

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

**LESSONS & CAROLS**

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY - December 24 & 25, 2021

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING**

(This liturgy was compiled and written by the Rev. Matthew Kozlowski, 2015)

Christmas Eve & Day - *Christ*

Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE. The center candle is the Christ candle.

[**The candles are lit.**]

Scripture: “Isaiah 9:6 – 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.”

**Prayer: “O God of hope, peace, joy, and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all. Amen.”**

Advent Hymn: O Come O Come Emmanuel (New Verse)

O Come O Come Christ Jesus Our Lord / the Son of Man, and

God’s incarnate Word

In You, our Hope, our Peace, Joy, and Love, / we share on earth the life of heav’n above.

Rejoice! Rejoice! / Emmanuel

Shall come to thee / O Israel

**A BIDDING FOR CHRISTMAS**

My sisters and brothers in Christ,

in this season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus,

let it be our duty and delight

to hear once more the message of the angels

and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem

to see the Son of God lying in a manger.

**As we hear the reading of God’s holy word, let us**

**rejoice that the glory of the Lord has been revealed;**

**find new hope in the promise that God is with us;**

**and raise our voices with the messenger who announces**

**good news of great joy to all people.**

As we mark once more the mystery of the Word made flesh,

let us join with the song of angels and saints and make this

place ring with our carols and hymns of praise.

But first, let us remember the poverty of the birth of the

Prince of Peace, and pray for the poor, the cold, the hungry,

and those among us who find that there is no room for

them at the inn.

**Let us remember the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt,**

**and pray for the oppressed, refugees, the isolated, and those**

**on the edges of our society.**

Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the

pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the anxious,

the weary, and the bereaved.

**And remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever and ever,**

**let us pray for the rulers of the nations,**

**for peace and justice on earth,**

**for the unity and mission of the Church,**

**that we may be a sign that God’s rule on earth has already begun.**

With joy in our hearts,

let us hear again the story of the birth of Christ,

and join with Mary and Joseph,

with shepherds and wise men,

and with all our forebears in faith

in offering our worship.

Carol: *O Come O Come Emmanuel* (CP #89)

**THE LESSONS**

The First Lesson is from Genesis 22:15-18

*The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”*

Here ends the Lesson.

The Second Lesson is from Isaiah 40:1-11

*Comfort, O comfort my people,*

*says your God.*

*Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,*

*and cry to her*

*that she has served her term,*

*that her penalty is paid,*

*that she has received from the Lord’s hand*

*double for all her sins.*

*A voice cries out:*

*“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,*

*make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

*Every valley shall be lifted up,*

*and every mountain and hill be made low;*

*the uneven ground shall become level,*

*and the rough places a plain.*

*Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,*

*and all people shall see it together,*

*for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*

*A voice says, “Cry out!”*

*And I said, “What shall I cry?”*

*All people are grass,*

*their constancy is like the flower of the field.*

*The grass withers, the flower fades,*

*when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;*

*surely the people are grass.*

*The grass withers, the flower fades;*

*but the word of our God will stand forever.*

*Get you up to a high mountain,*

*O Zion, herald of good tidings;*

*lift up your voice with strength,*

*O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,*

*lift it up, do not fear;*

*say to the cities of Judah,*

*“Here is your God!”*

*See, the Lord God comes with might,*

*and his arm rules for him;*

*his reward is with him,*

*and his recompense before him.*

*He will feed his flock like a shepherd;*

*he will gather the lambs in his arms,*

*and carry them in his bosom,*

*and gently lead the mother sheep.*

Here ends the Lesson.

First Prayer of Response

**God of freedom,**

**give the strength of hope to those who suffer oppression**

**in body, mind, or spirit.**

**Let them hear the vanguard of your coming grace,**

**and give them the wholeness**

**you intend for all your children.**

**We ask this in the name of your Servant, Jesus Christ,**

**the sign of your presence and the pioneer of our salvation,**

**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Carol: *Once in Royal David’s City* (CP #123)

The Third Lesson is from Isaiah 35:1-10

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,*

*the desert shall rejoice and blossom;*

*like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,*

*and rejoice with joy and singing.*

*The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,*

*the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.*

*They shall see the glory of the Lord,*

*the majesty of our God.*

*Strengthen the weak hands,*

*and make firm the feeble knees.*

*Say to those who are of a fearful heart,*

*“Be strong, do not fear!*

*Here is your God.*

*He will come with vengeance,*

*with terrible recompense.*

*He will come and save you.”*

*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,*

*and the ears of the deaf unstopped;*

*then the lame shall leap like a deer,*

*and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.*

*For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,*

*and streams in the desert;*

*the burning sand shall become a pool,*

*and the thirsty ground springs of water;*

*the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,*

*the grass shall become reeds and rushes.*

*A highway shall be there,*

*and it shall be called the Holy Way;*

*the unclean shall not travel on it,*

*but it shall be for God’s people;*

*no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.*

*No lion shall be there,*

*nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;*

*they shall not be found there,*

*but the redeemed shall walk there.*

*And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,*

*and come to Zion with singing;*

*everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;*

*they shall obtain joy and gladness,*

*and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

Here ends the Lesson.

The Fourth Lesson is from Isaiah 7:10-15

*Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.*

Here ends the Lesson.

The Second Prayer of Response

**God of hope,**

**look upon those who live with despair as their companion.**

**Give them signs of your healing presence**

**and of your eternal purpose of salvation.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord,**

**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

Carol: *The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came*

The Fifth Lesson is from the Gospel of Luke 1:26-38

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.” Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.*

Here ends the Lesson.

The Sixth Lesson is from the Gospel of Luke 1:39-56

*In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.”*

*And Mary said,*

*“My soul magnifies the Lord,*

*and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,*

*for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.*

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;*

*for the Mighty One has done great things for me,*

*and holy is his name.*

*His mercy is for those who fear him*

*from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm;*

*he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.*

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,*

*and lifted up the lowly;*

*he has filled the hungry with good things,*

*and sent the rich away empty.*

*He has helped his servant Israel,*

*in remembrance of his mercy,*

*according to the promise he made to our ancestors,*

*to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”*

*And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.*

Here ends the Lesson.

The Third Prayer of Response

**Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord,**

**that we who have known the incarnation**

**of your Son Jesus Christ,**

**announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary,**

**may by his cross and passion**

**be brought to the glory of his resurrection;**

**who lives and reigns with you,**

**in the unity of the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Carol: *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* (CP #140)

The Seventh Lesson is from the Gospel of Luke 2:1-20

*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.*

*In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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 whom 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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.*

Here ends the Lesson.

The Fourth Prayer of Response

**O God our Father,**

**whose Word has come among us**

**in the Holy Child of Bethlehem,**

**may the light of faith illumine our hearts**

**and shine in our words and deeds;**

**through him who is Christ our Lord,**

**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**

**one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Carol: *Silent Night* (CP #119)

The Eighth Lesson is from the Gospel of John 1:1-18

*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.*

*There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.*

*He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.*

*And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.’”) From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father’s heart, who has made him known.*

Here ends the Lesson.

The Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, “Lord, grant us peace.”

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the birth in time of your timeless Son, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

By the manifestation of your radiant glory to the shepherds and

magi, hear us, O Lord, **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.

**Lord, grant us peace.**

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord. **Lord, grant us peace.**

For our own needs and those of others. [***Take a moment of silence to offer up prayers and intercessions, for yourself and for others.***]

Collect

*Almighty God,*

*you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature.*

*May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* ***Amen****.*

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: *Joy to the World* (CP # 154)

Dismissal

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**