

SAINT MATTHIAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2310 Skyland Blvd. East  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35405-4327

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*Saint Matthias*  
*Episcopal Church*

2310 Skyland Boulevard East, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35405-4327

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All Members of the Congregation.....Ministers

The Reverend David Hall.....Priest  
[dapnhall@me.com](mailto:dapnhall@me.com) or (205) 757-7440

The Reverend John Stewart.....Deacon  
Home (205) 701-3137 Work (205) 330-9745

Matthew Edwards.....Organist/Choir Director  
[ECorganist@gmail.com](mailto:ECorganist@gmail.com) or (205) 887-2055

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**The Red Light of the Presence**

The Red Light of the Presence burns this week to the glory of God  
and in thanksgiving for our Saint Matthias family.

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**Parish Prayer List**

Please make prayer requests at the prayer desk located in the narthex,  
Call the parish office at 553-7282, email to [stmatthiaschurch@bellsouth.net](mailto:stmatthiaschurch@bellsouth.net).

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**Sunday Service Times**

Eucharist	8:00, 10:30
Sunday School	9:00

**Wednesday Choir Rehearsals**

Children's Choir	6:00-6:45
Adult Choir	7:00-8:30

# *A Service of Nine*



# *Lessons and Carols*

Saturday, December 3, 2016

1 p.m.

## Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing

*Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King.

1. Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled:  
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem. *Refrain*
2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come offspring of a virgin's womb:  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, Hail th'incarnate Deity!  
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. *Refrain*
3. Hail the heav'nborn Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings;  
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the songs of earth, Born to give them second birth. *Refrain*

## Closing Voluntary

Postlude on "Hark! the herald angels sing"

David Willcocks (1919-2015)

*Please remain for the closing voluntary.*

## Guest Musicians

Christopher Henley	Organ
Krystal Stark	Soprano
Shayna Tayloe	Soprano
Catherine Heemann	Mezzo-Soprano
Fayth Williams	Violin
Alexandra Huryn	Violin
Nicole Mccommon	Viola
Marilyn Liu	Cello, Percussion

**Offering**      Offering to benefit the Beans and Rice Ministry of St. Matthias

**Hymn**              O come, all ye faithful

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

1. 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: *Refrain*

2. God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten, not created: *Refrain*

6. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;  
Glory to God In the highest: *Refrain*

7. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,  
Jesu, to thee be glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

### The Collect for Advent I: Second Week of Advent

Officiant:      The Lord be with you.

People:        And also with you.

Officiant:      Let us pray: Merciful God, who didst send thy messengers the  
prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:  
Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may  
greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who liveth and  
reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People:        Amen.

### The Blessing

Officiant:      Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly  
and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and  
make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Al-  
mighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain  
with you always.

## ~ Order of Service ~

**Opening Voluntary**      Aria: "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme"  
Matthew Edwards (b. 1995)

*Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme*      Wake up, the voice calls us  
*Der Wächter sehr hoch auf der Zinne*      of the watchmen high up on the  
battlements,

*Wach auf, du Stadt Jerusalem!*      wake up, you city of Jerusalem!

*Mitternacht heisst diese Stunde;*      This hour is called midnight;  
*Sie rufen uns mit hellem Munde:*      they call us with a clear voice:  
*Wo seid ihr klugen Jungfrauen?*      Where are you, wise virgins?

*Wohl auf, der Bräutigam kömmt;*      Get up, the bridegroom comes;  
*Steht auf, die Lampen nehmt! Alleluja!*      Stand up, take your lamps! Hallelujah!  
*Macht euch bereit zu der Hochzeit,*      Make yourselves ready for the wedding,  
*Ihr müsset ihm entgegen gehn!*      You must go to meet him!

Translation © 2000-2015 Bach Cantatas Website  
<http://www.bach-cantatas.com/Texts/BWV140-Eng3.htm>

**Opening Hymn**      Once in Royal David's City  
Vs. 1 solo, Vs. 2 choir, Vs. 3-6 all

1. Once in royal David's city Stood a lowly cattle shed, Where a mother laid her baby In a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.	2. He came down to earth from heaven Who is God and Lord of all, And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall; With the poor, and mean, and lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.
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3. And through all his wondrous childhood He would honor and obey, Love, and watch the lowly maiden, In whose gentle arms he lay; Christian children all must be Mild, obedient, good as he.	4. For he is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us he grew, He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew; And he feebleth for our sadness, And he shareth in our gladness.
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5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own redeeming love, For that child so dear and gentle Is our Lord in heaven above; And he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.	6. Not in that poor lowly stable, With the oxen standing by, We shall see him; but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high; When like stars his children crowned All in white shall wait around.
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### The Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Officiant: Beloved in Christ, be it this Advent season our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this church glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build:

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Our Father...

People: Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; But deliver us from evil. For Thine is Thy Kingdom, and Thy power, and Thy glory for ever and ever. Amen.

### Anthem

Sir Christèmas

William Mathias (1934-1992)

*Nowell!*

Who is there that singeth so, I am here, Sir Christèmas!  
Welcome to all, both more and less, Come near.

*Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, (God, beautiful sir)*  
Tidings I you bring:  
A maid hath borne a child full young, which causeth you to sing.

Christ is now born of a pure maid, in an ox-stall he is laid,  
Wherefore sing we at a brayde.

*Buvez bien par toute la compagnie. (Drink well with company)*  
Make good cheer and be right merry, and sing with us now joyfully.

*Nowell!*

### Words of Welcome

The Rev. David Hall

### Ninth Lesson

Reader: The Rev. David Hall John 1:1-14

*"St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation."*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

People: Thanks be to God.

and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Anthem**                      Glory to God in the Highest  
Giovanni Battista Pergolesi (1710-1736)

Glory to God in the highest  
And on earth peace,  
Goodwill t’ward men!  
Peace!

**Eighth Lesson**              Reader: The Rev. John Stewart    Matthew 2:1-12  
*“The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.”*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Invitatory Hymn**              Of the Father’s heart begotten  
Vs. 1, 3, 5 men, Vs. 2, 4 women, Vs. 6 all

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| 1. Of the Father’s heart begotten,<br>Ere the world from chaos rose,<br>He is Alpha: from the Fountain<br>All that is and hath been flows;<br>He is Omega, of all—things<br>Yet to come the mystic Close,<br>Evermore and evermore.    | 2. By his word was all created;<br>He commanded and ‘twas done;<br>Earth and sky and boundless ocean,<br>Universe of three in one,<br>All that sees the moon’s soft radiance,<br>All that breathes beneath the sun,<br>Evermore and evermore.          |
| 3. He assumed this mortal body,<br>Frail and feeble, doomed to die,<br>That the race from dust created<br>Might not perish utterly,<br>Which the dreadful Law had sentenced<br>In the depths of hell to lie,<br>Evermore and evermore. | 4. O how blest that wondrous birthday,<br>When the Maid the curse retrieved,<br>Brought to birth mankind’s salvation,<br>By the Holy Ghost conceived;<br>And the Babe, the world’s Redeemer,<br>In her loving arms received,<br>Evermore and evermore. |
| 5. This is he, whom seer and sybil<br>Sang in ages long gone by;<br>This is he of old revealed<br>In the page of prophecy;<br>Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;<br>Let the world his praises cry!<br>Evermore and evermore.          | 6. Sing, ye heights of heav’n his praises;<br>Angels and archangels, sing!<br>Wheresoe’er ye be, ye faithful,<br>Let your joyous anthems ring,<br>Ev’ry tongue his name confessing,<br>Countless voices answering,<br>Evermore and evermore.           |

**First Lesson**                      Reader: Malcolm Croft                      Genesis 3:8-19  
*“God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent’s head.”*

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?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman,

“What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” To the woman he said, “I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.” And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

People: Thanks be to God.

**Anthem** O Lord, Thou hast form’d mine ev’ry part  
Matthew Edwards (b. 1995)

O Lord, Thou hast form’d mine ev’ry part,  
Mine inmost thought is known to Thee;  
Each word each feeling of my heart,  
Thine ear doth hear, Thine eye can see;  
Thine ear doth hear, Thine eye can see.

**Second Lesson** Reader: Jeremiah Rowland Genesis 22:15-18  
“God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.”

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

People: Thanks be to God.

**Anthem** Medley

O come, little children, O come, one and all,  
O come to the manger in Bethlehem’s stall,  
And see the Lord Jesus asleep on the hay,  
The little Lord Jesus was born Christmas Day.

Come, they told me, (Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
A newborn King to see; (Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
Our finest gifts we bring, (Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
To lay before the King, (Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum,  
pum-pum-pum-pum, pum-pum-pum-pum)  
So to honor Him (Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)  
When we come. (Pa-rum-pum-pum-pum)

He lies in the manger, the hay is His bed,  
The star, high in heaven, shines over His head,  
And Mary and Joseph look down on the boy,  
While shepherds and wise men Kneel down in their joy.

Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, help me rock the Child divine,  
God reward thee and all thine in Heav’n above, so prays the Mother Mary.

Now “Glory to God!” comes the song from on high,  
And “Peace for all mankind!” we sing in reply,  
Then come, little children, be happy and gay,  
For Jesus, the Christ Child was born Christmas Day.

On December five and twenty, fum, fum, fum.  
On December five and twenty, fum, fum, fum.  
He is born for love of us, the Son of God, the Son of God;  
He is born of Mother Mary, on this night so cold and dreary,  
Sing fum, fum, fum.

**Seventh Lesson** Reader: Matthew Edwards Luke 2:8-16  
“The Shepherds go to the manger.”

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of a great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them

**Anthem**

Magnificat

Allen Orton Gibbs (1910-1996)

My soul doth magnify the Lord  
 And my spirit hath rejoic'd in God my Savior  
 For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
 For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.  
 For he that is mighty hath magnified me  
 And holy is his name  
 And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations.

He hath showed strength with his arm;  
 He hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
 He hath put down the mighty from their seat  
 And hath exalted the humble and meek.  
 He hath filled the hungry with good things,  
 And the rich he hath sent empty away.  
 He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
 As he promised to our forefathers Abraham and his seed forever.

**Sixth Lesson**

Reader: Nicole Mccommon

Luke 2:1-7

*"St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus."*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Guirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own town to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Hymn**

Creator of the stars of night

Vs. 1 all, Vs. 2 organ only, Vs. 3  
 women, Vs. 4 men, Vs. 5-6 all

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|--|--|
| 1. Creator of the stars of night,<br>Your people's everlasting light,<br>O Christ, Redeemer of us all,<br>We pray you hear us when we call.                    | 2. In sorrow that the ancient curse<br>Should doom to death a universe,<br>You came, O Savior, to set free<br>Your own in glorious liberty.                                  |
| 3. When this old world drew on toward<br>night,<br>You came; but not in splendor bright,<br>Not as a monarch, but the child<br>Of Mary, blameless mother mild, | 4. At your great Name, O Jesus, now<br>All knees must bend, all hearts must<br>bow:<br>All things on earth with one accord,<br>Like those in heaven, shall call you<br>Lord. |
| 5. Come in your holy might, we pray,<br>Redeem us for eternal day;<br>Defend us while we dwell below<br>From all assaults of our dread foe.                    | 6. To God the Father, God the Son,<br>And God the Spirit, Three in One,<br>Praise, honor, might, and glory be<br>From age to age eternally.                                  |

**Third Lesson**

Reader: Dwight Lammon

Isaiah 9:2-7

*"Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah."*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Anthem**

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

K. Lee Scott (b. 1950)

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|---|--|
| <p>1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers,<br/>And let your lights appear;<br/>The evening is advancing,<br/>And darker night is near.<br/>The bridegroom is arising<br/>And soon is drawing nigh.<br/>Up, pray and watch and wrestle;<br/>At midnight comes the cry.</p> <p>3. The saints, who here in patience<br/>Their cross and sufferings bore,<br/>Shall live and reign forever<br/>When sorrow is no more.<br/>Around the throne of glory<br/>The Lamb they shall behold;<br/>In triumph cast before him<br/>Their diadems of gold.</p> | <p>2. The watchers on the mountain<br/>Proclaim the bridegroom near;<br/>Go forth as he approaches<br/>With alleluias clear.<br/>The marriage feast is waiting;<br/>The gates wide open stand.<br/>Arise, O heirs of glory;<br/>The bridegroom is at hand.</p> <p>4. Our hope and expectation,<br/>O Jesus, now appear;<br/>Arise, O Sun so longed for,<br/>O'er this benighted sphere.<br/>With hearts and hands uplifted,<br/>We plead, O Lord, to see<br/>The day of earth's redemption<br/>That sets your people free!</p> |
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**Fourth Lesson**

Reader: Kristi Dyer

Isaiah 11:1-9

*"The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown."*

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in 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; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Anthem**

Lo! How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hugo Distler (1908-1942)

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|--|--|
| <p>1. Lo! how a Rose e'er blooming<br/>From tender stem hath sprung,<br/>Of Jesse's lineage coming,<br/>As men of old have sung.<br/>It came a Flow'ret bright<br/>Amid the cold of winter,<br/>When half-spent was the night.</p> <p>3. This Flow'r whose fragrance tender<br/>With sweetness fills the air<br/>Dispels with glorious splendor<br/>The darkness ev'rywhere.<br/>True man, yet very God!<br/>From sin and death He saves us<br/>And lightens ev'ry load.</p> | <p>2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,<br/>The Rose I have in mind.<br/>With Mary we behold it,<br/>The Virgin Mother kind.<br/>To show God's love aright,<br/>She bore to men a Savior,<br/>When half-spent was the night.</p> |
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**Fifth Lesson**

Reader: Christopher Henley

Luke 1:26-38

*"The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary."*

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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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.

People: Thanks be to God.