

Order of service
December 6, 2020

Welcome
Announcements, concerns & celebrations

Carol sing

I Heard the bells on Christmas Day
(Key of D#; C 2nd fret)

1

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
Wild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on earth good will to men

2

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

3

And in despair I bowed my head
There is no peace on earth I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men

4

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor does he sleep
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on earth, good will to men

5

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
Wild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on earth good will to men

I saw three ships

(Key of D)

1

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning

2

And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning

3

Our Saviour Christ and His Lady
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
Our Saviour Christ and His Lady
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day

4

Pray, whither sailed those ships all Three
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
Pray, whither sailed those ships all Three
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day

5

O they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
O, they sailed into Bethlehem
On Christmas Day in the morning

6

And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day in the morning

7

And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
And all the souls on earth shall sing
On Christmas Day in the morning

8

Then let us all rejoice and sing
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day
Then let us all rejoice and sing
On Christmas Day in the morning

Joy is now in every place

(VU 45; Key of D# [C 3rd fret])

1

Joy is now in every place,
Christmas lightens every face;
now be with us, in your grace,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

2

May the star that shone that night,
making your poor stable bright,
fill our hearts with love and light,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

3

Through the New Year let it stay,
leading us upon your way,
making Christmas every day,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

4

Now and ever may we find
your good news to fill our mind:
peace and love to humankind,
O hear us, bless us, holy Jesus.

Advent wreath

Hope is a Star

(VU 7 [C])

1

Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.

2

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth

One Friends, we have heard the promise:
God's chosen One will soon be among us. We must make ready.
***All* Prepare the Way of the Lord, make his paths straight.**

One The wilderness places of our lives may threaten to overwhelm us,
We may easily lose our way. But a second candle adds its light.
The candle of wisdom and preparation
Joins the candle of watchful waiting.

Light two candles

***All* Send your Spirit to the wild corners of our hearts.
Grant us wisdom and understanding
that we will prepare well
For the coming of your promised Counselor. Amen**

Sung response

Hark the glad sound the Saviour comes!
The Saviour promised long!
Let every heart prepare him room
And every voice a song.

Invitation to the offering

Dedication of the offering

Hymn: Come, thou long expected Jesus
(VU 2; Tune: Hyfrodol; [Key of D])

1

Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

2

Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Prayer and confession

Assurance of pardon

The Lord's Prayer Song

A time for all God's children

Children's hymn: Song of St. Nicholas (VU 69; Key of D)

1

There was a good bishop who lived long ago
His memory is glorious, His legends are bold
We call him St Nicholas, a servant of Christ
Who loved little children and taught what was right

2

He is Father Christmas and Santa Claus too
He helped many people, the stories are true
At Christmas he calls to us, both young and old
To see that the story of Jesus is told

3

The gifts that he brings us are signs of the love
That comes down at Christmas from heaven above
We see Mother Mary, the babe in the stall,
With Joseph, the wise men and shepherds and all

4

O blessed St Nik'las we hail you today
The patron of many, you show us the way
To be good and generous, to help those in need
To be kind to others in both word and deed

Scripture: Isaiah 40: 1-11

(King James version)

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry.

And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever. O Zion, that bringest good tidings, get thee up into the high mountain; O Jerusalem, that bringest good tidings, lift up thy voice with strength; lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God! Behold, the Lord GOD will come with strong hand, and his arm shall rule for him: behold, his reward is with him, and his work before him. He shall feed his flock like a shepherd: he shall gather the lambs with his arm, and carry them in his bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young.

Gospel hymn: St. Nicholas Song

(Tune: VU 48; Key of D)

1

Children everywhere agree
Each December now to be
Ready, eager, all to greet
The great saint we wait to meet.
Bearing gifts, he first recalls
If we have been good at all,
In our work, at home or play
All before St Nicholas day.
In our work, at home or play
All before St Nicholas day.

2

With his helpers at his side,
Celebrating far and wide,
He's the real Santa Claus,
Hail our kind St Nicholas
Now he leads us one and all
To the Christmas manger stall
Sees the babe, he bows the knee
For the prince of peace—tis he!

Sees the babe, he bows the knee
For the prince of peace—tis he!

3
So in Myra stories told
His great love, his actions bold,
Pilgrims now to Bari go
So the legends all may know.
Now the day of joy and fun
Ole St Nick, his work is done,
Says goodbye to young and old
By whom still his tales are told.
Says goodbye to young and old
By whom still his tales are told.

Sermon

Santa's clause

To do good, and to distribute, forget not;
for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. Hebrews 13.16

Pastoral prayer

Benediction

Closing hymn: Lo, He comes with clouds
(VU 25; Key of F (D capo 3))

1
Lo, he comes with clouds descending,
see the Lamb for sinners slain!
Thousand, thousand saints attending
join to sing the glad refrain:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
God appears on earth to reign.

2
Every eye shall then behold you,
robed in awesome majesty;
all who jeered, and mocked, and sold you,
pierced, and nailed you to the tree,
deeply grieving, deeply grieving, deeply grieving,
shall the true Messiah see.

3

Now redemption, long expected
see in solemn pomp appear;
all the saints, by us rejected,
thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
See the day of God appear!

4

Yea! Amen! Let all adore you,
high on your eternal throne;
crowns and empires fall before you,
claim the kingdom for your own:
O come quickly! O come quickly! O come quickly!
Everlasting Christ, come down.