



Third Sunday in Advent - Gaudete Sunday Sunday, December 16th, 2018

A Celebration of Readings and Carols for Advent and Christmas



Today we shall worship – hear readings and sing – in a service of lessons and carols that originated in England in 1918, at the end of World War I first celebrated at Kings College, Cambridge. It is based upon a simple rhythm of seven to nine readings interspersed with congregational singing. The real backbone of the service is the telling of the story. In the original King's College service, the lessons were read by a variety of congregational members, starting with a young chorister and ending with the bishop. Today we will adapt that, for it has been adapted before over the years. Today, we will hear readings in both English and Korean and sing in both languages. Moreover, we shall hear not just Scripture, but a little of the moving experience of the German clergyman and martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, writing to his parents at Christmas 1944.

As part of this service, we will also be focusing upon Act for Peace's Christmas Bowl: today directed to the plight of Syrian refugees. We will hear the story of Assala and her family, who fled the Syrian civil war some years ago and currently resides, as many Syrians, in Jordan.

GATHERING

Ode to Joy (Ode an die Freude: Beethoven, Flashmob, Mensa, Heidelberg, Germany)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjiVm6Lzdc>

Lighting the Candle of Joy

The Third Sunday of Advent, when we light the candle for joy, is known as *Gaudete Sunday*. The word “Gaudete” stems from the Latin imperative verb, “gaude”, meaning rejoice and the noun “gaudium” meaning joy. While Advent has a melancholic side to it – a season that calls us to repentance, aligning ourselves with the love of God – today is the most joyful of the four Sundays. For this reason, the candle is pink or rose coloured. The introit for the Catholic mass today are the wonderful words from the Epistle reading for today in the Revised Common Lectionary, Philippians 4:4-7, “Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say rejoice” (*Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, Gaudete*).

Rejoice in the Lord always!

Again we say rejoice!

Come

for joy invites us!

***In good circumstances and in bad,
in situations that are positive, and those that are negative.***

In Advent, we dare to see things differently!

***To look at society, ourselves and the future
with energy and creativity***

Three candles are lit: the candle of hope, the candle of love and the candle of joy

This joy calls from wherever we are;

from the margins and the centre,

from suffering and comfort,

from situations of pain and privilege.

***We too come from the margins and the centre,
from suffering and comfort,
from pain and privilege.***

Then let us bring our joy

and join it to the light of hope and love.

***We bring our joy to this time and place,
celebrating the Source of all joy, who calls us together.***

Carol: Once in Royal David's City (TiS 312, Irby, Cecil Frances Alexander)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Sisters and brothers in Christ,
as we await the great festival of Christmas,
let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its real meaning,
moving beyond the superficial and the frivolous
which diverts our attention

Let us hear, in readings from Holy Scripture,
how the prophets of Israel foretold
that God would visit and redeem a waiting people.

Let us rejoice in our carols and hymns,
hearing that God works in human history
toward the purposes of salvation and liberation.
The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear,
the dead are raised up, and the poor freed.

But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves:

***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 for ever. Amen***

하늘에 계신 우리 아버지여
이름이 거룩히 여김을 받으시오며
나라이 임하옵시며
뜻이 하늘에서 이룬 것 같이
땅에서도 이루어지이다.
오늘날 우리에게 일용할 양식을 주옵시고
우리가 우리에게
죄 지은 자를 사하여 준 것 같이
우리 죄를 사하여 주옵시고
우리를 시험에 들게 하지 마옵시고
다만 악에서 구하옵소서
대개 나라와 권세와 영광이
아버지께 영원히 있사옵나이다. 아멘

The First Lesson: Genesis 1:1–5, 14–18 (God said, "Let there be light"): *Lawrence Peak*

1 In the beginning, when God created the universe,^[a] **2** the earth was formless and desolate. The raging ocean that covered everything was engulfed in total darkness, and the Spirit of God^[b] was moving over the water. **3** Then God commanded, "Let there be light"—and light appeared. **4** God was pleased with what he saw. Then he separated the light from the darkness, **5** and he named the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Evening passed and morning came—that was the first day.

14 Then God commanded, "Let lights appear in the sky to separate day from night and to show the time when days, years, and religious festivals^[a] begin; **15** they will shine in the sky to give light to the earth"—and it was done. **16** So God made the two larger lights, the sun to rule over the day and the moon to rule over the night; he also made the stars. **17** He placed the lights in the sky to shine on the earth, **18** to

rule over the day and the night, and to separate light from darkness. And God was pleased with what he saw.

Advent Carol: O Come O Come Emmanuel (TiS 265, vs 1-4, Veni Emmanuel, anon, Latin)

The Second Lesson: Genesis 22: 15-18 (The Promise to Abraham):
Di Peak

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time, ¹⁶ “I make a vow by my own name—the LORD is speaking—that I will richly bless you. Because you did this and did not keep back your only son from me, ¹⁷ I promise that I will give you as many descendants as there are stars in the sky or grains of sand along the seashore. Your descendants will conquer their enemies. ¹⁸ All the nations will ask me to bless them as I have blessed your descendants—all because you obeyed my command.”

Carol: Hark the Herald Angels Sing (TiS 303, Mendelssohn, Charles Wesley)

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (Isaiah announces the child to come as a new type of leader): *Gilda Dornan in English and Hee Kim in Korean*

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

They lived in a land of shadows,
but now light is shining on them.

⁶ A child is born to us!

A son is given to us!

And he will be our ruler.

He will be called, “Wonderful^[a] Counsellor,”

“Mighty God,” “Eternal Father,”

“Prince of Peace.”

⁷ His royal power will continue to grow;

his kingdom will always be at peace.

He will rule as King David's successor,

basing his power on right and justice,
from now until the end of time.

The LORD Almighty is determined to do all this.

Carol: Silent Night (TiS 311, Silent Night, Mohr, *tr.* John Freeman Young)

The Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1–4a; 6–9 (Isaiah’s vision of a new world order, grounded in new relationships made possible through this new leader, the Coming One): *Ron Wiley*

11 The royal line of David is like a tree that has been cut down; but just as new branches sprout from a stump, so a new king will arise from among David's descendants.

² The spirit of the LORD will give him wisdom
and the knowledge and skill to rule his people.

He will know the LORD's will and honour him,

³ and find pleasure in obeying him.

He will not judge by appearance or hearsay;

⁴ he will judge the poor fairly
and defend the rights of the helpless.

⁶ Wolves and sheep will live together in peace,
and leopards will lie down with young goats.

Calves and lion cubs will feed^[a] together,
and little children will take care of them.

⁷ Cows and bears will eat together,
and their calves and cubs will lie down in peace.

Lions will eat straw as cattle do.

⁸ Even a baby will not be harmed
if it plays near a poisonous snake.

⁹ On Zion, God's sacred hill,
there will be nothing harmful or evil.

The land will be as full of knowledge of the LORD
as the seas are full of water.

Carol: The Virgin Mary (TiS 307, Caribbean Traditional)

The Fifth Lesson: The Gospel of Luke 1: 26-35, 38 (Gabriel’s Announcement to Mary): ...

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy God sent the angel Gabriel to a town in Galilee named Nazareth. ²⁷ He had a message for a young woman promised in marriage to a man named Joseph, who was a descendant of King David. Her name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel came to her and said, "Peace be with you! The Lord is with you and has greatly blessed you!"

²⁹ Mary was deeply troubled by the angel's message, and she wondered what his words meant. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Don't be afraid, Mary; God has been gracious to you. ³¹ You will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High God. The Lord God will make him a king, as his ancestor David was, ³³ and he will be the king of the descendants of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end!"

³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "I am a virgin. How, then, can this be?"

³⁵ The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason, the holy child will be called the Son of God. ³⁸ "I am the Lord's servant," said Mary; "may it happen to me as you have said." And the angel left her.

The Sixth Lesson: The Gospel of Luke 2: 1; 3–7 (Mary gives birth to Jesus): ...

2 At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. ³ Everyone, then, went to register himself, each to his own hometown. ⁴ Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea, the birthplace of King David. Joseph went there because he was a descendant of David. ⁵ He went to register with Mary, who was promised in marriage to him. She was pregnant, ⁶ and while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby. ⁷ She gave birth to her first son, wrapped him in cloths and laid him in a manger—there was no room for them to stay in the inn.

Carol: O Holy Night (Adolphe Adam, Soloist, Jane Wang)

The Seventh Lesson: The Gospel of Luke 2:8-16 (The Announcement to the Shepherds): ...

⁸ There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid, ¹⁰ but the angel said to them, “Don't be afraid! I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. ¹¹ This very day in David's town your Saviour was born—Christ the Lord! ¹² And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and peace on earth to those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them back into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and saw the baby lying in the manger.

Carol: The First Nowell (TiS 301, vs 1,2,3, 5 & 6, First Nowell, Anon, English)

The Eighth Lesson: The Gospel of Matthew 2:1-12 (Matthew's version of Jesus' birth: an altogether different mood from that of Luke, culminating in the flight of Joseph, Mary and their son as refugees):
Jim Todd in English and Jeremy Kim in Korean

2 Jesus was born in the town of Bethlehem in Judea, during the time when Herod was king. Soon afterward, some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem ² and asked, “Where is the baby born to be the king of the Jews? We saw his star when it came up in the east, and we have come to worship him.”

³ When King Herod heard about this, he was very upset, and so was everyone else in Jerusalem. ⁴ He called together all the chief priests and the teachers of the Law and asked them, “Where will the Messiah be born?”

⁵ “In the town of Bethlehem in Judea,” they answered. “For this is what the prophet wrote:

⁶ ‘Bethlehem in the land of Judah,
 you are by no means the least of the leading cities of Judah;
 for from you will come a leader
 who will guide my people Israel.’”

⁷ So Herod called the visitors from the East to a secret meeting and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem with these instructions: “Go and make a careful search for the child; and when you find him, let me know, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹⁻¹⁰ And so they left, and on their way, they saw the same star they had seen in the East. When they saw it, how happy they were, what joy was theirs! It went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹¹ They went into the house, and when they saw the child with his mother Mary, they knelt down and worshiped him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to him.

¹² Then they returned to their country by another road, since God had warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod.

Carol: The North Wind – an Australian carol (TiS 322, North Wind, William Garner James)

Act for Peace – Christmas Bowl: The Story of Assala, her family and many like her

https://www.actforpeace.org.au/www_AFP/media/Christmas-Bowl/CB18%20Resources/CB18-04-Third-Sunday-of-Advent-Love-Jordan.m4v

The Ninth Lesson: Dietrich Bonhoeffer’s Christmas Letter to his parents, written December 17th, 1943: *Geoff Dornan*

Dear Parents,

Above all, you must not think that I will let myself sink into depression during this lonely Christmas. It will take its own special place in a series of very different Christmases that I have celebrated in Spain, in America, in England, and I want in later years to be able to think back on these days not with shame, but with a special pride. That is the only thing that no one can take from me.

I don't need to tell you how great my longing for freedom and for all of you is. But you have for so many decades provided us with Christmases so incomparably beautiful, that the grateful memories of them are strong enough to outshine even a dark Christmas. From a Christian point of view, a Christmas in a prison cell is no special problem. It will probably be celebrated here in this house, more sincerely and with more meaning, than outside, where the holiday is observed in name only. Misery, poverty, loneliness, helplessness, and guilt mean something entirely different in the eyes of God than in the judgment of men.

That God turns directly toward the place where men are careful to turn away; that Christ was born in a stable because he found no room in the Inn—a prisoner grasps that better than someone else. For him it really is a joyous message, and because he believes it, he knows that he has been placed in the Christian fellowship that breaks all the bounds of time and space; and the months in prison lose their importance.

On Holy Evening (Christmas Eve) I will be thinking of all of you very much, and I would very much like for you to believe that I will have a few beautiful hours, and my troubles will certainly not overcome me.

Your Dietrich

Carol: O Come All ye Faithful (TiS 304, vs 1,2,3,5 & 6, Adeste Fideles, John Francis Wade)

(Offerings may be made after the conclusion of the service for both St Ives Uniting Church and the Christmas Bowl)

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

Go 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;

honour everyone;
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 always. ***Amen.***

We sing: May the feet of God walk with you (TiS 779, Aubrey Robin Mann)