



39th Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols

Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020
4pm

Zumbro Lutheran Church Sanctuary
Rochester, Minnesota

PRELUDE

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM, arr. Gilbert M. Martin

Ralph Schornack, piano; Kristy Giere, organ

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL, arr. Sondra K. Tucker

Handbell Quartet

“DO NOT BE AFRAID”

WELCOME

BELL TOLL

DIALOG

L: Surely, God is my salvation;

C: I will trust, and will not be afraid,

L: For the Lord God is my strength, and my might;

C: And has become my salvation.

L: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

C: And a branch shall grow out his roots.

L: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him;

C: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

L: This is the Lord for whom we wait;

C: Let us be glad and rejoice in the salvation of God.

IMPROVISATION

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Ralph Schornack

Ralph Schonack, piano

HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

VENI, EMMANUEL

Quartet: O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

Refrain

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.

**All: O come, O Key of David, come,
and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery.**

Refrain

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to you, O Israel.**

**O come, O Dayspring, come and cheer;
O Sun of justice, now draw near.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. *Refrain***

PRAYER

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

L: God of our salvation, you speak through angels and prophets, telling us: "Be strong, do not fear! For I will come and save you." Open our eyes and unstop our ears, that we may sing for joy at the coming of your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet foretells the return of the Lord to Zion Rev. Dr. Phil Quanbeck

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus ²it 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. ³Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴Say 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."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶then 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; ⁷the 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.

⁸A 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 traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No 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. ¹⁰And 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.

PRAYER

L: Do not be afraid. Christ is coming soon.

C: Restoring God, our world is often weary. We are far away from home. Come to us in our weariness, fill us with sweet songs of gladness, and bring us to the day of your salvation. Amen.

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

arr. James Kirkby

Zumbro Lutheran Choir

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ, the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
Tis found in Christ, the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-5

God's people are comforted

Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
³A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

PRAYER

L: Do not be afraid. Christ is coming soon.

C: You speak to us of comfort and peace. When the things of this world wither and fade, grant that we may stand steadfast in your Word. Amen.

HYMN

Comfort, Comfort

FREU DICH SEHR, setting by John Ferguson

**"Comfort, comfort now my people;
tell of peace!" So says our God.
Comfort those who sit in darkness
mourning under sorrow's load.
To God's people now proclaim
that God's pardon waits for them!
Tell them that their war is over;
God will reign in peace forever.**

Quartet: For the herald's voice is crying
in the desert far and near,
calling us to true repentance,
since the reign of God is here.
Oh, that warning cry obey!
Now prepare for God a way.
Valleys, rise to greet the Savior;
hills, bow down in humble favor.

**Straight shall be what long was crooked,
and the rougher places plain.
Let your hearts be true and humble,
as befits God's holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord
now on earth is shed abroad,
and all flesh shall see the token
that God's word is never broken.**

INSTRUMENTAL

Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies
Handbell Quartet

HUAN-SHA-XI,
arr. Anne Krentz Organ

THIRD LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

The birth of Jesus foretold

Pastor Shelley Cunningham

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

PRAYER

L: Do not be afraid. Christ is coming soon.

C: God of David, you promised to come to your servant, Mary, and to fulfill your promises of old. Help us to live according to your Word, whatever that might mean and wherever that might take us. Amen.

HYMN

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE

Ann Holmes and Sara Holmes, Liturgical Dancers

Solo: The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
with wings as drifted snow, with eyes as flame:
"All hail to thee, O lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Quartet: "For know a blessed mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee;
thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head;
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.
"My soul shall laud and magnify God's holy name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
"Most highly favored lady." Gloria!

INSTRUMENTAL

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime
Handbell Quartet

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE,
arr. Anne Krentz Organ

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

The birth of Jesus

Ashley Stortz

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

PRAYER

L: Do not be afraid. Christ is coming soon.

C: Almighty God, you have come to our world unexpectedly in a lowly cattle shed. As we gaze upon the Christ Child, be close to us. Touch our hearts with your tender love and care. Amen.

HYMN

Away in a Manger

AWAY IN A MANGER

**Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care
and fit us for heaven, to live with you there.**

ANTHEM

The First Nowell

from Eric Satie's *Gymnopédie*, arr. Alice Carpenter

Zumbro Lutheran Choir

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay tending their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

The shepherds and the angels

Chris Gade

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And 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!"

ANTHEM

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

A gift from the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians to the whole people of God celebrating Christmas in the era of the pandemic. With deep gratitude to Anne Krentz Organ, carol setting arrangement, and 1,008 vocal and instrumental participants, including members of the Zumbro Lutheran Choir.

Dedicated to the Glory of God and in gratitude to the many musicians, directors, composers, singers, organists and instrumentalists involved in planning, preparing and making music for worship.

PRAYER

L: Do not be afraid. Christ is coming soon.

C: O Lord our God, we join the angels in singing *Glory to God in the highest heaven. Come with peace to our troubled world. Bring healing on this shining night. Amen.*

INSTRUMENTAL

Silent Night

STILLE NACHT, HEILIGE NACHT!, arr. Susann McDonald
Mary Schneekloth, harp

ANTHEM

Silent Night

Zumbro Choristers and Friends

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,
 sleep in heavenly peace.

LITANY

L: Lord God, you break into our fearful world with news of joy and gladness. Give light to all who sit in darkness, and guide our feet in the way of peace.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

L: Lord God, you know the fears of your people. Lift up the lowly, especially those who are sick, those who mourn, those who are hungry, and all in need of your care.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

L: Lord God, your message calls us to let go of our fears and place our trust in you. Sustain us in your hope as we await our Savior's birth.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

L: Lord God, you name us as your precious and chosen people and redeem us through Christ. Take hold of our hearts and shine your love through our lives.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!**LORD'S PRAYER**

L: As we wait for the Lord, teach us to pray:

C: 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.

BLESSING

L: The angel announced to the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy." As we await the coming of Christ, may the God of our salvation grant you peace and joy, hope and gladness.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN, arr. David Willcocks

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise;
join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"**

Refrain

**Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn king!"**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see!
Hail, incarnate deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain***

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
ris'n with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth,
born to give us second birth. *Refrain***

POSTLUDE

Fughetta on "People Look East"

Richard Shepherd

Kristy Giere, organ

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship celebrating the birth of Jesus that is traditionally followed at Christmas. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir and instrumental music. The Festival was introduced over 100 years ago in 1918 on Christmas Eve at King's College in Cambridge, England, to bring a more imaginative approach to worship. Tonight's virtual festival includes five readings.

PARTICIPANTS

Singing

Zumbro Lutheran Choir, Bob Giere, director; Kristy Giere, accompanist

Quartet Singers: Alan Hansen, Meredith Pritchard, Ralph Schornack, Brenda Wichmann; Bob Giere, director

Soloist: Ralph Schornack

Zumbro Choristers and Friends, Janette Reeves, director; Ralph Schornack, accompanist; singers include Declan, Jens, and June Ahrens, Will Bryan-Wegner, Julia Cozine, Frances and Vivian Lindgren, Emily Schmidt, Aiden Tschida, Cassidy Tschida

Handbell Quartets

Kristy Giere, director

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus-Kristy Giere, Leah Holmes, Sue Schwartz, Maika Suzuki

Midnight Stars Make Bright the Skies-Dorothy Bacon, Stacy Freimuth, Pam Hammond, Chad Larson; Kristy Giere, piano

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime-Paul Bye, Stacy Freimuth, Andy Larson, Christine Williams; Kristy Giere, piano

Instrumental

Mary Schneekloth, harp

Liturgical Dancers

Ann Holmes

Sara Holmes

Assisting Pianist

Ralph Schornack

Organist

Kristy Giere

Worship Leader

Pastor Vern Christopherson

Lectors

Rev. Dr. Phil Quanbeck

Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner

Pastor Shelley Cunningham

Ashley Stortz

Chris Gade

Special thanks to

Pastor Jason Bryan-Wegner, Todd Christensen, Margaret Dillard, Connie Saunders, Jeremy Stortz, Tracy Schar, Roger Wichmann

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2020 CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Zumbro Lutheran Church

624 3rd Avenue SW

(4 blocks south of Mayo Clinic)

www.zumbrolutheran.org

507-288-2649

Thursday, Dec. 24 4pm

Christmas Eve Worship Livestream

