

New England Annual Conference
Christmas Season Lessons and Carols 2021

Prelude “Angels We Have Heard on High” Haven UMC
String Chamber Orchestra
East Providence, RI

Opening Prayer Jill Colley Robinson, Dean of the Cabinet

First Lesson Psalm 98:1-4 Darlene Bearse
Ellsworth (ME) UMC
(English)

Psalm 98:1-4

Sing a new song to YHWH who has worked wonders, whose right hand and holy arm have brought deliverance! YHWH has made salvation known and shown divine justice to the nations, and has remembered in truth and love the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Shout to the Most High, all the earth, break into joyous songs of praise!

Carol “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Christmas Ensemble, Union Church, Boston

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold him,
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Psalm 98:5-9

Rita Zanzerkia (Gujarati)
Main St. UMC, Nashua, NH

Psalm 98:5-9

Sing praise to YHWH with the harp, with the harp and melodious singing! With trumpets and the blast of the shofar, raise a shout to YHWH, Ruler of All. Let the sea and all within it thunder; the world and all its peoples. Let the rivers clap their hands and the hills ring out their joy before YHWH, who comes to judge the earth, who will rule the world with justice and its peoples with equity.

Carol “A Christmas Celebration (medley)” James Hong & Chris Shin
Trumpets

Second Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-6

Edward Crews (English)

Hebrews 1:7-12

Julia Mendes (Portuguese)
Heritage UMC, Braintree MA***Hebrews 1:1-6***

In times past, God spoke in fragmentary and varied ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these final days, God has spoken to us through the Only Begotten, who has been made heir of all things and through whom the universe was first created.

Christ is the reflection of God's glory, the exact representation of God's being; all things are sustained by God's powerful Word. Having cleansed us from our sins, Jesus Christ sat down at the right hand of the Glory of heaven — as far superior to the angels as the name Christ has inherited is superior to theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Own; today I have begotten you," or, "I will be your parent, and you will be my child," or, as when God said upon bringing the Firstborn into the world, "Let all the angels of God worship you"?

Hebrews 1:7-12

Of the angels God says, "I make the angel winds, my servants flames of fire." But to the Only Begotten, God says, "Your throne, O God, will last forever and ever, and justice is the scepter of your reign.

You love justice as much as you hate wickedness; therefore, God, your God, has set you above your companions and anointed you with the oil of gladness"; and, In the beginning, O God, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment.

You will roll them up like a cloak, and like a garment they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years never end."

When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Carol

"Gesù Bambino"

Chelsea Robinson, cello

Third Lesson

John 1:1-6

Sooyoun Kim (Korean)
Wesley UMC, Hadley, MA
Chelsea Robinson (English)

John 1:7-14

John 1:1-6

In the beginning there was the Word; the Word was in God's presence, and the Word was God. The Word was present to God from the beginning. Through the Word all things came into being, and apart from the Word nothing came into being that has come into being. In the Word was life,

and that life was humanity's light — a Light that shines in the darkness, a Light that the darkness has never overtaken.

Then came one named John, sent as an envoy from God, who came as a witness to testify about the Light, so that through his testimony everyone might believe. He himself wasn't the Light; he only came to testify about the Light--the true Light that illumines all humankind.

John 1:7-14

The Word was coming into the world – was in the world – and though the world was made through the Word, the world didn't recognize it. Though the Word came to its own realm, the Word's own people didn't accept it. Yet any who did accept the Word, who believed in that Name, were empowered to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor urge of flesh nor human will – but born of God. And the Word became flesh and stayed for a little while among us; we saw the Word's glory – the favor and position a parent gives an only child – filled with grace, filled with truth.

Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Sophie Goodenough
North Vienna (ME) UMC

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy darkness shineth
the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
and, gathered all above
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King
and peace to man on earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray,
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Immanuel!

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Patricia Parent
Union UMC, Fall River, MA
(Western Abenaki)

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The people walking in darkness are seeing a brilliant light-upon those who dwell in a land of deep shadows light is shining! God, you have made the nation greater — you have brought them abundant joy! They celebrate in your presence as with the harvest celebrations, or as warriors celebrate when dividing spoils.

For the yoke that burdened them, the weight on their shoulders, the rod of their oppressors — you have shattered it, as you did at the defeat of Midian. For every boot that tramped in battle, every cloak that was dragged through blood, is now used as fuel for the fire.

For a child is born to us, an heir is given us, upon whose shoulders dominion will rest. This One shall be called Wonderful Counselor, the Strength of God, Eternal Protector, Champion of Peace. This dominion, and this peace, will grow without end, with David's throne and realm sustained with justice and fairness, now and forever. The zeal of YHWH Omnipotent will accomplish it!"

Carol "Joy to the World" UM Missionaries

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, & plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Isaiah 9: 2-7

Julie Kye & Aquinnah Hill (English)

Meditation Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar

Carol "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" Hallelujah Handbell Choir
First UMC, Gilford, NH

Offering Ashley Johnson, Director of Connectional Ministries

Doxology "Angels We Have Heard on High" Aaron Hyung-Kyu Yi
Grace UMC and Danville UMC (VT), organ

Carol "Go Tell it on the Mountain" Korean Caucus Virtual Choir

Refrain:
Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
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]

Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn. [Refrain]

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. [Refrain]

Benediction We Hyun Chang, Commonwealth East District Superintendent

Postlude "Christmas Favorites" Haven UMC
String Chamber Orchestra

Blessing May God bless and keep you on this holy day.