

A Service of Lesson and Carols

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 24, 2017

Behold, you will find a Child, lying in a manger.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

Come, Child of God! Listen to our songs of joy!

Gathering

PRELUDE

Selected

WELCOME

Kelly Weaver

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Christian Education Team/Teachers

Let us pray together: God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine this night with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine this night with your grace. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

With the prophet Isaiah, we proclaim the promise of God:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light:

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; Authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*HYMN #140

“Once in Royal David’s City”

Alexander, 1848

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Bibles, p.17/LG. p.22

God’s promises that Abraham’s Family Shall be Blessed.

CAROL#113

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Chadwick, 1860

SECOND LESSON

Jeremiah 23:5-6

Bibles, p.681/LG. p.887

The Lord will raise up to David a Righteous Branch.

CAROL #121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Brooks, 1868

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-10

Bibles, p.602/LG. p.784

The Branch from Jesse

CAROL# 84

“Creator of the Stars of Night” (v.1-3)

Neale, 1851

CALL TO CONFESSION

Like a great light in a land of deep darkness, the mercy of the Lord shines upon us. Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin, first silently, then with the Unison Prayer.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of Love Incarnate, we confess that, with the shepherds, we are terrified of your glory; for in glory’s light we see plainly all that is wrong in the world; How oppression still enslaves; how garments of war are still stained with blood; how those seeking refuge still find no place of safety. We also see what is wrong in us, our relationships, our community, or even in the church. Forgive us, we pray. Like the shepherds, we want to follow and find you. In the savior’s name we pray. Amen.

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

“Lord, have mercy upon us,

Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Good News! Great Joy! In Jesus Christ the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all. Glory to God in heaven, and on earth, peace.

Amen!

*GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

#580

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 9:2a; 6

Bibles, p.600/LG. p.780

The Messiah’s Reign will be Glorious

CAROL #88

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (v.1,6,7)

Helmore, 1852

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Bibles, p.53/LG. p.69

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

CAROL# 145

“What Child Is This” (v.1-3)

Dix, 1871

SIXTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Bibles, p.86/LG. p.111

The Word Became Flesh

CAROL# 119

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (v.1)

Wesley, 1739

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Bibles, p.54/LG. p.71

The Evangelist Luke tells of the Birth of Jesus.

CAROL

“O Holy Night”

(Bert Lowe, Soloist)

MINISTRY OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY

“Welcome to Our World”

(Katie Hurst, Soloist)

*DOXOLOGY

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

EIGHTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Bibles, p.54/LG. p.71

The Shepherds and the Angels

*CAROL# 123

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” (v.1&2)

Sears, 1849

Sending

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*RECESSIONAL CAROL#134

“Joy to the World” (v.1,4)

Watts, 1719

POSTLUDE

Selected

(*) Those who are able may stand.

Bold italic letters indicate congregational responses.

This week’s prayers and concerns: Debbie Castro, Syble DeLoach, Jack Gray, Joyce Huggins, Dorothy Maloney, Billie Manck, Jan Mims, Cindy and Bob Ratliff, Bob Schauwecker, Patsy Snelgrove, Billy Tapley, and Sue Williams.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sun. 12/24	Refreshments	5:00pm
Sun. 12/24	Lessons & Carols Evening Service	5:30pm
Mon. 12/25 & Tues. 12/26	Church Office Closed for Christmas	