

*Lessons and Carols for the First Sunday after Christmas
December 27, 2020*



Southeast Michigan Synod, ELCA

Welcome

Pastor Peggy Rose

Prelude

“I Wonder as I Wander”

Performed by Steve Schlesing, Lutheran Church of the Master, Troy

Greeting from Bishop Kreiss

Opening Song

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Performed by Tyler Lentz, Janice Locke, Jen Kiefer, St. John Lutheran, Dundee

Dialogue

Conference 1

Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

By day and night he shines for all to see.

Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

that the world may see the justice and richness of God.

God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.

Jesus is the light of the world.

Jesus is the light of our lives.

Sing to God a new song!

A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

Opening Prayer

Conference 10

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth,
you have thrown a lifeline to us who dwell in the shadows —
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.

Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.

Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.

Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world
and in our hearts. **Amen.**

Lessons and Carols

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

Conference 2

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

Song

“’Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

Performed by Michelle, Rick, Noah, and Ella Carlson, Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Marysville

Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Conference 3

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
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.

³Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴And 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;

⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

Song

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Performed by Keith Van Goor, Calvary Lutheran Church, Clarkston

Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

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²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² 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. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ 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.

³⁸ 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.

Song

"Mary" by Mark Sylvester

Performed by Hearts on Fire Band, King of Kings, Shelby Twp.

Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Conference 5

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel,"

which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Song

"Love Has Come"

Performed by Justin and Brenda Dittrich, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe Farms

Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Conference 6

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before 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; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ 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.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Song

“Jesus, Jesus, what a Wonderful Child”
Performed by Daniel Herman and Carl Clendenning,
Iroquois Avenue Christ Lutheran Church, Detroit

Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

Conference 7

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Song

“Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming”

Performed by Kristin McCarthy and Evan Caldron, Christ Lutheran Church,
Sterling Heights

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

Conference 8

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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.

Song

“Of the Father's love begotten”

Performed by Inger Oswald, Kelsey Zukowski, and Alan Witucki, Shepherd of the Lakes,
Walled Lake

Responsive Prayer

Conference 11

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.

In his light, draw all to the manger
to sing for joy with the angels.

In the brightness of his life
cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Conference 11

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God, all creatures here below!

You are the shepherds telling the story.

We tell it in the streets and across the land.

You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.

We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.

You are the angels announcing peace.

We live with joy and go now in peace.

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Song

“Good Christian friends, Rejoice”

Performed by Elgin Clingaman and Natalie Emptage Downs, Zion Lutheran Church,
Ann Arbor

Postlude

“Sing we Now of Christmas”

Performed by Ms. Laura Blanchard, Julia Blanchard, Molly Blanchard,
Transfiguration Lutheran Church, Fenton

Readers

Synod Staff -

Bishop Donald Kreiss, Bishop of the Southeast Michigan Synod

Pastor Lauren Kirsh-Carr, Assistant to the Bishop for Congregational & Synod Life, Director of Licensed Lay Ministry

Conference 1 – Pastor Diane Greble, St John Lutheran Church, Fowlerville

Pastor Dana Runestad, Transfiguration Lutheran Church, Fenton

Pastor Sue Lidums, Our Risen Lord Lutheran Church, Burton

Pastor Monica Villareal, Salem Lutheran Church, Flint

Pastor Nathan Allen, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Grand Blanc

Pastor Sharon Smith, St. George Lutheran Church, Brighton

Pastor Ken Greble, Shalom Lutheran Church, Pinkney

Pastor Denise Russell, All Saints Lutheran Church, Hartland

Conference 2 –Carolynn Middleton, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Port Huron

Conference 3 – Pastor Nik Schillack, Beautiful Saviour Lutheran Church, Bloomfield Hills

Conference 5 – Pastor Justin Dittrich, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe Farms

Conference 6 – Taylor Johnson, Love Rising Lutheran Church, Detroit

Conference 7 – Pastor Rick Hogan, Faith Lutheran Church, Brownstown

Conference 8 – Pastor Sean Myers, Antioch Lutheran Church, Farmington Hills

Conference 10 – Pastor Vicky Lovell, Zion Lutheran Church, Ann Arbor

Conference 11 –

Ruth Brisson, Jim Brisson, Logan Stoll, Trinity Lutheran Church, Ferndale

Pastor Krister Ulmanis and Lela Ulmanis, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Royal Oak

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