

Christmas Celebration in Story and Song

Christmas Eve 2011 - 6 p.m.

Church of the Advent, Colwood BC



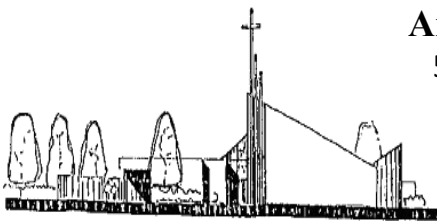
THE CHURCH OF THE ADVENT

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The Right Reverend James A. J. Cowan, Bishop
The Reverend Kenneth J. Gray, Priest and Rector

Christmas Celebration in Story and Song

Christmas Eve 2010 - Church of the Advent, Colwood BC

Cameron Gray, Reader—Hannah and Kathie Gray, crèche assistants

The Gathering of the Community

Welcome—Rev. Ken Gray

We sing together:

**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;
come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest!
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

The Greeting and Lighting of the Christ Candle

**LIGHT A CANDLE FOR PEACE
LIGHT A CANDLE FOR JOY
LIGHT A CANDLE THIS CHRISTMAS EVE
LIGHT A CANDLE FOR LOVE
LIGHT A CANDLE FOR HOPE
LIGHT A CANDLE THAT NEVER DIMS**

**Mary and Joseph
Bethlehem bound
Bright angels in the sky;
Singing their song
Of Glory and God
Of heaven and earth and joy**

**Home for the holidays
Gathered with friends
Snug by the evening fire;
Sharing at mealtime
All sleeping late
The best time of all the year**

**Myth-laden story
Favourite songs
Carols and mistletoe;
Generous hearts
Together reach out
To strangers and those we know**

Opening Prayer

The story starts . . . a loooonnnnnng time ago

Reader

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined ...
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9: 2-7)

We sing together:

**'Twas in the moon of wintertime,
when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitchi Manitou
sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim,
and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,
in excelsis Gloria.**

**Within a lodge of broken bark
the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin
enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunter braves drew nigh,
the angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born,
in excelsis Gloria.**

The Story continues . . . of the Birth of Jesus, from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke

Reader: (Mary's unexpected pregnancy, Joseph's hurt and confusion and Joseph's dream)

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. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to

public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. 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. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',
which means, 'God is with us.' (Matt. 1:18-23)

We sing together:

Emmanuel, Emmanuel
His name is called, Emmanuel
God with us
revealed in us,
His name is called, Emmanuel

Reader: (Joseph marries Mary and names the newborn baby Jesus)
Donkey, ox and manger are placed in the stable

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus. (Matt 1: 24-25)

Joseph's Song—a YouTube presentation with Michael Card

Reader: (Mary and Joseph travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem in order to be counted in the census.
While in Bethlehem Mary gives birth to Jesus)
Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus are placed in the stable

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. (Lk 2: 1-7)

**What child is this, who laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?**

**THIS, THIS IS CHRIST THE KING,
WHOM SHEPHERDS GUARD AND ANGELS SING;
HASTE, HASTE TO BRING HIM LAUD,
THE BABE, THE SON OF MARY.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. Refrain**

Reader: (God's angel announces to some shepherds that a Saviour has been born in Bethlehem)
An angel is placed in the stable, along with a sign which reads "O Come Let Us Adore Him"

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!' (Lk 2: 8-14)

We sing together:

**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.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour 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.**

Reader: (The shepherds find Jesus and his family in the stable)
A shepherd and his sheep are placed in the stable

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 to 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. (Lk 2: 15-20)

**Shepherds in the field abiding,
tell us, when the seraph bright
greeted you with wondrous tiding
what you saw and heard that night.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Thanks, good herdmen, true your story,
have with you to Bethlehem;
angels hymn the King of glory,
carol we with you and them.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

Reader: (A band of scholars or "wise men" ask King Herod where they could find the newborn King of the Jews. They find Jesus in Bethlehem, but because they are warned in a dream not to report back to Herod, they travel by another route to return to their own country)
Three wise men are placed in the stable

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him . . .

So Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.' 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.**

**O STAR OF WONDER, STAR OF NIGHT,
STAR WITH ROYAL BEAUTY BRIGHT;
WESTWARD LEADING, STILL PROCEEDING,
GUIDE US TO THY PERFECT LIGHT!**

The same story, told a different way by the PEANUTS gang

We give gifts back to God and to the church

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns:
let us glad songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy.**

**Christ rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love.**

The Prayer over the Creche and other Prayers

The Lord's Prayer

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 them that 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.

A "Special Visitor" brings a gift to Baby Jesus

On our way . . . Rejoicing

GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN,
OVER THE HILLS AND EVERYWHERE;
GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN
THAT JESUS CHRIST IS BORN.

While shepherds kept their watching
Over silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens,
There shone a holy light:

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Saviour's birth:

Down in a lowly manger
Our humble Christ was born
And God sent us salvation,
That blessed Christmas morn: