

Sunday, December 27, 2020

Christmas 1



Christmas 1 Morning Prayer

O Little Baby by David Taylor

*O, little baby, with eyes now closed in sleep,
yours the eyes that recognize the secrets that we keep.*

*O, little baby, please open to your sight
all the closets of our hearts and minds with love and light.*

Gloria, Gloria.

*O, little baby, with ears so small and curled,
yours the ears that heard the prayers of slaves around the world.*

*O, little baby, still listen to our cries.
Others are still captive in their bodies, souls and lives.*

Gloria, Gloria.

*O, little baby with voice deprived of speech,
ours the word that called the universe into its being.*

O, little baby, please speak Good News again.

Gloria, Gloria.

*O, little baby, with arms and hands so weak,
yours the arms of justice, yours the hands of destiny.*

*O, little baby, please guide us to your peace.
Let the kingdoms of this world be ours eternally.*

Gloria, Gloria.

*O, little baby, now held at Mary's breast.
 The Source of life is nourished by the woman who is blessed.
 O, little baby, your thirst for us is clear.
 So our thirst for you is like the panting of a deer.
 Gloria, Gloria.*

Blessed are you, O Christ, incarnate Word,
 you were before time began and came into the world to save us.
 Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness;
 you shine with the love of God and illumine the whole universe.
 Blessed are you, Child of Mary; born in a manger, you shared our humanity.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the voices of heaven, we celebrate your coming, O Emmanuel.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the creatures on earth we sing and dance at your birth, O Shoot of Jesse.

Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

Blessed be God: Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

Psalm 148

A Bm7 A D Esus4 E A Dmaj7 (C#m) Dmaj7 Bm7 Esus4 E E6 A

mf

We join the whole world to praise the Ho - ly One.

Hallelujah! Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

Praise the Lord all you angels; sing praises, all you heavenly host.

Praise the Lord, sun and moon;

sing praises, all you shining stars.

Praise the Lord, heaven of heavens,

sing praises, you waters above the heavens.

Let them praise the name of the Lord;

who gave the command and they were created, who made them stand fast for ever and ever, who gave them a law which shall not pass away. R

Praise the Lord from the earth, you sea-monsters and all deeps;

fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God's will;

mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;
wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and wingèd birds;
sovereigns of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the world;
young men and young women,
old and young together. R

Let them praise the name of the Lord, whose name only is exalted, whose splendour is over earth and heaven.

**The Lord has raised up strength for this people and praise for all loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near to the Lord. Hallelujah! RR**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

The Word of life which was from the beginning **we proclaim to you.**

The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining;

the Word of life which was from the beginning.

That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes, and touched with our hands,

we proclaim to you.

For our fellowship is with God and with God's beloved, Jesus the Christ.

The Word of life which was from the beginning we proclaim to you.

Galatians 4:4-7

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, 'Abba! Father!' So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime CP 146

***'Twas in the moon of wintertime, when all the birds had fled,
that mighty Gitche Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
before their light the stars grew dim, and wandering hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in ex-el-is gloria.***

***Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found;
a ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round.
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song ran loud and high:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in ex-el-is gloria.***

***The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair
as was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in ex-el-is gloria.***

***O children of the forest free, be-loved of Manitou,
the holy child of earth and heaven is born today for you.
Come, kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy:
Jesus your king is born, Jesus is born, in ex-el-is gloria.***

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Holy Word, Holy Wisdom. **Thanks be to God.**

sermon

There shall come forth a shoot from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

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.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,

or decide by what his ears hear,

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,

and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,

and the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

the calf, the lion and the fatling together,

with a little child to lead them.

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.

Glory to God, Source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.

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 pray to the Creator of the universe.

Holy One, by the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel:

Hear us and grant us peace.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh:

Hear us and grant us peace.

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God:

Hear us and grant us peace.

By the manifestation of your Beloved to the shepherds:

Hear us and grant us peace.

By the obedience of the Maker of the world to Mary and Joseph:

Hear us and grant us peace.

Additional intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings may be offered in silence or aloud. Among these concerns it is appropriate to remember

- *the church, especially in places of conflict;*
- *the Holy Land, for peace with justice and reconciliation;*
- *refugees and asylum seekers;*
- *homeless people and*
- *families with young children.*

God of glory, you have given us a new name and robed us in salvation. **May we like Anna find our home in your presence, and like Simeon recognize Jesus as the Christ, so that, in joy and thanksgiving at becoming your children, we may join with all creation to sing your praise. Amen.**

The First Nowell CP 139

***The first nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.***

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.

***They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.***

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.

***And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went,***

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.

***This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.***

Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Let us pray: **God of promise you renew your gift to those whose faces are lined and whose hearts are filled by the passage of years: help us, with Simeon and Anna, to see beyond the surface the face and heart of God in Jesus Christ, the given Child. Amen.**

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us 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 for ever. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. May God, who has called us out of darkness into the marvellous light of Christ, bless us and fill us with peace. Amen.

Dream a Dream MV 158

***Dream a dream, a hopeful dream, as children do on Christmas Eve,
imaginings, surprising things to hold and to believe.***

***Dream a time, this Christmas time, when no one's hungry or afraid;
that weapons go and harvests grow, that friends are met and made.***

***Dream a peace, our planet's peace, the greening of the earth at play,
the holy ground where life is found, where God has touched the clay.***

***Dream a gift, the Christmas gift that changes every thing we see:
the shimmering of angel wing, the child, the Mystery.***

[Readings for next Sunday – January 3, 2021](#)

Epiphany

Isaiah 60:1-6

Psalms 72:1-7, 10-14

Ephesians 3:1-12

Matthew 2:1-12