



Weekly Worship Resource for Gladsmuir and Longniddry

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Issue 92

Sunday 19th December 2021

Service of Lessons and Carols

Once in royal David's city (CH 315)

Isaiah 9: 2–7 (“The Coming King”)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be
burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he
is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of
David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. Amen. *(NRSV)*

Good Christians, all rejoice (CH 322)

Luke 1: 46–56 (“Mary’s Song of Praise”)

And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for
he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all
generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy
is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled
the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he
made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’

And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home. Amen.
(NRSV)

In the Name of the Father and of

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord (CH 286)

Luke 2: 1–7 (“The Birth of Jesus”)

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

In the bleak midwinter (CH 305)

Lesson 4: Luke 2: 8–20 (“Shepherds and Angels”)

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. Amen. (NRSV)

While humble shepherds watched their flocks (CH 296)



the Son and of the Holy Spirit . . .

Matthew 2: 1–11 (“Visitors from the East”)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. Amen. *(NRSV)*

Angels from the realms of glory (CH 324)

John 1: 1–14 (“The Word of life”)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. Amen. *(NRSV)*

Hark, the herald angels sing (CH 301)

May he ... who, by his Incarnation, gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you this Advent-tide and remain with you for ever more. Amen.

Praying for others

God and Father of the Word,
as the birth of your Son approaches we see darkness all around,
yet through the Good News which you send
we can know that you are bringing the gift of the Light of the world.

Into the darkness bring:
hope of better times for those who doubt;
peace to those communities torn apart by rivalry, hatred and division;
love for those forsaken or abandoned in any number of ways; and
joy where now is despair in this uncertain world.

Whether near or far,
your children need your presence.
Whether young or old,
your people look for a Light to be their guide.

Shine brightly, we pray,
lead the nations in your ways of true faith and trust in you.

In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.



“Christ as the Light of the world” (c.1550)
Paris Bordone

National Gallery, London, UK
(public domain)