

Lessons and Carols for Christmas
December 26, 2021

Welcome (Tracie)

Gathering Song – Joy to the World (Bethesda group)

Dialogue (Dean and Lois)

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.

Prayer (Tracie)

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 in our despair—
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: Micah 5:2-5a (The Rev. Ramon Collazo - Spanish)

Carol – O Little Town of Bethlehem (Brian)

Second Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38 (The Rev. Beate Storck - German)

Carol – I Wonder as I Wander (Bethesda group)

Third Reading: Matthew 1:18-25 (The Rev. Eunyong Kim - Korean)

Carol – Angelito (St John, Passaic)

Fourth Reading: Luke 2:8-20 (Kennedy Nyangachu - Swahili)

Carol – Angels We Have Heard on High (Brian)

Fifth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11 The Rev. (Dennis Olson - Norwegian)

Carol – What Child Is This (Succasunna)

Sixth Reading: John 1:1-14 (Francisca Freiberg-Weirich - Portuguese)

Carol – Christmas Sanctus (Cranford)

Responsive Prayer (LuAnn and Dawn)

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

Your Word, Jesus, is truth.

In Jesus' light, draw all to the manger **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

In Jesus' light, draw all to the manger **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

In Jesus' light, draw all to the manger **to sing for joy with the angels.**

In the brightness of Jesus' life **cast away 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 (LuAnn and Dawn)

**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 (Tracie)

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 – Go Tell It on the Mountain (Brian)

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