

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

**LESSONS & CAROLS**

CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY - December 24 & 25, 2023

[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 angels,

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 the Book of Genesis, Chapter 22.*

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 taken from the Prophet Micah, Chapter 5.*

But you, O Bethlehem…  
    who are one of the little clans of Judah,  
from you shall come forth for me  
    one who is to rule in Israel,  
whose origin is from of old,  
    from ancient days.

Therefore he shall give them up until the time  
    when she who is in labour has brought forth;  
then the rest of his kindred shall return  
    to the people of Israel.

And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord,  
    in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.  
And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great  
    to the ends of the earth;  
and he shall be the one of peace.

*Here ends the Lesson.*

*The First Prayer of Response*

**God of small beginnings,**

**you bring strength out of weakness and hope out of fear.**

**By the power of your Spirit make us, your children,**

**followers and partners in the grand design of your kingdom of love, rooted and revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord, 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 taken from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 35.*

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 traveller, 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 taken from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 65.*

For I am about to create new heavens  
    and a new earth;  
the former things shall not be remembered  
    or come to mind.  
But be glad and rejoice for ever  
    in what I am creating;  
for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,  
    and its people as a delight.

I will rejoice in Jerusalem,  
    and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it,  
    or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it  
    an infant that lives but a few days,  
    or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;  
for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth,  
    and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
    they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
They shall not build and another inhabit;  
    they shall not plant and another eat;  
for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,  
    and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labour in vain,  
    or bear children for calamity;   
for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—  
    and their descendants as well.  
Before they call I will answer,  
    while they are yet speaking I will hear.  
The wolf and the lamb shall feed together,  
    the lion shall eat straw like the ox;  
    but the serpent—its food shall be dust!  
They shall not hurt or destroy  
    on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

*Here ends the Lesson.*

*The Second Prayer of Response*

**God of gentleness and peace,**

**teach our hands to shun the tools of violence and our minds to conceive the paths of peace, that we may know with thanksgiving**

**the joy of your generosity, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Carol: *What Child Is This?* (CP #137)

*The Fifth Lesson is taken from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1.*

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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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 taken from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1.*

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 leapt 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 leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’

And Mary said,

‘My soul magnifies the Lord,  
    and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,  
for he has looked with favour 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 for ever.’

And Mary remained with her for 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 for ever. Amen.**

Carol: *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear* (CP #141)

*The Seventh Lesson is taken from the Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2.*

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 Saviour, 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 favours!’

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.**

***As you are able, please stand.***

*The Eighth Lesson is taken from the Gospel of John, Chapter 1.*

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.

This is the Gospel of Christ. **Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Carol: *Joy to the World* (CP #154)

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

*Eternal God,*

*this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light.*

*As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive 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: *Silent Night* (CP #119)

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.**