

A classical painting of the Nativity scene, showing Mary and Joseph with the infant Jesus in a manger, surrounded by shepherds, angels, and animals in a stable setting.

*A Festival of
Lessons and Carols
(Family Edition)*

20·12·2020

Please light a candle



Our opening song is a music video on the birth of baby Jesus. You can quietly meditate on the words...



Once in Royal David's City

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ze-Z3j0mErs>



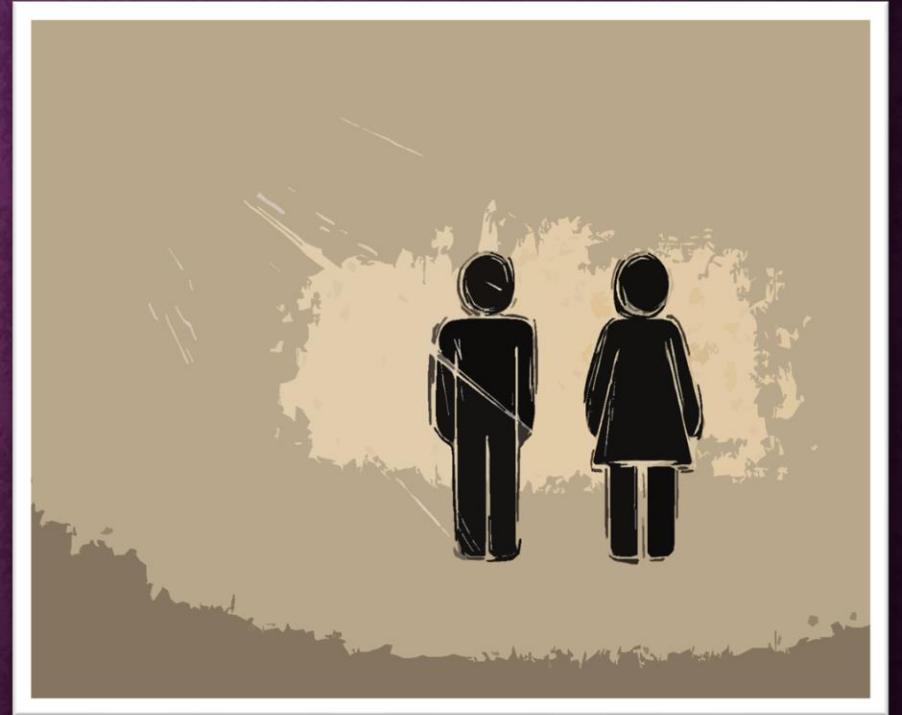
Our first reading tells
how humans rebelled against God.
Because of their disobedience, they
were expelled from God's presence

First Reading

Genesis 3:8-19

Then they heard the Lord God walking in the garden. This was during the cool part of the day.

And the man and his wife hid from the Lord God among the trees in the garden. But the Lord God called to the man. The Lord said, "Where are you?" The man answered, "I heard you walking in the garden. I was afraid because I was naked. So I hid." God said to the man, "Who told you that you were naked? Did you eat fruit from that tree? I commanded you not to eat from that tree." The man said, "You gave this woman to me. She gave me fruit from the tree. So I ate it."



Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What have you done?" She answered, "The snake tricked me. So I ate the fruit."

The Lord God said to the snake, "Because you did this, a curse will be put on you. You will be cursed more than any tame animal or wild animal. You will crawl on your stomach, and you will eat dust all the days of your life. I will make you and the woman enemies to each other. Your descendants and her descendants will be enemies. Her child will crush your head. And you will bite his heel."



Then God said to the woman, "I will cause you to have much trouble when you are pregnant. And when you give birth to children, you will have great pain. You will greatly desire your husband, but he will rule over you."

Then God said to the man, "You listened to what your wife said. And you ate fruit from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from. So I will put a curse on the ground. You will have to work very hard for food. In pain you will eat its food all the days of your life. The ground will produce thorns and weeds for you. And you will eat the plants of the field. You will sweat and work hard for your food. Later you will return to the ground. This is because you were taken from the ground. You are dust. And when you die, you will return to the dust."



O Little Town of Bethlehem

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vc4CexxlX8>



But God loves us and devised a rescue plan.

He sent His Son to rescue us.

In our second reading, the prophet Isaiah foretold the coming of Jesus hundreds of years before that happened...

Second Reading

Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has
dawned.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the
government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called
Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the greatness of his government and peace there will
be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his
kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and
righteousness from that time on and for ever. The zeal
of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.



Hark the Herald Angels Sing

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yRdJwYpd4Qw>



In our third reading, the angel Gabriel
was sent to a young woman Mary.
Gabriel told her that she would give
birth to the Son of God.

Third Reading

Luke 1: 26-35; 38



In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, 'Greetings, you who are highly favoured! The Lord is with you.'

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants for ever; his kingdom will never end.'



'How will this be,' Mary asked the angel, 'since I am a virgin?'

The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'

'I am the Lord's servant,' Mary answered. 'May your word to me be fulfilled.' Then the angel left her.

What Child Is This

<https://youtu.be/wO8qluGa-tM?t=28>

WHAT CHILD IS THIS
SOVEREIGN GRACE

Our fourth reading tells of the
birth of Jesus, the Son of God,
in a manger in Bethlehem

Fourth Reading

Luke 2: 1; 3-7

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their own town to register.

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



Silent Night Holy Night

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hyY36DJmIcs>



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
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

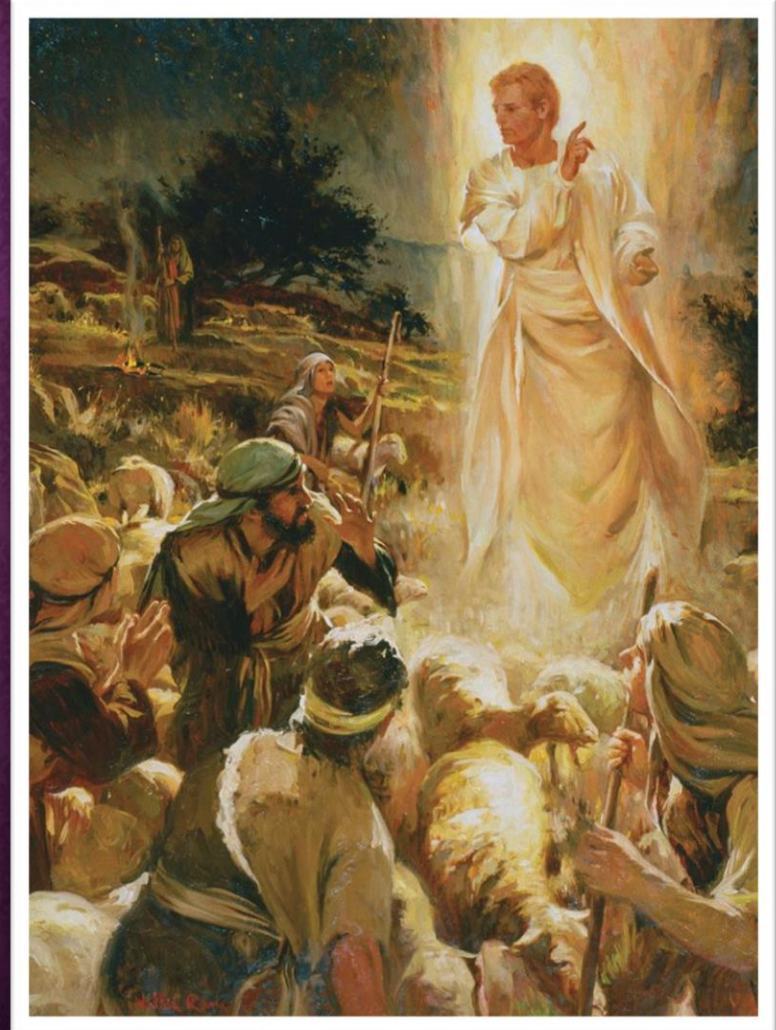
In our fifth reading, an angel
announced to some shepherds the
good news of the birth of Jesus

Fifth Reading

Luke 2: 8-16

And there were shepherds living out in the fields near by, keeping watch over their flocks at night.

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.'





Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

'Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his
favour rests.'

When the angels had left them and gone 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 about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

O Come All Ye Faithful

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y3egGjeiWEA>



In our sixth reading,
Magi (wise men) in the East saw a bright star.
They understood it to mean a great King was
born. They followed it...

Sixth Reading

Matthew 2: 1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi (wise men) from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, 'Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.'

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 'In Bethlehem in Judea,' they replied, 'for this is what the prophet has written:

"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."



Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, 'Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.'

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed.

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.



We Three Kings of Orient Are

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k8mjRxkMBkE>



In the seventh reading, we learn who
this baby born in a manger among
animals really was...

Seventh Reading

John 1: 1-5, 14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Joy to the World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=30OaM6b48k8>

