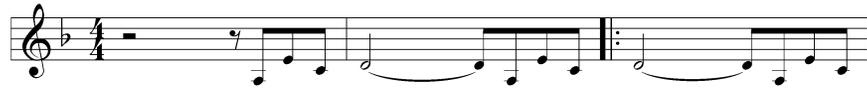
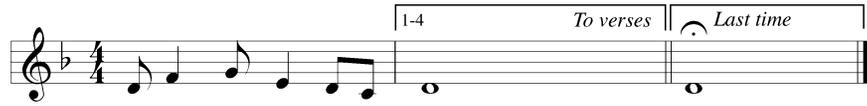


HYMN: MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS



For you, O Lord, my soul in still-ness waits,



tru-ly my hope is in you. you.



Verses

1 O Lord of Light, our on-ly hope of
 2 O Spring of Joy, rain down up-on our
 3 O Root of Life, im-plant your seed with-
 4 O Key of Know-ledge, guide us in our



glo-ry, Your ra-diance shines in all who look to
 spir-its. Our thirs-ty hearts are yearn-ing for your
 in us, And in your ad-vent draw us all to
 pil-grim-age, We ev-er seek, yet un-ful-filled re-



To Refrain

you. Come, light the hearts of all in dark and sha-dow.
 Word. Come, make us whole, be com-fort to our hearts.
 you, Our hope re-born in dy-ing and in ris-ing.
 main. O-pen to us the path-way of your peace.

This Advent hymn, based on the ancient "O" antiphons, calls to mind the Old Testament titles of our Savior and the longing of God's people for the Savior to come.

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 Tune: MY SOUL IN STILLNESS WAITS (11 10 11 and Refrain) Marty Haugen, b. 1950 © 1982 GIA Publications, Inc.
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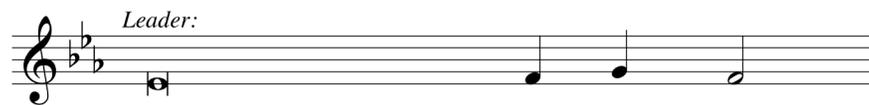


A Service of Lessons and Carols for Advent

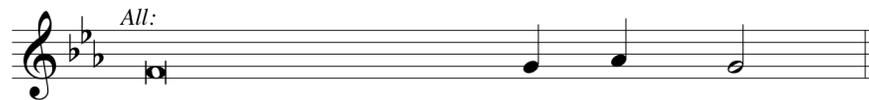
December 13, 2017

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR ADVENT

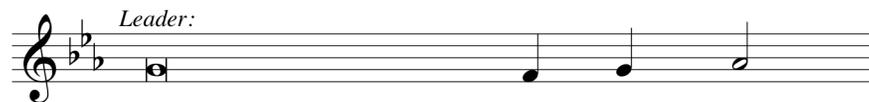
~Please stand



Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;



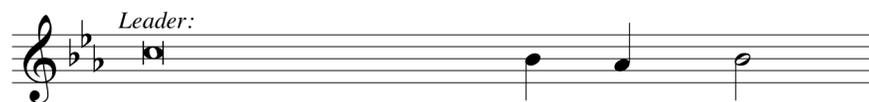
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;



Stay with us now, for it is evening,



and the day is al - most over.



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,



and shine within your peo - ple here. —

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

OFFERING

PRAYER

O God, you make us glad with the expectation of the coming of your one and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that we, who with joy receive him as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he will come to be our judge, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Go forth into the world in peace, be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good, render to no one evil for evil, strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted, honor all people, love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty—the Father, the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit—be upon you and remain with you forever.

Amen.

FIFTH READING: LUKE 1:26-38

*The angel Gabriel announces that Jesus will be conceived
by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary*

²⁶In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

²⁹Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

³⁴"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

³⁵The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. ³⁷For no word from God will ever fail."

³⁸"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

HYMN: #24 THE ANGEL GABRIEL FROM HEAVEN CAME

EVENING HYMN



1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

Dear people of God, in the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child, Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, for the people in our country and in this city/place, and especially for the brothers and sisters in our synod and in our own congregation.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, and the aged and the little children as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us praise God for the faith of Mary, mother of our Lord, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one forevermore.

To sum up all these petitions, let us pray as Christ himself taught us.

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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

FOURTH READING: ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

The Lord takes away his punishment against his people

- ¹⁴ Sing, Daughter Zion;
shout aloud, Israel!
Be glad and rejoice with all your heart,
Daughter Jerusalem!
- ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away your punishment,
he has turned back your enemy.
The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you;
never again will you fear any harm.
- ¹⁶ On that day
they will say to Jerusalem,
“Do not fear, Zion;
do not let your hands hang limp.
- ¹⁷ The LORD your God is with you,
the Mighty Warrior who saves.
He will take great delight in you;
in his love he will no longer rebuke you,
but will rejoice over you with singing.”
- ¹⁸ “I will remove from you
all who mourn over the loss of your appointed festivals,
which is a burden and reproach for you.

HYMN: #7 REJOICE, REJOICE BELIEVERS v. 3,4

THIRD READING: MICAH 5:2-5

The One who will be ruler over Israel will be born in Bethlehem

²“But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clans of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,
whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”

³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.

⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.

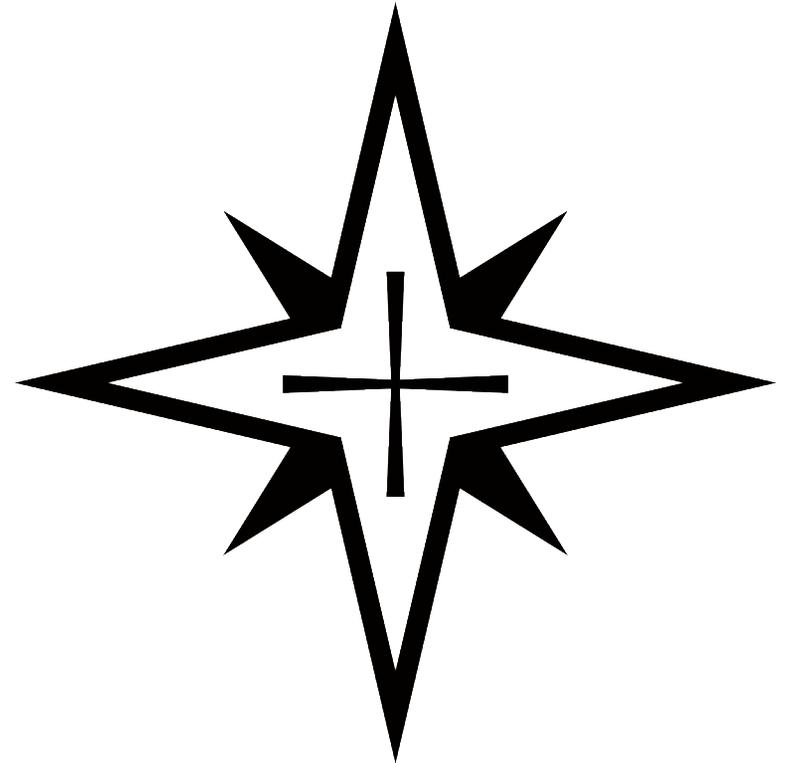
⁵And he will be our peace
when the Assyrians invade our land
and march through our fortresses.

HYMN: #3 LIFT UP YOUR HEADS, YOU MIGHTY GATES v. 1,2,5

The almighty God bless us with his grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and may the King of angels bring us all to the fellowship of the citizens above.

Amen.

~Please be seated.



LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 64:1-9

God is called upon to come among us and deliver us from our iniquities

Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!
²As when fire sets twigs ablaze and causes water to boil,
come down to make your name known to your enemies
and cause the nations to quake before you!
³For when you did awesome things that we did not expect,
you came down, and the mountains trembled before you.
⁴Since ancient times no one has heard, no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who acts on behalf of those who wait for him.
⁵You come to the help of those who gladly do right,
who remember your ways.
But when we continued to sin against them, you were angry.
How then can we be saved?
⁶All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.
⁷No one calls on your name or strives to lay hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us and have given us over to our sins.
⁸Yet you, LORD, are our Father.
We are the clay, you are the potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹Do not be angry beyond measure, LORD;
do not remember our sins forever.
Oh, look on us, we pray,
for we are all your people.

HYMN: #22 O SAVIOR, REND THE HEAVENS WIDE

SECOND READING: ISAIAH 7:10-15

The Lord promises that a Son will be conceived and his name will be Emmanuel

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, ¹¹“Ask the LORD your God for a sign, whether in the deepest depths or in the highest heights.”

¹²But Ahaz said, “I will not ask; I will not put the LORD to the test.”

¹³Then Isaiah said, “Hear now, you house of David! Is it not enough to try the patience of humans? Will you try the patience of my God also? ¹⁴Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel. ¹⁵He will be eating curds and honey when he knows enough to reject the wrong and choose the right,

HYMN: #23 OH, COME, OH, COME, EMMANUEL