

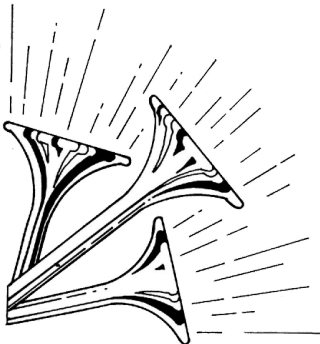
*Joy
to the
world the
Lord is come!
let earth receive her
King!*

A Festival of Nine Readings and Carols

a celebration of the Christmas Story

Sunday 16th December 2018

International Church of Vilnius



Welcome

Carol:

(Please remain seated for the first verse and stand to join singing the second verse)

1. *(solo)*
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. *(all)*
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 Saviour holy.
3. *(all)*
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 feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.
4. *(all)*
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.

Bidding Prayer & Lord's Prayer *(please remain standing)*

At the end of the bidding prayer, we say together:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours now and for ever.
Amen.**

All sit for the reading of the first lesson

First Lesson:

Genesis 3:8-19

The garden of Eden

Then 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."

Carol:

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
2. O come, Thou wisdom from on high,
Who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us the path of knowledge show
And teach us in her ways to go.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
3. O come, Thou branch of Jesse's tree,
Free them from Satan's tyranny
That trust thy mighty power to save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
4. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high,
And cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadow put to flight.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*
5. O come, Desire of nations,
Bind in one the hearts of all mankind
Bid thou our sad division cease,
And be thyself our King of Peace.
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.*

Second Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7 Christ's birth and Kingdom foretold

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.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Carol:

1. 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.
2. Joy to the world, the Saviour reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills
and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground,
He comes to make his blessings
flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and
grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love,
And wonders, and wonders of his
love.

Third Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9 Justice and peace in Christ's reign foretold

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

Anthem Kai tylią naktį ...
 Arnold Möller

Choir

Fourth Lesson: Micah 5: 2-5a A promised ruler from Bethlehem

But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small among the clans of Judah, out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times.'

Therefore Israel will be abandoned until the time when she who is in labour bears a son, and the rest of his brothers return to join the Israelites. He will stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they will live securely, for then his greatness will reach to the ends of the earth.

Carol:

1. On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.
2. Then why should men on earth be
so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad:
Then why should men on earth be
so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad:
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty.
3. When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.
4. All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night;
All out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night:
"Glory to God and peace to men,
Now and forevermore. Amen.

Fifth Lesson:

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel visits 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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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

Anthem

I heard the bells on Christmas day...

J. Baptiste Calkin

Choir

Sixth Lesson:

Luke 2:1-7

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 Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns 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.

Carol:

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| <p>1. Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace</p> <p>2. Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht,
Hirten erst kundgemacht
Durch der Engel Halleluja,
Tönt es laut von fern und nah:
Christ, der Retter ist da!
Christ, der Retter ist da!</p> | <p>3. Tyli naktis, šventa naktis,
Pildos dieviška mintis.
Viešpats tapęs mažu vaikeliu
Žada sieloms malonių gausių
Savo šventu gimimu,
Savo šventu gimimu.</p> <p>4. Silent night, holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth</p> |
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Seventh Lesson: 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 great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, 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 favours!”

When the angels had left them 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.

Carol:

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|--|---|
| <p>1. 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?
<i>This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and
angels sing;
Haste, haste, to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!</i></p> | <p>2. Why lies He in such mean estate,
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners
here
The silent Word is pleading.
<i>This, this is Christ the King,
....</i></p> <p>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.
The silent Word is pleading.
<i>This, this is Christ the King,
...</i></p> |
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Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-13 The wise men are led by a 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.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

"Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

Anthem: The First Noel ...
Pachelbel's Canon

Choir

Carol:

1. As with gladness men of old
Did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light,
Leading onward, beaming bright,
So, most gracious Lord, may we
Evermore be led by Thee.
2. As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger bed,
There to bend the knee before
Him whom heav'n and earth adore,
So may we with willing feet
Ever seek Thy mercy-seat.
3. As they offered gifts most rare
At that manger rude and bare;
So may we with holy joy,
Pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to Thee, our heav'nly King.
4. Holy Jesus, every day
Keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past.
Bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide,
Where no clouds Thy glory hide.
5. In the heav'nly country bright
Need they no created light;
Thou its Light, its Joy, its Crown,
Thou its Sun which goes not down.
There forever may we sing
Alleluias to our King!

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 The mystery of God becoming a human being

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 were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light – that all, through him, might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Carol:

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;
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the
Lord.
2. God of God,
Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors
Not the virgin's womb;
Only begotten Son of the Father.
O come...
3. Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God in the highest;
O come...

Final Prayer and Blessing

Jesus, the Light of the World, as we celebrate your birth may we begin to see the world in the light of the understanding you give us. As you chose the lowly, the outcasts, and the poor to receive the greatest news the world had ever known, so may we worship you in humbleness of heart. May we also, with generous hearts, remember our brothers and sisters less fortunate than ourselves in this season of giving.

Amen.

God grant you the light of Christmas, which is faith;
the warmth of Christmas, which is purity;
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;
the all of Christmas, which is Christ.

Amen.

Carol:

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled"
Joyful, all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim:
"Christ is born in Bethlehem"
*Hark! the herald-angels sing:
"Glory to the new-born King!"*
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, the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel
*Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the new-born King!"*
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Son 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 sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! the herald angels sing:
"Glory to the new-born King!"*



Please join us for refreshments and fellowship in the Church Hall immediately after the service.

The International Church of Vilnius supports 'Vilties Centras' (Hope Centre) which is a local charity that provides a range of assistance to those in desperate need in our city. The 'Hope Centre' provides two hot meals a day for around 500 people at their two premises. They also assist people living on the streets and those addicted to drugs to find help to make a new start. Over winter the work of the Hope Centre is especially valuable as the temperatures fall and living rough becomes more dangerous.

A retiring collection will be taken at the door to the church: please consider making a contribution to the work of the Vilties Centras.



Welcome to the International Church of Vilnius!

We hope you enjoy this celebration of the Christmas story as we look forward to celebrating Jesus' birth in just over a week – this year we are grateful to be supported in our worship by the Evangelical Lutheran Church choir.

Children are most welcome at the International Church of Vilnius. If your child is finding it difficult to sit still, there is a crèche (for the very young) and activities (for 4 – 8 year olds) available in the Globus Namai (out of the church door and turn left - the entrance is 30m directly ahead).

Do, please, stay and join us for fellowship and refreshments after the service in the Fellowship Hall.

We celebrate every Sunday of the year – yes, 9.30 a.m. is a little early but we would love you to join us! As well as Sunday worship we usually have a midweek evening Fellowship meal with Bible Study and monthly socials for students and young professionals.

Forthcoming Events

Sunday 23rd December

9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
5.00 p.m.	Lutheran Church Christmas Eve Mass (in Lithuanian)

Tuesday 25th December

9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
11.00 a.m.	Lutheran Church Christmas Eucharist (in Lithuanian)

Sunday 30th December (and every Sunday thereafter)

9.30 a.m.	Morning Worship
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Wednesday 16th January (and every Wednesday thereafter)

7.00 p.m.	Midweek Fellowship Group
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For more information on the church activities, or to join one of the Fellowship groups / courses please email: enquires@vilniuschurch.org

<http://www.vilniuschurch.org>