

## Largs Church of the Nazarene

LargsNaz Online listening guide: 19 December 2021



### Luke 3 (NRSV)

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, 2 during the high-priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, 4 as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.

5 Every valley shall be filled,  
and every mountain and hill shall be made low,  
and the crooked shall be made straight,  
and the rough ways made smooth;  
6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

7 John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

10 And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' 11 In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' 12 Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' 13 He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' 14 Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' . . .

18 So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people. 19 But Herod the ruler, who had been rebuked by him

because of Herodias, his brother's wife, and because of all the evil things that Herod had done, 20 added to them all by shutting up John in prison.

### I heard the bells on Christmas Day

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day  
Their old, familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet, the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along the unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth  
The cannon thundered in the South,  
And with the sound the carols drowned  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent  
The hearth-stones of a continent,  
And made forlorn the households born  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;  
"There is no peace on earth," I said;  
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men."

### It came upon the midnight clear

Edmund Hamilton Sears

It came upon the midnight clear  
That glorious song of old  
From angels bending near the earth  
To touch their harps of gold

Peace on the earth good will to men  
From heaven's all gracious King  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
To hear the angels sing

Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
The world has suffered long  
Beneath the angel strain have rolled  
Two thousand years of wrong  
And man at war with man hears not  
The love song which they bring  
O hush the noise ye men of strife  
And hear the angels sing

And ye beneath life's crushing load  
Whose forms are bending low  
Who toil along the climbing way  
With painful steps and slow  
Look now for glad and golden hours  
Come swiftly on the wing  
O rest beside the weary road  
And hear the angels sing

For lo the days are hastening on  
By prophet bards foretold  
When with the ever circling years  
Comes round the age of gold  
When peace shall over all the earth  
Its ancient splendours fling  
And the whole world give back the song  
Which now the angels sing

### **Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room (Luke 3)**

- **Introduction: Waiting**
  - **Isaiah 40: Prepare the way**

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- **Luke 3**

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- **Prepare Him room**
  - **Clean up: repentance and forgiveness**
  - **Do the work that needs to be done: bear fruit**

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- **Is there room in our hearts today?**

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### **Doxology** Thomas Ken

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him all creatures here below  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost