

# Immanuel Presbyterian Church



Alternative Worship Service

*4th Sunday of Advent*

December 18, 2022

8:30am

*Discovering and displaying Christ  
in here and out there*

# AN ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

(\*Please stand as you are able)

## WELCOME

## OPENING SENTENCES

One: Sing to the Lord a new song;

**All: sing to the Lord, all the earth!**

One: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

**All: tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**

## \*OPENING SONG

*What Can I Do (Christmas Version)*

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Joey and Sue Samoy

One: The Advent wreath is a circle with no beginning and no end. It is a symbol of God's unending love and faithfulness. Isaiah the prophet calls us to prepare for the coming of Jesus by making straight all that is crooked. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." Let us prepare for Jesus, the Christ, who is anointed by God to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners.

**All: For as a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

One: Beloved in Christ, it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us hear again from the holy scriptures the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build. for goodwill among

all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who do not know the Lord Jesus, or do not love him, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love. Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us:

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**All:** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### CHILDREN'S LESSON

#### SONG

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

#### FIRST LESSON

*Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19*

Kris Goorsky

One: God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head. <sup>8</sup> They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup> But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup> He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." <sup>11</sup> He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup> The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup> Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup> The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." <sup>17</sup> And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall

not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; <sup>18</sup> thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. <sup>19</sup> By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*O Little Town of Bethlehem (Emmanuel)*

SECOND LESSON

*Genesis 22: 15-18*

Phoebe Tittle

One: God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing. <sup>15</sup> The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup> and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup> I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, <sup>18</sup> and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice." The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*God Will Provide a Lamb*

THIRD LESSON

*Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7*

Mike Kobylinski

One: The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness. <sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*

#### FOURTH LESSON

*Isaiah 11: 1-4a, 6-9*

Luke Tittle

One: The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation. <sup>1</sup> A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. <sup>2</sup> The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup> His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup> but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>6</sup> The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup> The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup> The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup> They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

#### CAROL

*There Blooms a Rose in Bethlehem*

#### FIFTH LESSON

*Luke 1: 26-35, 38*

Laura Fennema

One: The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end. <sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." <sup>29</sup> But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. <sup>33</sup> He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup> Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup> The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. <sup>38</sup> Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven*

SIXTH LESSON

*Luke 2: 1-7*

Sophie Bishop

One: Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born. <sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room. The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*Away in a Manger*

SEVENTH LESSON

*Luke 2: 8-16*

Christina Russell

One: The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger. <sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" <sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*Light of the Stable*

## EIGHTH LESSON

*Matthew 2: 1 – 11*

Bradley Bishop

One: The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews. <sup>1</sup> In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup> 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" <sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*  
(Verse 1)

OFFERTORY CAROL

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*  
(Verses 2-4)

\*DOXOLOGY

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*  
(Verse 5)

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

## NINTH LESSON

*John 1: 1-14*

Bobbie Butler

One: John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. <sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being <sup>4</sup> in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the

darkness did not overtake it. <sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. <sup>9</sup> The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

One: God of grace, your eternal Word took flesh among us when Mary placed her life at the service of your will. Prepare our hearts for his coming again; Keep us steadfast in hope And faithful in service, That we may receive the coming of his kingdom For the sake of Jesus Christ, the ruler of all, Who lives and reigns with you In the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

\*CLOSING SONG

*Joy to the World/Our God Saves*

BLESSING AND CHARGE

One: May the Christ, who, by his incarnation, gathered into one the things of heaven and earth, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

**All: Alleluia!**

One: Go forth in peace and joy.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen**



Participants:

Rev. Dr. John Tittle, Pastor  
Clay Whittington, Interim Traditional Worship Music Leader  
Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation  
Ed Vander Woude, audio visual  
Adoración Ensemble – Clay Whittington, Joy Hager, Sandy Russell, Bob and Carol Van Gelder

Acknowledgments:

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O Come, O Come Emmanuel - Traditional, Hymn No. 09  
O Little Town of Bethlehem (Emmanuel) - Brooks, McDonald, Frey, Joslin, Redner  
God Will Provide a Lamb – Card  
It Came Upon A Midnight Clear - Shaffer, Millard, Graul, Sears, Cochran, Bannister, Scheuchzer  
There Blooms a Rose in Bethlehem - DeGraide  
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing/King of Heaven – Wesley, Baloche, Ingram, Mendelssohn-Bartholdy  
Away in a Manger - Luther, McFarland, Murray  
Light of the Stable - Rhymer & Rhymer  
We Three Kings of Orient Are - Hopkins  
Silent Night, Holy Night - Mohr, Gruber  
Joy to the World/Our God Saves - Watts, Baloche, Rossback, Brown, Handel

