

2ND LESSON

Luke 1:5-23

The Birth of John the Baptist Foretold

Narrator 1: In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Both of them were upright in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commandments and regulations blamelessly. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren; and they were both well along in years.

Narrator 2: Once when Zechariah's division was on duty and he was serving as priest before God, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to go into the temple of the Lord and burn incense. And when the time for the burning of incense came, all the assembled worshipers were praying outside.

Narrator 3: Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. But the angel said to him:

Angel: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John. He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord.

Zechariah: How can I be sure of this? I am an old man and my wife is well along in years.

Angel: I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day this happens, because you did not believe my words.

Narrator 1: Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah and wondering why he stayed so long in the temple. When he came out, he could not speak to them. They realized he had seen a

vision in the temple, for he kept making signs to them but remained unable to speak.

Narrator 2: When his time of service was completed, he returned home. After this his wife Elizabeth became pregnant.

Elizabeth: The Lord has done this for me. In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people.

5TH CAROL: Watchman Tell Us of the Night**3RD LESSON**

Luke 1:26-38

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Narrator 3: In the sixth month, 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,

Angel: Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.

Narrator 1: Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her,

Angel: Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name 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 the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end.

Mary: How will this be, since I am a virgin?

Angel: The Holy Spirit will come upon 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. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age. For nothing is impossible with God.

Mary: I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said.

Narrator 2: Then the angel departed from her. In those days, Mary set out and went with haste

to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry,

Elizabeth: 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my LORD comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the LORD.'

Narrator 3: And Mary said,

Mary: 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed.'

6TH CAROL: It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**7TH CAROL: Silent Night****4TH LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7

The Birth of Jesus

Narrator 1: In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to his own town to register.

Narrator 2: 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.

Narrator 3: 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 room for them in the inn.

8TH CAROL: Suo Gân**9TH CAROL 25: Away in a Manger****5TH LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7

Narrator 1: And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, 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.

Angel: Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.

Narrator 2: Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

Angels and Choir: Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.

Narrator 3: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

Shepherd: Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.

Narrator 1: So the shepherds hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them.

Narrator 2: But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Narrator 3: The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

10TH CAROL: The First Noel

11TH CAROL: *Angels We Have Heard on High*

6TH LESSON Matthew 2: 1-12

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Reader 1: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, “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.” ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶‘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.’”

Reader 2: Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then 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.” ⁹When 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. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹

Reader 3: 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. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

12TH CAROL: *Awn I Fethlem/Let us go to Bethlehem*

7TH LESSON Luke 3:2b-6

John the Baptist Prepares the Way

Narrator 1: The word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. As is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet:

Narrator 2: A voice of one calling in the desert, "Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.

Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low.

The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways smooth.

And all flesh will see God's salvation."

Narrator 3: The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. He answered them all,

John: I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

BLESSING Pastor Larry Jorgenson

13TH CAROL 40: *Joy to the World*

*Please stay for
Welsh Cakes and Tea
in the Tea House.*

BRYN SEION WELSH CHURCH

LESSONS AND CAROLS

8 Dec 2019

CHORAL DIRECTOR Dr Jamie Webster

PRELUDE Geneva Cook

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS Tad Davis

OPENING PRAYER Pastor Larry Jorgenson

***CALL TO WORSHIP** *from Isaiah 11* Reader-1/ALL
*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
a branch shall grow out of his roots.
*The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of knowledge & the fear of the LORD.
*The wolf shall live with the lamb,
**the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.*****

1ST CAROL 9: *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

2ND CAROL: *Oh Come All Ye Faithful*

1ST LESSON: *Isaiah 40:1-9* Reader-2
 Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.
 A voice cries out: '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 shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, “What shall I cry?’ All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities Judah, 'Here is your God!'

3RD CAROL: *Lo’ How a Rose E’er Blooming*

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE Reader-3/ALL

Four candles are lit during the responsive reading below

The Advent journey begins in darkness.

**We require darkness for birth and growth;
the seed in the ground, the seed in the womb, the seed in our souls.**

The journey continues with our desiring.

**What dreams have we buried?
What wounds cry out for healing?
What longs to be born in us this season?**

Advent is also a season for getting ready for what lies ahead. As we gaze at the horizon from which the Holy One will appear, we are called to pay attention to the path as well.

What way is being prepared within the wilderness of my life? How does the path unfold before me and within me?

If we become so consumed by getting Christmas right, the right presents, the right cards, the right menu we risk missing the surprising ways that God prepares us in this season.

As we open to God's guiding in these Advent days, may we discover that the space being prepared for the coming birth lies within our own selves.

4TH CAROL 36: *In the Bleak Midwinter*