

Note: This PDF file is a copy of the original bulletin from the 2010 service, with annotations in red added to assist you in listening to the CD.

Please note that the “Sing We Noel!” CD omits the first hymn and all the readings from the original service.

You may find it helpful to print this PDF as an accompanying program to your CD of “Sing We Noel!” since the CD itself does not contain the texts of the carols and hymns.

SING WE NOEL! A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

By Peter Bloesch

Sunday, December 12, 2010, 4:00 p.m.

A Service in Honor of Richard Bloesch

WELCOME

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: “Prepare the Way, O Zion”

NOTE: This hymn does not appear on the CD.

BIDDING PRAYER

NOTE: None of the readings from the service appear on the CD.

TRACK 1: CHOIR: “Sing We All! ’Tis Christmas Morning!”

*Words: A traditional Appalachian text from the state of Kentucky.
Original music by Peter Bloesch.*

Sing we all! ’Tis Christmas morning!
Jesus Christ the Son’s a-borning.

*Heigh, the holly! Ho, the heather!
Carol voices all together!*

Come ye brave, and come ye strong,
Repent your sins, give up the wrong.

*Heigh, the holly! Ho, the heather!
Carol voices all together!*

In the manger all alone,
The Virgin Mother did atone.
Seek not earthly power and pelf, [*“pelf” = riches*]
But through your Jesus save yourself.

*Heigh, the holly! Ho, the heather!
Carol voices all together!*

See the ox and see the kine, [*“kine” = cows*]
And see afar the heavenly sign.
He who came to earth so low,
Soon to our estate will grow.

*Heigh, the holly! Ho, the heather!
Carol voices all together!*

And upon the cruel tree,
Will die in place of you and me.

Sing we all! ’Tis Christmas morning!
Jesus Christ the Son’s a-borning.

*Heigh, the holly! Ho, the heather!
Carol voices all together!*

LESSON 1: The prophet Isaiah proclaims good news to a people in exile.

Isaiah 9:1-2, 6-7 and Isaiah 35:10

TRACK 2: CHOIR: “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Words & Melody from “Piae Cantiones,” 1582;

Words tr. by Jane M. Joseph (ca. 1924).

Music arranged by Peter Bloesch.

On this day earth shall ring
With the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King,
Born on earth to save us.
Him the Father gave us.

Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!

[Therefore, glory to God in the highest!]

His the doom, ours the mirth,
When He came down to earth.
Bethlehem saw His birth;
Ox and ass beside Him,
From the cold would hide Him.

Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!

God’s bright star, o’er His head,
Wise men three to Him led,
Kneeling low by His bed,
Lay their gifts before Him,
Praise Him and adore Him.

Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!

On this day angels sing.
With their song earth shall ring,
Praising Christ, heaven’s King,
Born on earth to save us.
Peace and love He gave us.

Ideo, gloria in excelsis Deo!

LESSON 2: The Lord will live among us – let us rejoice and sing!

Isaiah 7:14 and Zephaniah 3:14-17

TRACK 3: CHOIR: “The Holly and the Ivy”

Words & Melody: English traditional.

Music arranged by Peter Bloesch.

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.

*The rising of the sun,
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom
As white as the lily flow’r,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To be our sweet Savior.

(Refrain)

The holly bears a berry
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To do poor sinners good.

(Refrain)

The holly bears a bark
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to redeem us all.

(Refrain)

The holly bears a prickle
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas day in the morn.

(Refrain)

LESSON 3: The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Isaiah 11:1-3, 6-9

TRACK 4: CHOIR: “See, Amid the Winter’s Snow”

Words: Edward Caswall, 1858; Melody: John Goss, 1871.

Music arranged by Peter Bloesch.

See, amid the winter’s snow,
Born for us on earth below,
See, the gentle Lamb appears,
Promised from eternal years!

*Hail, thou ever blessèd morn!
Hail, redemption’s happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem:
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

Lo, within a manger lies
He who built the starry skies.
He who, throned in height sublime,
Sits amid the cherubim.

(Refrain)

As we watched at dead of night,
Lo! we saw a wondrous light:
Angels singing “Peace on earth,”
Told us of the Savior’s birth.

(Refrain)

TRACK 5: CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

“Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Verse 1:

Lo! How a rose e’er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse’s lineage coming
By faithful prophets sung.

It came a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Verse 2:

Isaiah ’twas foretold it,
The rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.

To show God’s love a right,
She bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

LESSON 4: The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-38

TRACK 6: CHOIR: “The Seven Joys of Mary”

Words & Melody: English traditional.

Music arranged by Peter Bloesch.

The first good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of one:
To see the blessed Jesus Christ
When He was first her son.

*When He was first her son, sing joy!
And blessed may we be!
Sing praise to God who reigns above,
Through all eternity!*

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of two:
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To make the lame to go.
(Refrain)

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of three:
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To make the blind to see.
(Refrain)

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of four:
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To read the Bible o'er.
(Refrain)

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of five:
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To bring the dead alive.
(Refrain)

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of six:
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
Upon the crucifix.
(Refrain)

The next good joy that Mary had,
It was the joy of sev'n:
To see her own son, Jesus Christ,
To wear the crown of Heav'n.
(Refrain)

*To make the lame to go!
To make the blind to see!
To make the dead alive!
Sing joy!*

LESSON 5: St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1, 3-7

TRACK 7: CHOIR: “Sweet Baby, Sleep”

Words: George Wither, 1641.

Original music by Peter Bloesch.

Sweet baby, sleep! What ails my dear?
What ails my darling thus to cry?
Be still, my child, and lend thine ear,
To hear me sing thy lullaby.

*My pretty lamb, forbear to weep!
Be still, my dear. Sweet baby, sleep!*

When with us God was dwelling here,
In little babes He took delight:
Such innocents as thou, my dear,
Are ever precious in His sight!

*My pretty lamb, forbear to weep!
Be still, my dear. Sweet baby, sleep!*

LESSON 6: The angels announce the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:8-14

TRACK 8: CHOIR: “Ding Dong! Merrily on High”

Words: G.R. Woodward, 1848-1934; Melody: 16th-century French.

Music arranged by Peter Bloesch.

Ding Dong! Merrily on high,
In heav’n the bells are ringing;
Ding Dong! Verily the sky
Is riv’n with angel singing.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

E’en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And “Io, io, io!”
By priest and people sungen.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers!
May you beautifully rhyme
Your evetime song, ye singers!

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

TRACK 9: CONGREGATIONAL HYMN:

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Music arranged by Peter Bloesch.

Verse 1:

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:

“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
From heav’n’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Verse 2:

Still through the cloven skies they come,
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heav’nly music floats
O’er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hov’ring wing.
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessèd angels sing.

LESSON 7: The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:15-19

TRACK 10: CHOIR: “In the Bleak Midwinter”

Words: Christina Rossetti, 1872; Melody: Gustav Holst, 1906.

Music arranged by Peter Bloesch.

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

Our God, Heav’n cannot hold Him,
Nor earth sustain.
Heav’n and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter
A stableplace sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day:
A breastful of milk
And a mangerful of hay.
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before:
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air.
But only His dear mother,
In her maiden bliss,

Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him:
Give my heart.

LESSON 8: The wise men seek the Christ Child.

Matthew 2:1-12

TRACK 11: CHOIR: “Go, Tell It on the Mountain!”

Words & Melody: African-American 19th-century spiritual.

Music arranged by Peter Bloesch.

*Go, tell it on the mountain,
Over the hills and everywhere!
Go, tell it on the mountain
That Jesus Christ is born!*

While shepherds kept their watching
O’er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light.
(Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled,
When lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior’s birth.
(Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger,
The humble Christ was born.
And God sent us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn!
(Refrain)

LESSON 9: St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-5, 14, 18

TRACK 12: CHOIR: “There Is No Rose of Such Virtue”

Words: English Medieval.

Original music by Peter Bloesch.

There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu.

Alleluia.

For in this rose containèd was
Heaven and earth in little space.

Res miranda. [Wondrous thing.]

The angels sang, the shepherds, too:
“Gloria in excelsis Deo!”

Gaudeamus. [Let us rejoice.]

Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth.

Transeamus. [Let us journey.]

CLOSING PRAYER (by Robert Louis Stevenson)

TRACK 13: CONGREGATIONAL HYMN: “Joy to the World”

Music arranged by Peter Bloesch.

Verse 1 (all, in unison):

Joy to the world! The Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!
Let ev’ry heart prepare Him room, and heav’n and nature sing.

Verse 2 (Choir only):

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.

Verse 3 (all, in unison):

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love.

BLESSING

TRACK 14: POSTLUDE:

Toccata on “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

by Peter Bloesch

Melody: 12th-century plainsong, included in Piae Cantiones, 1582

CONDUCTOR: Richard Bloesch

READER: Joan Kjaer

MINISTER: Rev. Bill Lovin

CHOIR

Soprano: Leslie Allnatt, Jo Benda, Susie Brown, Mary Bryant, Sarah Bobenhouse Fairfield, Betsy Henson, Amandine Mothershed, Jessica Pray, Lisa Peperkorn, Lexine Schumm, Marie Von Behren

Alto: Ethel Bloesch, Jeanne Bonde, Marnie Campbell, Kaitlin Galetti, Barb Hanson, Cynthia Kemp, Marcy Kuechenmeister, Candace Noble, Sharyn Hurliaux Reitz, Jacquelyn Zwiefel

Tenor: Del Brown, Kathy Fait Fuller, Robby Kemp, David Puderbaugh, John Rauer, John Reitz, Barb Sisley, Jim Smith, Timothy Stalter

Bass: John Bayless, Peter Grau, Jake Koepnick, Kevin Koepnick, Jason Mallory, Tom Mittman, Charles Platz, Michael Schnack, Tim Strang, David Wilder

Soloist: Marie Von Behren

ORCHESTRA

Violin 1: Tricia Park, Katie Wolfe, Miera Kim, Eric Kline

Violin 2: Linda Judiesch, Scott Conklin, Christie Felsing, David Bloesch

Viola: Beth Oakes, Christine Rutledge

Cello: Carey Bostian, James Ellis

Bass: Jeanette Welch

Flute: Jane Walker

Oboe: David Hempel

Clarinet: Christine Bellomy

Bassoon: Benjamin Coelho

Horn: Steve Schultz

Trumpet: Amy Schendel

Percussion: Michael Geary

Harp: Gretchen Brumwell

Organ & Piano: William Crouch