

From our Churches

Church: Grace Mennonite Church

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Christmas Eve Scripture Reading

Scripture Reading for three voices based on Genesis 1, John 1, and Luke 2

1

2

Choric 1 & 2

[both voices begin strong and fade]

In the beginning God created.
There was:
no form, emptiness, darkness.
no form, emptiness, darkness.
no form, emptiness, darkness.
no form, emptiness, darkness.
no form, emptiness, darkness.

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God.
In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God.

Gospel Voice

[strong clear beginning as the choric voices fade out]

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child.

Choric 1 & 2

[strong start, fade to sotto voice, increase to strong after Gospel Voice completes announcement of the birth]

God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. God saw that the light was good.
God saw that the light was good.
God saw that the light was good.

In him was life, and that life was the light of man. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world. The true light that enlightens everyone was coming into the world.

Gospel Voice

[begin when the choric voices fade, continue strong to end of Announcement, choric Voices will increase]

While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Choric 1 & 2

[emerge from sotto voice after Gospel Voice finishes announcement with a strong final statement]

.....the light was good. God separated light from darkness and called the light “day” and the darkness “night”. There was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

.....was coming into the world. The World became flesh and dwelt among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, full grace and Truth.

Gospel Voice

[in a lyrical, story-telling voice]

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

Choric 1

While he is in the world, he is the light of the world.

Choric 2

While he is in the world, he is the light of the world.

Choric 1

He has come into the world so that no one who believes should stay in darkness.

Choric 2

He has come into the world so that no one who believes should stay in darkness.

Choric 1 & 2

[in unison, begin bold and Fade]

Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.
Come, O house of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Gospel Voice

[enter on fade out of choric voices]

When the angel had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Choric 1

[bold]

Arise! Shine! For your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

Choric 2

[bold]

Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn!

Choric 1
[bold]

**The sun will not lighten your
day.**

Choric 2

**nor the moon brighten your
night.**

Choric 1

**for the Lord will be your
everlasting light.**

Choric 2

**and your God will be your
Glory!**

Choric 1 & 2
[in unison]

Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more;
the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow
will end!