PROCESSIONAL CAROL – ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID’S CITY (LH 632)

1. Once in royal David’s city
   stood a lowly cattle shed,
   where a mother laid her baby
   in a manger for his bed;
   Mary was that mother mild,
   Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven
   who is God and Lord of all,
   and his shelter was a stable,
   and his cradle was a stall;
   with the poor, and meek, and lowly
   lived on earth our Saviour holy.

3. And our eyes at last shall see him,
   through his own redeeming love,
   for that child so dear and gentle
   is our Lord in heaven above;
   and he leads his children on
   to the place where he is gone.

4. Not in that poor lowly stable,
   with the oxen standing by,
   We shall see him; but in heaven,
   set at God’s right hand on high;
   Where like stars his children
crowned
   all in white shall wait around.

GREETING AND PRAYER

Friends in Christ: Let us hear again the message of the angels, and in heart
and mind go to Bethlehem and see the loving-kindness of our God, and
the baby lying in a manger.

Let us hear in holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from
the first days of our disobedience to the glorious redemption gained for
us by the holy child, Jesus Christ our Lord; and let us thank him with our
carols of praise.

But first let us pray to God for the needs of the whole world.

Heavenly Father, bring peace and goodwill among all people, so that we
may learn to love one another, as your children.

Look in mercy on the poor and helpless; the homeless, the hungry, and the
oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the
aged and the little children; and all those who do not know or love the
Lord Jesus, or who by sin have grieved his heart.
We come before you with all those who rejoice with us in a greater light, that heavenly multitude which none of us can number, with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we are one for evermore.

In his name we now pray:

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

Genesis 3:8-15  God announces in the Garden of Eden that the offspring of the woman will crush the serpent’s head.

CAROL – COME, THOU SAVIOUR OF OUR RACE (LH 19)

1. Come, Thou Saviour of our race, 5. Thou, the Father’s only Son,  
   Choicest Gift of heav’ly grace!  Hast o’er sin the victory won,  
   O Thou blessed Virgin’s Son,  Boundless shall thy kingdom be;  
   Born, Thy course for us to run.  When shall we its glories see?

2. Not of mortal blood and birth, 6. Brightly doth Thy manger shine!  
   He descendeth to the earth:  Glorious is its light divine:  
   By the Holy Ghost conceived,  Let not sin o’ercloud this light,  
   Truly man, to be believed.  Ever be our faith thus bright.

3. Wondrous birth! O wondrous Child 7. Praise to God the Father sing,  
   Of the virgin, undefiled!  praise to God the Son, our king,  
   Though by all the world disowned,  praise to God the Spirit be  
   Still to be in heaven enthroned. ever and eternally.

4. From the Father forth He came,  
   And returneth to the same;  
   Captive leading death and hell,  
   High the song of triumph swell.

SECOND READING

Isaiah 9:2,6,7  The prophet Isaiah foretells Christ’s birth and kingdom.
1. The people that in darkness sat
   a glorious light have seen;
   the Light has shone on them
   who long
   in shades of death have been.

2. To hail thee, Sun of Righteousness,
   the gathering nations come,
   their joy when the reapers bear
   their harvest treasures home.

3. For thou their burden dost remove,
   and break the tyrant’s rod,
   as in the day when Midian fell
   before the sword of God.

4. To us a child of hope is born,
   to us a son is given;
   and on his shoulder ever rests
   all power in earth and heaven.

5. His name shall be the Prince of Peace
   the everlasting Lord,
   the Wonderful, the Counsellor,
   the God by all adored.

6. His righteous government and power
   shall over all extend;
   on judgment and on justice based,
   his reign shall have no end.

7. Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
   and make us thine alone,
   who with the Father ever art
   and Holy Spirit One.

8. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
   let earth receive her king;
   let every heart prepare him room,
   and heaven and nature sing.

9. Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
   let all their songs employ;
   while fields and floods, rocks,
   hills and plains
   repeat the sounding joy.

10. Joy to the world! The Saviour reigns;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

11. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

12. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

13. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

14. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

15. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

16. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

17. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

18. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

19. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

20. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

21. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

22. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

23. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

24. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.

25. Joy to the world! The Lord has come;
    let earth receive her king;
    let every heart prepare him room,
    and heaven and nature sing.
3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem
descend to us we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in:
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

FOURTH READING

Matthew 1:18-25  St Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

HYMN – O COME, O COME IMMANUEL (WITH EXTRA VERSES)(LH 2)

1. O come, O wisdom, Word of God
   teach us to know and fear the Lord;
you guide the world through night and day:
direct us in the living way.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

2. O come, O come, great Lord of might,
in ancient times, on Sinai’s height,
you gave your chosen tribes the law,
in cloud and majesty and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

3. O come, O branch of Jesse, free
your own from Satan’s tyranny;
from depth of hell your people save,
and give them victory from the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

4. O come, O key of David, come
and open wide our heavenly home.
Make safe the path that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

HYMN – HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING (LH 33)

1. Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all you nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim:
Christ is born in Bethlehem.

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,
   Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
   offspring of a virgin’s womb.
   Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
   Hail, the incarnate Deity,
   pleased as man with us to dwell,
   Jesus, our Immanuel:

3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of peace!
   Hail, the sun of righteousness!
   Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
   Mild he lays his glory by,
   born that we no more may die,
   born to raise the sons of earth,
   born to give them second birth:

   Hark! the herald angels sing
   glory to the new-born King.

EIGHTH READING

Matthew 2:1-11  The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

HYMN – AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD (LH 40)

1. As with gladness, men of old
   Did the guiding star behold
   As with joy they hailed its light
   Leading onward, beaming bright
   So, most glorious Lord, may we
   Evermore be led to Thee.

2. As with joyful steps they sped
   To that lowly manger bed
   There to bend the knee before
   Him Whom Heaven and earth adore;
   So may we with willing feet
   Ever seek Thy mercy seat.

3. As they offered gifts most rare
   At that manger rude and bare;
   So may we with holy joy,
   Pure and free from sin’s alloy,
   All our costliest treasures bring,
   Christ, to Thee, our heavenly King.
4. He brings those blessings long ago
   Prepared by God for all below;
   That in His kingdom bright and fair
   You may with us his glory share.

5. These are the tokens ye shall mark,
   The swaddling clothes and manger dark;
   There shall ye find the young child laid,
   By whom the heavens and earth were made.

6. Now let us all, with gladsome cheer,
   Follow the shepherds, and draw near
   To see this wondrous gift of God,
   Who hath His own dear Son bestowed.

7. Give heed, my heart, lift up thine eyes!
   Who is it in yon manger lies?
   Who is this child, so young and fair?
   The blessed Christ-child lieth there!

   SIXTH READING

Luke 2:8-12 The shepherds are told of the birth of Jesus.

   CAROL – SILENT NIGHT (LH 629)

   1. 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.

   2. Silent night, holy night!
      Shepherds quake at the sight,
      glory streams from heaven afar,
      heavenly hosts sing: Hallelujah!
      Christ the Saviour is born.

   3. 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.

   SEVENTH READING

Luke 2:13-20 The angels proclaim peace, and the shepherds go to Bethlehem

   5. O come, O sunrise, come and cheer
      our spirits by your advent here;
      dispense the gloomy clouds of night,
      and death's dark shadows put to flight.
      Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
      shall come to you, O Israel.

   6. O come, O king of nations, bind
      in one the hearts of humankind.
      Bid every sad division cease
      and be yourself our Prince of Peace.
      Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
      shall come to you, O Israel.

   7. O come, O come, Immanuel,
      and ransom captive Israel,
      that mourns in lonely exile here,
      until the Son of God appear.
      Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel
      shall come to you, O Israel.