

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*in celebration of
the Incarnation
of our Lord
Jesus Christ*

December 24, 2019 | 5:00 p.m.

The Prelude.....Duet: “Carol of the Bells”

Piano: Ms. Beth West, Mr. John McCutcheon

The Welcome and Introduction

The Meditation.....“Silent Night”

Composer: Gilbert M. Martin | Organist: Mr. John McCutcheon

***The Opening Prayer**

***Opening Hymn No. 225**.....“Once in Royal David’s City”

The First Lesson.....Genesis 3:8-19

God tells sinful Adam he has lost the life of paradise and his seed will bruise the serpent’s head.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

The First Carol: No. 195, "Joy to the World"

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing,

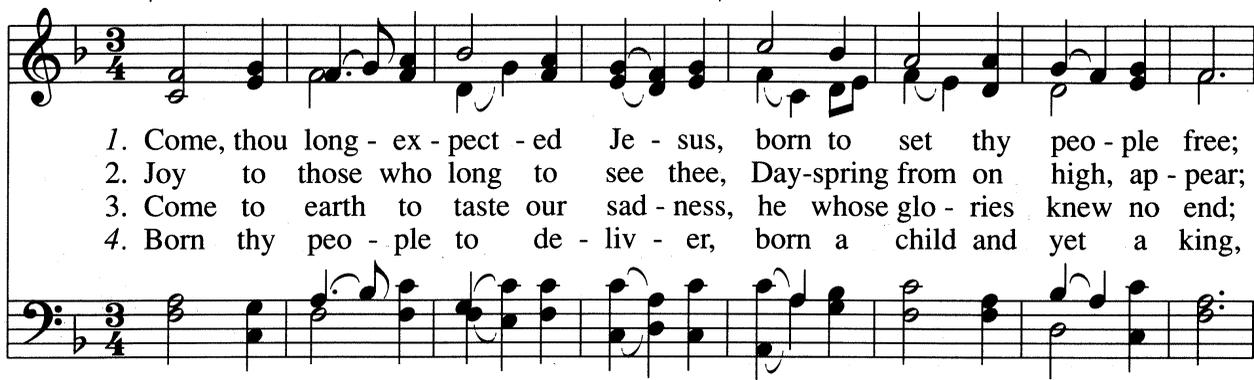
sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing,

The Second Lesson.....Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

The Second Carol: No. 196, "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"



1. Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep-herd, Friend.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
 O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
 Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
 By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
 "Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
 this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The Third LessonIsaiah 7:14; 9:2, 6-7; 11:1-9

That peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight

shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

The Third Carol: No. 221, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (stanza 1: choir only)

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the rose I
 3. The shep - herds heard the sto - ry, pro - claimed by
 4. This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness
 5. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our

stem hath sprung, of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing,
 have in mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it,
 • an - gels bright, how Christ, the Lord of glo - ry,
 fills the air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor
 hu - man woe; O Sav - ior, King of glo - ry,

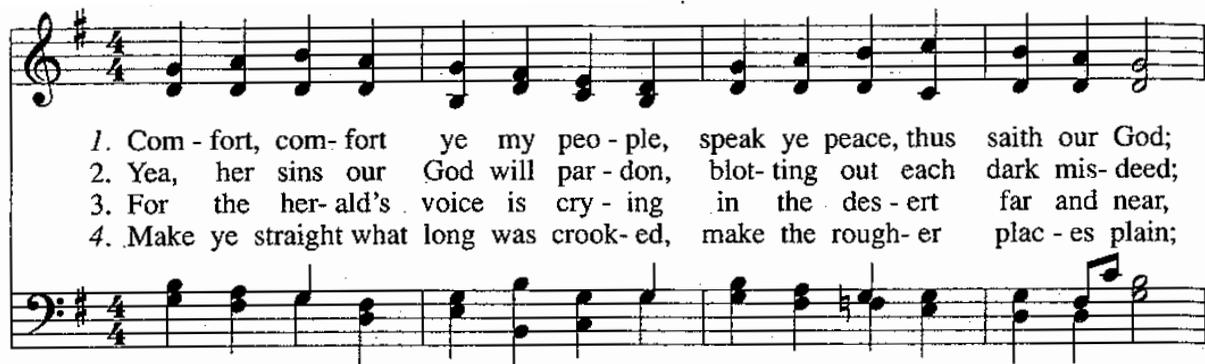
as men of old have sung. It came, a flow'r - et bright,
 the vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right
 • was born on earth this night. To Beth - le - hem they sped
 the dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God;
 who dost our weak - ness know, bring us at length, we pray,

a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 she bore to men a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 • and in the man - ger found him, as an - gel her - alds said.
 from sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.
 to the bright courts of heav - en and to the end - less day.

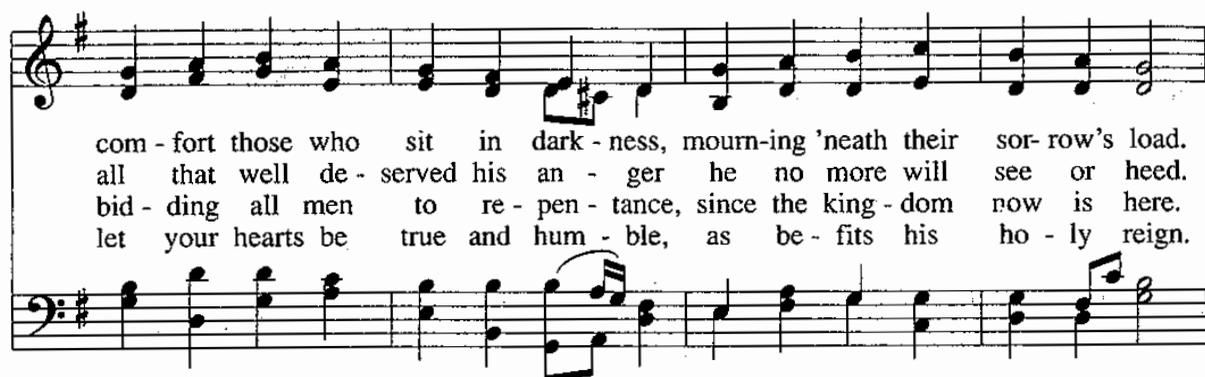
The Fourth LessonIsaiah 40:1-5
The Prophet Isaiah proclaims comfort to the Lord's rebellious and afflicted people.

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every 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. And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

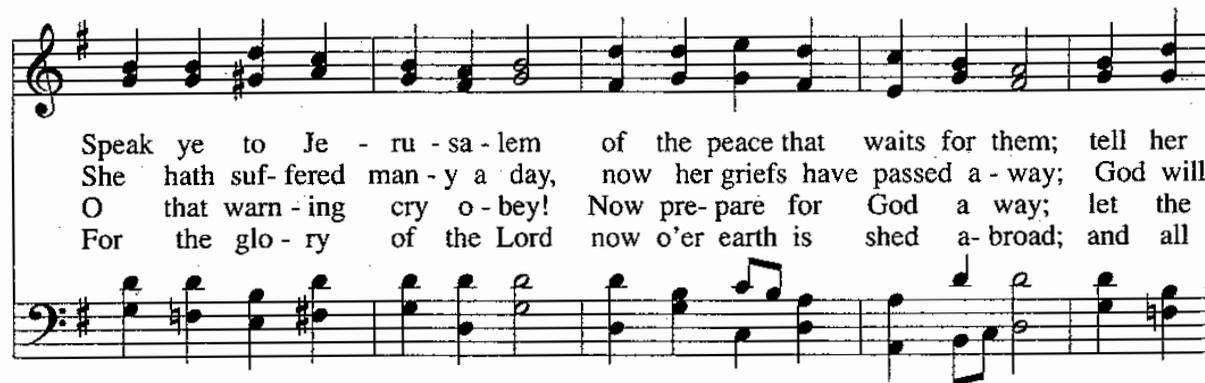
The Fourth Carol: No. 197, "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People"



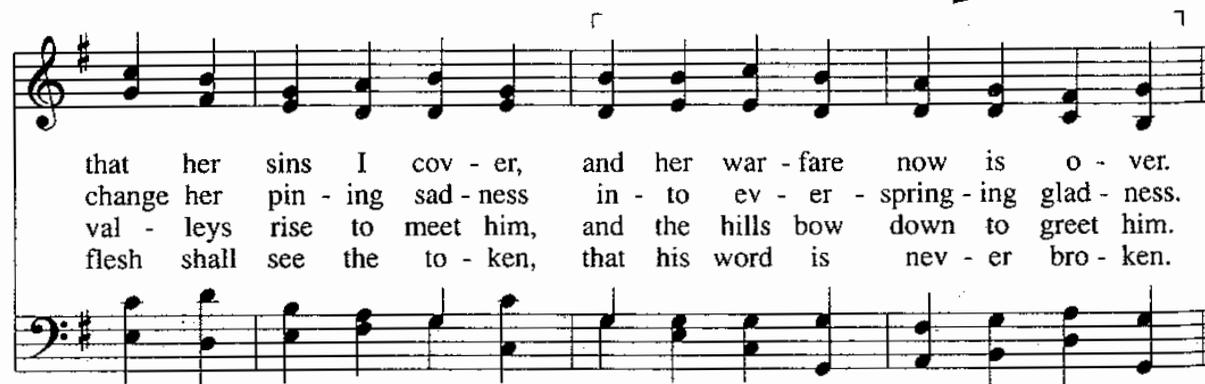
1. Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus saith our God;
2. Yea, her sins our God will par - don, blot - ting out each dark mis - deed;
3. For the her - ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
4. Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er plac - es plain;



com - fort those who sit in dark - ness, mourn - ing 'neath their sor - row's load.
all that well de - served his an - ger he no more will see or heed.
bid - ding all men to re - pen - tance, since the king - dom now is here.
let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be - fits his ho - ly reign.



Speak ye to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them; tell her
She hath suf - fered man - y a day, now her griefs have passed a - way; God will
O that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way; let the
For the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad; and all



that her sins I cov - er, and her war - fare now is o - ver.
change her pin - ing sad - ness in - to ev - er - spring - ing glad - ness.
val - leys rise to meet him, and the hills bow down to greet him.
flesh shall see the to - ken, that his word is nev - er bro - ken.

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God...And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

The Anthem: "My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout" (choir only)

My soul cries out with a joyful shout
That the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things
That You bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed Your sight on Your servant's plight,
And my weakness You did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest,
Could the world be about to turn?

Though I am small, my God, my All,
You work great things in me,
And Your mercy will last from
The depths of the past
To the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame,
And to those who would for You yearn,
You will show Your might, put the strong to flight,
For the world is about to turn.

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day You bring.
Let the fires of Your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,
And the world is about to turn!

From the halls of power to the fortress tower,
Not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for Your justice tears
Every tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more
For the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, every mouth be fed,
For the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age,
We remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us
From the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard
Is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God,
Who is turning the world around. *Refrain*

The Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-7

Luke the Evangelist tells of the birth of Jesus.

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

The Sixth Carol: No. 203, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

The shepherds go to the manger.

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

The Anthem: "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
There he lay, the Undeified,
To the world a stranger.
Such a Babe in such a place,
Can he be the Savior?
Ask the saved of all the race
Who have found his favor.

Gentle Mary laid her child
Lowly in a manger;
He is still the Undeified,
But no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth,
Beautiful the story;
Praise his name in all the earth;
Hail the King of Glory.

Angels sang about his birth,
Wise men sought and found him;
Heaven's star shone brightly forth
Glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight,
Heard the angels singing;
All the plains were lit that night,
All the hills were ringing.

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

The Anthem: "Is This the Way to Bethlehem?"

Is this the road to Bethlehem? Is this
the way?
We seek the King of Kings most high,
Does his great palace this way lie?
O tell us, pray.
We are three kings from Orient lands,
We've journeyed far to bring this
monarch tribute rare;
Across the trackless desert sands led
by a star.
You'll find no palace fair, O kings;

In stable low doth lie the Child ye
must adore,
That all the simple folk and poor his
love may know.
This is the way to Bethlehem,
This is the road that leads us to the
Son of God;
The Savior shall we surely find of all
mankind.

The Homily: “The Nations Worship Christ“

The Ninth Lesson.....John 1:1-14

John the Evangelist unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

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 were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The Anthem: "O Morning Star, how Fair and Bright! "

O Morning Star, how fair and bright!
You shine with God's own truth and
light,
Aglow with grace and mercy!
Of Jacob's race, King David's son,
Our Lord and Master, you have won
Our hearts to serve you only!
Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious, all victorious, rich
in blessing!
Rule and might o'er all possessing!

Come, heavenly bridegroom, light
divine,
And deep within our hearts now
shine;
There light a flame undying!
In your one body let us be
As living branches of a tree,
Your life our lives supplying.
Now, though daily
Earth's deep sadness may perplex us,
and distress us.
Yet with heavenly joy you bless us.

Lord, when you look on us in love,
At once there falls from God above
A ray of purest pleasure.
Your word and Spirit, flesh and blood
Refresh our souls with heavenly food.
You are our dearest treasure!
Let your mercy
Warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us!
For you teach us

God's own love through you has
reached us.

Almighty Father, in your Son
You loved us when not yet begun
Was this old earth's foundation!
Your Son has ransomed us in love
To live in him here and above:
This is your great salvation.
Alleluia!
Christ the living, to us giving life
forever,
Keeps us yours and fails us never!

What joy to know, when life is past,
The Lord we love is first and last,
The end and the beginning!
He will one day, oh, glorious grace,
Transport us to that happy place
Beyond all tears and sinning!
Amen! Amen!
Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness!
We are yearning
For the day of your returning.

Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!
Our joy be all with music crowned,
Our voices gaily blending!
For Christ goes with us all the way---
Today, tomorrow, every day!
His love is never ending!
Ring out! Sing out!
Jubilation! Exaltation! Tell the story!
Great is he, the King of Glory!

The Closing Prayer

The Candlelight Hymn....."Silent Night, Holy Night"

Please remain seated until after the conclusion of the hymn and candles are extinguished.

Capo 1: Γ $B^b(A)$ Γ $F^7(E^7)$ $B^b(A)$ $E^b(D)$

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon
2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - diant

The first system of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a 6/4 time signature. The bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff: Capo 1: Γ $B^b(A)$, Γ $F^7(E^7)$, $B^b(A)$, and $E^b(D)$.

$B^b(A)$ $E^b(D)$ $B^b(A)$

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

The second system of musical notation continues the piece. It features treble and bass staves with chord symbols $B^b(A)$, $E^b(D)$, and $B^b(A)$ above the treble staff.

$F^7(E^7)$ $B^b(A)$ Γ $F^7(E^7)$ $B^b(A)$ Γ

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

The third system of musical notation concludes the hymn. It features treble and bass staves with chord symbols $F^7(E^7)$, $B^b(A)$, Γ , $F^7(E^7)$, and $B^b(A)$ above the treble staff.

The Postlude....."Silent Night for Four Hands"