



## ADVENT 3 SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Those who follow me will not walk in darkness but will have the light of life." **Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly.**

Source of all light send your Son Jesus Christ to shine in our dark world. Help us to prepare our hearts to receive him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen

***All Who Are Thirsty MV 4***

***All who are thirsty, all who are weak, come to the fountain.***

***Dip your heart in the stream of life. Let the pain and the sorrow be washed away  
in the waves of his mercy as deep cries out to deep. We sing - Come, Lord Jesus, come...***

My sisters & brothers in Christ, in these last days of shadow & hope let it be our duty & delight to listen to the story of our faith & hear again the prophets' words of blessing woe. &, as we prepare to celebrate again the birth of Jesus Christ as a baby, let us remember that he also comes to judge the just & the unjust, & to establish the reign of equity & peace.

As we hear the reading of God's holy word, let us remember the beautiful garden of God's creation; reflect on our participation in violence & self-interest; respond to the call to prepare the way of the Lord; & await with eagerness the creation of the new heaven & the new earth.

Let us remember that the Lord of glory experienced the pain of life & death, & pray for the sick, the poor, the oppressed, the anxious, the weary & the bereaved. & remembering the promise

that he shall reign for ever & ever, let us pray for the rulers of the nations, for peace & justice on earth, for the unity & mission of the church, and that we may be a sign of the age to come.

With longing in our hearts for God's reign of peace, let us hear again the story of Christ's coming, & join with Mary & Joseph, & all our ancestors in faith, in offering our worship.

**Reading 1    the Book of Genesis (2:4b-6, 8-9, 16-17)**

These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

In the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground— And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the Lord God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

*Creating God, you call us to live in harmony with nature, one another, and with you.*

***Now fix our eyes upon the one in whom your purpose for the world has been revealed, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.***

***Creator of the Stars of Night CP 96***

***Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light,  
Jesus, redeemer of us all, hear thou thy servants when they call.***

***Thou, sorrowing at the helpless cry of all creation doomed to die,  
didst save our lost and guilty race by healing gifts of heavenly grace.***

***When earth was near its evening hour, thou didst in love's redeeming power,  
like bride-groom from his chamber, come forth from a maiden mother's womb***

***At thy great name, exalted now, all knees in lowly homage bow;  
all things in heaven and earth adore, and own thee King for evermore.***

***To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three-in-One,  
praise honour, might and glory be from age to age eternally.***

**Reading 2    the Book of Genesis (3:1-9, 22-24)**

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you

eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, 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?’ Then the Lord God said, ‘See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever’ — therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

*Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

***Tree of Life CP 488 (tune 541)***

***The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green.  
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.***

***His beauty doth all things excel. By faith I know, but ne’er can tell  
the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.***

***For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought.  
I missed in all; but now I see ‘tis found in Christ the apple tree.***

***I’m weary with my former toil. Here I will sit and rest awhile.  
Under the shadow will I be of Jesus Christ the apple tree.***

***This fruit doth make my soul to thrive. It keeps my dying faith alive;  
which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.***

***Reading 3 the Prophet Isaiah 35.1–10***

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.

Say to those who are of a fearful heart, ‘Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.’ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and

streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

*Creating and renewing God, giving life in all its fullness, bring, we pray, all the children of this earth to the freedom of your holy purpose. **May we see your beauty and glory in seas and lakes washed clean, in fields of plenty and forests strong, and in humanity made whole in body, mind, and mutual care, in the pattern of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.***

***When the King Shall Come Again CP 109***  
***When the King shall come again, all his power revealing,***  
***splendour shall announce his reign, life and joy and healing;***  
***earth no longer in decay, hope no more frustrated,***  
***this is God's redemption day longingly awaited.***

***In the desert, trees take root, fresh from God's creation;***  
***plants and flowers and sweetest fruit join the celebration;***  
***rivers spring up from the earth, barren lands adorning.***  
***Valleys, this is your new birth; mountains, greet the morning!***

***Strengthen feeble hands and knees; fainting hearts, be cheerful!***  
***God, who comes for such as these, seeks and saves the fearful.***  
***Deaf ears, hear the silent tongues sing away their weeping;***  
***blind eyes, see the lifeless ones walking, running, leaping!***

***There God's highway shall be seen where no roaring lion,***  
***nothing evil or unclean, walks the road to Zion:***  
***ransomed people homeward bound all your praises voicing,***  
***see your Lord with glory crowned, share in his rejoicing!***

***Reading 4 the Prophet Isaiah (65:17-25)***

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and

another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent—its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

*God of gentleness and peace, teach our hands to shun the tools of violence and our minds to conceive the paths of peace, **that we may know with thanksgiving the joy of your generosity, made known to us in Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.***

***Prepare the Way, O Zion CP 102***

***Prepare the Way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!***

***Let every hill and valley a level way appear.***

***Greet one who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.***

***O, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.***

***He brings God's rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.***

***His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.***

***Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.***

***O, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.***

***Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Saviour's rule embrace.***

***His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.***

***All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.***

***O, blest is Christ that came in God's most holy name.***

***Reading 5 the Gospel according to Luke (1:5-25)***

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years. Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, 'Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the

disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.' Zechariah said to the angel, 'How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.' The angel replied, 'I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.' Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home. After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, 'This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.'

*Almighty God you called John the Baptist to give witness to the coming of your Son and to prepare his way. Give your people wisdom to see your purpose, and openness to hear your will, that we too may witness to Christ's coming and so prepare his way; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

***Come, O Lord and Set Us Free CP 113  
Come O Lord, and set us free. Maranatha.***

***Desert and dry lands will grow green in praise; clay will rejoice with full bloom:  
showers of flowers given birth in dead earth; in colours they echo Love's song.  
Come O Lord, and set us free. Maranatha.***

***Strengthen the hearts of the fearful and weak; be strong; fear not, God is near,  
coming in power and loosing our bonds, setting the captives free.  
Come O Lord, and set us free. Maranatha.***

***We have been waiting and longing for light, watching for signs of the Lord.  
"Promised of ages," "Messiah to come," hear us, we beg you: "Come, save!"  
Come O Lord, and set us free. Maranatha.***

***Give us a star in the sky day and night, sign of your promise to save.  
Over the mountains we follow its light, hoping for sign of your life.  
Come O Lord, and set us free. Maranatha.***

***Reading 6 the Gospel according to Luke (1:26-38)***

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel

said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

*Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.*

**Heavenly Message CP 269**

***Heavenly message, brought by an angel, coming to lift the hopes of the earth; bringing to Mary humble and lowly, God's invitation to give the Christ birth. Mary we hail you, full of God's favour, blessed are you, and blessed your son; he will be called the child of the highest, Saviour of all, the holy one.***

***Mary replied to Gabriel's message, "I am the servant, maid of the Lord. Let it be done just as you have spoken. My soul rejoices in God's saving word." Mary we hail you, full of God's favour, blessed are you, and blessed your son; he will be called the child of the highest, Saviour of all, the holy one.***

***In the beginning, when God had spoken, through God's own Word all things came to be; now by that Word, embodied through Mary, God's glory blazes, that our eyes may see. Mary we hail you, full of God's favour, blessed are you, and blessed your son; he will be called the child of the highest, Saviour of all, the holy one.***

**Reading 7 the Gospel according to John 1:6-8, 19-28**

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. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord" ', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am

not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

*Eternal Wisdom, creating, ordering, and saving, we give thanks that we have seen you in the selfless love of Jesus Christ. **Now reign within our minds and hearts, and mobilize our wills, that by your power and through our hands this world may be re-made to be the garden and the city of your glory. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.***

***There's a Voice in the Wilderness CP 106***

***There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways un-trod:  
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!***

***O Zion, give voice to good tidings, ascend to the heights and sing!  
Proclaim to a desolate people the coming of their King.  
The works of pride all perish, like flowers they shall decay;  
the power and pomp of the nations shall pass like a dream away.***

***But your word, O God, is faithful, your arm, O lord, is strong;  
you stand in the midst of nations, and you will right the wrong.  
You will feed your flock like a shepherd, and fold the lambs to your breast;  
in pastures of peace you'll lead them and give to the weary rest.***

***There's a voice in the wilderness crying, a call from the ways un-trod:  
prepare in the desert a highway, a highway for our God!  
The valleys shall be exalted, the lofty hills brought low;  
make straight all the crooked places where the Lord our God may go!***

*sermon*

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind,  
and with all your strength.**

This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:

**Love your neighbour as yourself.**

There is no commandment greater than these.

Let us offer our prayers to the source of all love and all life.

Merciful Lord, we pray for all who call themselves Christians: that we may become a royal priesthood, a holy nation, to the praise of Christ Jesus our Saviour.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**



We pray for Melissa our bishop, John our bishop-elect, and for all bishops and other ministers: that they may remain faithful to their calling and rightly proclaim the word of truth.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Elizabeth our Queen, for the leaders of the nations, and all in authority: that your people may lead quiet and peaceable lives.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for Langley, Aldergrove, our other communities, and those who live here, the poor and the rich, the elderly and the young, adults and children: that you will show your goodwill to all.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for the victims of our society and those who minister to them: that you will be their help and defence.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those preparing for baptism, and for those recently baptized: that they may be strengthened in the faith.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints who have found favour in your sight from earliest times, prophets, apostles, martyrs, and those whose names are known to you alone: and we pray that we too may be counted among your faithful witnesses.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud.*

*Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember*

- *the church, that we may be ready for the coming of Christ;*
- *the leaders of the church;*
- *the nations, that they may seek peace and reconciliation;*
- *those who are working for justice in the world and*
- *the broken, that they may find God's healing.*

Merciful God, your word, spoken by the prophets, restores your people's life and hope.

**Fill our hearts with the joy of your saving grace, so that we may hold fast to your great goodness and in our lives proclaim your justice in all the world, through your Christ who comes among us. Amen.**

***People Look East! The Time Is Near CP 91***

***People, look east! The time is near of the crowning of the year.***

***Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.***

***People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.***

***Furrows, be glad! Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.***

***Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled;  
even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.***

***Stars, keep the watch: when night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the start, is on the way.***

***Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.***

God of light, who sent the Baptist to offer hope and to face the world's scorn: **open our ears to hear the cries from the margins, exposing our fears, sharpening our vision and calling us to faith; through Jesus Christ, the one who is to come. Amen**



*Today we pray for PWRDF and their partners in Columbia helping families in rural areas.  
ECLOF – teaching the practice of hydroponics which conserves water and improves food security  
ILSA – empowering women through micro finance, organic farming and providing chickens*

Awaiting his coming in glory and gathering our prayers and praises into one,  
let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God, source of all being, eternal word and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**May Christ, when he comes, find us watching and waiting. Amen.**

*O Come, Divine Messiah CP 95*

*O come, diving Messiah; the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.*

*Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.*

*Dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*O come, Divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.*

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for, whom priest and prophet long foretold,  
come, break the captives' fetters, redeem the long lost fold.*

*Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.*

*Dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*O come, Divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.*

*You come in peace and meekness and lowly will your cradle be;  
all clothed in human weakness shall we your God-head see.*

*Dear Saviour, haste! Come, come to earth.*

*Dispel the night and show your face, and bid us hail the dawn of grace.*

*O come, Divine Messiah; the world in silence waits the day  
when hope shall sing its triumph and sadness flee away.*

[Readings for next Sunday – December 20, 2020](#)

**Advent 4**

The Second Book of Samuel 7:1-11,16

Canticle 18

Paul's Letter to the Romans 16:25-27

Luke 1:26-38