

First Presbyterian Church December 24, 2020

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O Come, All Ye Faithful” st. 1,3

p.133

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!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

OPENING WORDS

Debbie Crawford

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 96

Wayne & Judy Sturgeon

Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;
Tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world, and those who live in it.

Let the whole creation sing for joy at the presence of God, who is coming.
God is coming indeed, to judge the earth with righteousness, and the peoples
with equity and truth. Praise the Lord!

THE CHRIST CANDLE

Griffin & Sean Ryan

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Special Christmas Eve Service

SOLO "A Hallelujah Christmas" Melody Abner
OPENING HYMN: "Once in Royal David's City" st. 1,2,4 p. 140

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.

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 meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

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.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 John & Pat Kelley
Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of
creation.

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" p. 121

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

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SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18 Bridget Dunaway

God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.

CAROL: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" st. 1,7 p.88
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.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
bid envy, strife, and discord cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Janie & Mackey Williams
The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

CAROL: "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" st. 1, 3,5 p.123
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 all, 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 heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and we at war on earth hear not the tidings that they bring;
O, hush the noise and cease the strife to hear the angels sing!

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 Carla Campbell

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

CAROL: "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" solo, Karen Webb

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FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38 Katie & Nikki Bowling
An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

CAROL: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" p.119

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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7 Marian Davis
Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

CAROL: "Away in a Manger" p. 115

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

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SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16 Cubby Ruby
Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.
CAROL: Angels We Have Heard on High" st. 1,3 p.113

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11 Shane, Melanie, & Blakely Callahan
Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.

CAROL: "We Three Kings of Orient Are" solo, Mike Howard

NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14 Jill & Randy Creech
The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.

CAROL: "Silent Night, Holy Night!" st. 1,3,4 p. 122
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.

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.

Silent night, holy night, Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born

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THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Donna Williams

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sean & Diane Swinney

CLOSING HYMN

"Joy to the World" st. 1,4

p. 134

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.

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, wonders of his love.

CHARGE & BLESSING

Griffin Ryan