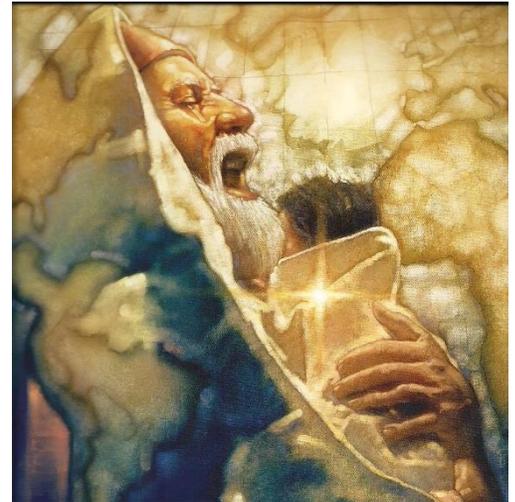


FIFTH READING Luke 2: 21- 35

Simeon and Anna witness the Messiah

.. [Simeon's] heart was open to the Holy Spirit, . . . and when Jesus' parents brought the child in to have done to him what the Law required, he took him up in his arms, blessed God, and said—

ALL: "At last, Lord, you are dismissing your servant in peace, as you promised! For with my own eyes I have seen your salvation which you have made ready for every people—a light to show truth to the Gentiles and bring glory to your people Israel."



1Simeon's Moment_ by Ron Dicianni

The child's father and mother were still amazed at what was said about him, when Simeon gave them his blessing. He said to Mary, the child's mother, "This child is destined to make many fall and many rise in Israel and to set up a standard which many will attack—for he will expose the secret thoughts of many hearts. And for you ... your very soul will be pierced by a sword."

CAROL

What Child is This?

No. 148

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

Why lies He in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce Him through, The cross be borne for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The Babe, the Son of Mary.

SIXTH READING

Luke 2:36-38

The Adoration of Anna

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OUR GIFTS TO THE CHRIST CHILD

OFFERTORY

"Deck The Halls"

arr. by Jason Tonioli

*DOXOLOGY

What Child is This?

No. 148, vs. 3

So bring Him incense, gold and myrrh, Come peasant, king to own Him;
The King of kings salvation brings, Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise a song on high, The virgin sings her lullaby.

Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the Son of Mary.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. Bless the gifts we offer this day, and let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son. Amen.

CAROL

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

No. 129

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today!

BENEDICTION

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth, bring joy to your hearts this day and always.

Amen

May the God of love, who gave his only Son to be born for you, fill your life with love and peace.

Amen

May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations, until he brings you into his eternal kingdom.

Amen

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

"Joyful Tidings" by James Moffatt
with improvisations on "Joy to the World!" by Carter Horman
