



Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 8, 2024

10:30 a.m.



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The Worship of God - 10:30 A.M. Service

ENTRANCE

Gathering

Rev. Josh Stueve

Prelude

Ye Who Claim the Faith of Jesus

Clint Barrick

David Hurd (b. 1950)

Advent Candle Lighting

Dylan Blackwell and Rachel Shipley

Today we light a candle for joy. May its light remind us of the good news this season brings. May its light focus us on the sources of joy in our lives. May joy draw us closer to God and to one another.

Family of faith, what brings you joy? Amen.

*Hymn - *Once in Royal David's City*

Emma Davis, soprano, solo, verse 1

*Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:*

*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;*

*Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him;
But in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned
All in white shall wait around.*

LESSONS AND CAROLS

Prayer For Illumination

Rev. Josh Stueve

Holy God,

**scripture tells us that you came to these Christmas characters in ways -
loud and clear, impossible to miss.**

Scripture also tells us they listened.

They rearranged their lives to follow your invitation.

God, we long for that—all of that.

We long to hear your voice—loud and clear, impossible to miss.

We long for invitations to something more, something deeper.

And we long to find the courage to follow.

So clean out our ears. Brush the dust off our hearts.

Trace us back to our roots—back to these—who heard and followed.

With gratitude we listen.

Amen.

Special Music

O Holy Night

St. John's Bell Choir

Adolphe Adam

First Lesson: Genesis 3: 8-13, p. 3
Brokenness falling upon the garden

Marjorie Sorley

Adam lay YBounden

Boris Ord

*Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.*

*And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkës finden written
In their book.*

*Nor had one apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Then had never Our Lady
A-been heaven's queen.*

*Blessed be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore we may singen
Deo gratias!*

Second Lesson: Isaiah 64: 1-9, p. 694
We long for God to come to us in our brokenness

Paul Shuey

Act of Praise
Et Misericordia from Magnificat

Alyzia Vallejo and Jack Hays, duet
J. S. Bach

*Et misericordia eius a progenie in progenies timentibus eum
And his mercy [is] on them who fear him, from generation to generation.*

Third Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-4a, 6-9, p. 640-641
The reign of the prince of peace and justice

Sue Cates

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

M. Praetorius

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.*

*It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.*

*To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Saviour
When half spent was the night.*

Fourth Lesson: Luke 1: 26-38, p. 56-57, N.T.
The Annunciation

Gabriela Nord

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden, Mary,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*"For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be,
All generations laud and honor thee,
Thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
In Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say:
Most highly favour'd lady, Gloria!*

Fifth Lesson: Matthew 1: 18-23, p. 1, N.T.
An angel speaks to Joseph in a dream

Matthew Dileo

He Comes to Us

Jane Marshall

*He comes to us as One unknown, without a name, as of old, by the lakeside.
He came to those men who knew him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me!" and sets us to the
tasks which he has to fulfill for our time. He commands.
And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts,
the sufferings which they shall pass through in his fellowship,
and as an ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.*

Sixth Lesson: Isaiah 9: 2-7, p. 638
A child is born, who shall have authority

Sara Yancey

Lift Up Your Heads, O Ye Gates

William Mathias

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates!
Even lift them up ye everlasting doors.
Lift up your heads, O ye gates
And be ye lift up, and be lift up ye everlasting doors.
And the King of Glory shall come in,
Who is the King of glory?
The Lord, strong and mighty!
The Lord of Hosts.
He is the King of Glory!*

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2: 1-7, 58, N.T.
Luke tells the birth of Jesus

Allison Matherly

How Great Our Joy

Craig Courtney
*Emma Davis, viola, William Olufsen, violin,
Trisha Huang, violin, Seth Grayson, cello*

*While by the sheep we watched at night,
Glad tidings brought an angel bright.
How great our joy, how great our joy.*

*There shall be born so did he say,
In Bethlehem a Child today.
How great our joy, how great our joy.*

*There shall a Child lie in a stall,
This Child who shall redeem us all.*

*This gift of God we'll cherish it well,
That ever joy our hearts shall fill.*

*Praise we the Lord, praise we the Lord in heav'n on high!
Praise we the Lord, praise we the Lord*

Eighth Lesson: Luke 2: 8-20, p. 58, N.T.
The shepherds go to the manger

Gregory Brookes

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst
Lauren Ziegenhorn, mezzo soprano

*In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.*

*Our God, heav'n cannot hold him,
Nor earth sustain;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away
When He comes to reign;
In the bleak mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;
What I can I give Him;
Give my heart*

Ninth Lesson: John 1: 1-14, p. 91, N.T.
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

Rev. Josh Stueve

There is No Rose

John Joubert

*There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bare Jesu:
Alleluia.*

*By that rose we may well see
There be one God in Persons Three:
Pares forma. (Equal in nature)*

*For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space:
Res miranda. (marvelous thing)*

*Then leave we all this worldly mirth,
And follow we this joyous birth:
Transeamus. (We travel on).*

Pull us closer to the bigger story that
reminds us
that our ordinary lives
are the stuff of eternity.
You fitted each of our days
for small efforts and endless attempts
to pick ourselves up again.
In our triumphs and embarrassments.
we need to be told again (sigh)
that we are not just everyday problems.
We are a story of extraordinary love.

THANKSGIVING

Invitation to an Offering

Rev. Josh Stueve

*Hymn - *The First Noel*

*The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*[Refrain]:
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
born is the King of Israel.*

*They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
[Refrain]*

*Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught,
And with his blood mankind hath brought:
[Refrain]*

*Doxology and Presentation of Gifts

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

SENDING FORTH

Invitation

Rev. Josh Stueve

*Hymn - *O Come All Ye Faithful*

*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;*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created;
[Refrain]*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, In the highest;
[Refrain]*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesu, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
[Refrain]*

Benediction

Rev. Josh Stueve

Gracious God, thank you for giving yourself to us. You have come to dwell with us, within us and among us. By your presence, grant us your peace. Send us into the world to bring good news to the poor, to set the captives free, and to proclaim your grace. Send us in the power of your Spirit, in the blessing and the company of your Son, the Beloved, Jesus Christ, who is present among us, now and to eternal life. Amen.

Please be seated for the Postlude

Postlude

Comfort Ye, My People

Clint Barrick

Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)

Advent Events At St. John's

There are several upcoming events and ways to experience the beauty of the Advent season at St. John's!

Friday, 12/13 at 6:00 p.m.—Christmas Movie Night

Saturday, 12/14 at 9:00 a.m.—Men's Breakfast

Wednesday, 12/18 at 6:00 p.m.—Blue Christmas Service

Saturday, 12/21 at 10:00 a.m.—Service Project at the South Plains Food Bank

Tuesday, 12/24 at 5:30 & 10:45 p.m.—Christmas Eve Services

Christmas Movie Night

It's time for a holiday movie night! Bring a blanket and come dressed in your favorite ugly Christmas sweater or comfy holiday pajamas for an evening of festive fun on Friday, December 13 from 6:00—8:00 p.m.

Blue Christmas Worship Service

As we anticipate the coming of Christ during the season of Advent, we are mindful that for many the holidays are not always merry and bright. Join us in this reflective service as we remember Jesus' promise "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Wednesday, December 18 at 6:00 p.m.



What Do the Candles in the Advent Wreath Mean?

Ask The UMC

The Advent wreath began as a German and Scandinavian home devotional practice used to mark the four weeks of Advent. Families would light a candle for each past week and the current week at their dinner or evening time of prayer. The configuration of candles, whether in a line or a circle, did not matter. Neither did the color of the candles (all colors are used in homes in Europe). What mattered was the marking of time and the increase of light each week in the face of increasing darkness as the winter solstice approached.

As this practice began to catch on by the mid-twentieth century, several church supply houses who sold Advent wreaths and candles for public worship also developed resources, banners, and bulletin covers assigning a theme to each week, and thus each candle, based on scriptures from the one-year lectionaries used at that time. Those themes were Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.

Please Remember in Prayer:

St. John's Homebound

Jane Haynes

Myrna Shuey

Leslie Cox

Dwight Finckbone

Gary Pate

Abby Reimer

Barbara Pedroza

(The Sister of Beatrice Pedroza)

Arthur Cook

(The Brother of Randy Cook)

Roy Peterson

(The Brother of Ken Peterson)

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