

Christmas Meditation

From John Donne's "Holy Sonnets"

Annunciation

2. Salvation to all that will is nigh;

That All, which always is all everywhere,
Which cannot sin, and yet all sins must bear,
Which cannot die, yet cannot choose but die,
Lo ! faithful Virgin, yields Himself to lie
In prison, in thy womb ; and though He there
Can take no sin, nor thou give, yet He'll wear,
Taken from thence, flesh, which death's force may try.
Ere by the spheres time was created thou
Wast in His mind, who is thy Son, and Brother;
Whom thou conceivest, conceived ; yea, thou art now
Thy Maker's maker, and thy Father's mother,
Thou hast light in dark, and shutt'st in little room
Immensity, cloister'd in thy dear womb.

Nativity

3. Immensity, cloister'd in thy dear womb,
Now leaves His well-beloved imprisonment.
There he hath made himself to his intent
Weak enough, now into our world to come.
But O ! for thee, for Him, hath th' inn no room?
Yet lay Him in this stall, and from th' orient,
Stars, and wise men will travel to prevent
The effects of Herod's jealous general doom.
See'st thou, my soul, with thy faith's eye, how He
Which fills all place, yet none holds Him, doth lie?
Was not His pity towards thee wondrous high,
That would have need to be pitied by thee?
Kiss Him, and with Him into Egypt go,
With His kind mother, who partakes thy woe.

The Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons & Carols

24 December 2008

6:00pm

Oceanside United Reformed Church

Army & Navy Academy Chapel, 2605 Carlsbad Blvd., Carlsbad 92008

760.803.0981—www.oceansideurc.org—pastor@oceansideurc.org

Rev. Danny Hyde, Pastor—Rev. Dr. R. Scott Clark, Associate Pastor

Pastor Hyde's Blog: dannyhyde.squarespace.com—Dr. Clark's Blog:

heidelblog.wordpress.com

A member of the United Reformed Churches in North America

The Liturgy

Minister—Normal words | Congregation—**Bold words** | All stand—*
Rev. Danny Hyde, Leading in Worship

CALL TO WORSHIP—Psalm 98:1–4 & Galatians 4:4–5

*GOD’S GREETING—Revelation 1:4–5

*OPENING CAROL—*Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn* (346:1–3, 5–6)

The Old Testament Prophecies of the Coming of Christ

THE FIRST LESSON—Genesis 3:8–15

¶ *After each Old Testament lesson the following response is said:*

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

CAROL—*How Bright Appears the Morning Star* (336)

THE SECOND LESSON—Genesis 22:15–18

CAROL—*Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus* (335)

THE THIRD LESSON—Isaiah 7:10–14

CAROL—*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* (331:1–4)

THE FOURTH LESSON—Isaiah 9:2–7

CAROL—*Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light* (344)

THE FIFTH LESSON—Micah 5:2–5a

CAROL—*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

The New Testament Fulfillment of the Coming of Christ

THE SIXTH LESSON—Luke 1:26–38

¶ *After each Gospel lesson, the following response is said:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

CANTICLE—*My Soul Doth Magnify the Lord* (332)

THE SEVENTH LESSON—Luke 2:1–7

CAROL—*Joy to the World* (337)

THE EIGHTH LESSON—Luke 2:8–16

CAROL—*From Heaven Above to Earth I Come* (345)

THE NINTH LESSON—Matthew 2:1–12

CAROL—*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (341)

THE TENTH LESSON—John 1:1–14

CAROL—*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* (339)

PRAYER—Liturgy of Heidelberg, 1563

Eternal, and Almighty God, we give you most hearty thanks, that in your great love, you graciously pitied us, who were doomed to eternal death for our sins, and ordained your only begotten Son, before the foundation of the world was laid, to be our Mediator, Atonement, and Savior; that he was promised unto our first parents in paradise, after their deplorable fall, and at the appointed time was sent into the world, that he assumed our flesh and blood, became our Brother, and in all things like unto, sin excepted. We praise you, that by his death he destroyed him who had the power of death, the Devil, and delivered us, who must otherwise have spent our while life in bondage to the fear of death, from the kingdom of Satan and darkness, and translated us into the kingdom of light and eternal happiness. We heartily beseech you to fill us with your grace, that we may rightly know this your love and mercy, and Jesus Christ your Son, whom you have made unto us for wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption, and so love and honor him, as wholly to surrender ourselves up unto him, to confide in him, and esteem everything in the world as dross and dung, for the Excellency of the knowledge of Jesus Christ. And may we cling unto this Savior with true faith, who forgives all our sins, and heals all our diseases, that we may rejoice in all the tribulations of this life, and sing with the heavenly host: Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good-will towards men, and finally attain unto the end of our faith, even the salvation of our souls. We entreat you also for all the governments of the world. Grant unto our Rulers grace and peace, that they govern those placed under them in your fear, and with your approbation, that righteousness may be promoted, and iniquity be checked and punished, that we may fulfill our days in quietness and peace, as becomes Christians. Confirm all weak and disconsolate spirits, and send down upon us your peace, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who has taught us to pray:

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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom and the power and glory forever. Amen.

OFFERING

*CAROL—*Silent Night! Holy Night!* (342)

*BENEDICTION—2 Corinthians 13:14