Now may he, who by his incarnation, gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you a spirit of joy and peace as you celebrate the birth of Jesus. May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Closing Song

Christmas Day

Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, Scott Cash

Jenna Bergendahl, Linnaea Moore

© 2019 Alletrop Music et al. CCLI 331235

Musical accompaniment: Roberta Wong

Joy to the world, on a night like no other
Emmanuel, God is with us
Beggars and kings, let us come and adore Him
Rest in His peace and bow before Him

*Sing all you people, the Lord Almighty reigns
Sing every creature of God, come bless His name
For He is good, for He is good
He was born to conquer the grave
Light of the world, the reason for Christmas Day*

Stars we have seen, over deserts and oceans
Darkness was deep, but never hopeless
Redemption came and His name is Jesus

chorus

Bridge ×2:

From the mountains we will shout it out
For the Lord our God Almighty reigns
He is with us, He is with us now
For the Lord our God Almighty reigns

chorus ×2

Credits

Marni Cook; piano Sue Bell.

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Participants

Host Pastor: Bernard Bell

Christine Koehn

The Barbieri, Dabaghian, Hsi, Mathew, Moore, Paaske, Parris, Tan, Westall and Wong families, and associates Rebecca An and Jenna Bergendahl

The women's music team: Sue Bell, Jamie Kelly, Lucinda King, Jean Lim, Lois Marella, Kelley Miller, Roberta Wong

PBCC choir, director Dave Hibbert; Carol Day

Liviu & Camilla Bocaniala

Candle-lighters: Bernard Bell, Bob Pershe, Christine Koehn, Bill & Marilyn Misson, Kathy Brazelton, Jerry Tu, Lynda Barbieri, Sue Bell, Brian Morgan

Production Team: Ray & Lynda Barbieri, Bernard & Sue Bell, Chris Bunce

Thanks to all who created their own videos for this virtual service.

Scripture readings

JSBB: Sally Lloyd-Jones, *Jesus Storybook Bible: Every Story Whispers His Name* (Zondervan, 2007)

KJV: King James Version

Message: Eugene H. Peterson, *The Message: The Bible in Contemporary Language* (NavPress, 2002)

NIV: New International Version (Biblica, 2011)

NLT: New Living Translation, 2nd ed. (Tyndale House, 2015)