

# Immanuel Presbyterian Church



Traditional Worship Service

*4th Sunday of Advent*

December 18, 2022

11:00am

*Discovering and displaying Christ  
in here and out there*

# An Advent Service of Lessons and Carols

(\*Please stand as you are able)

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

VENI EMMANUEL

WELCOME

OPENING SENTENCES

One: Look! The young woman is with child;

**All: she will call him Emmanuel, for God is with us.**

One: The mystery of the ages is now revealed.

**All: To God be the glory forever! Amen.**

One: A ruler will come from Bethlehem,

**All: And he will be the shepherd of peace.**

\*CAROL

*People, Look East*

No. 12

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Cain Family

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.**

BIDDING PRAYER

One: Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all peoples and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness

and the shadow of death; and for the church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words that Christ himself 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

CAROL

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

No. 09

FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 40: 1-8*

Kris Goorsky

One: To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is coming back, and bringing the exiles home! <sup>1</sup> Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup> Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup> A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup> Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup> Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." <sup>6</sup> A voice says, "Cry out!" and I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass; their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup> The grass withers; the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup> The grass withers; the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*Let the Valleys Be Raised*  
Sanctuary Choir

Schutte

SECOND LESSON

*Jeremiah 23: 5-6*

Christina Russell

One: The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch, a just king who is yet to come. <sup>5</sup> The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>6</sup> In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The Lord is our righteousness." The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*Emmanuel*

McGee

THIRD LESSON

*Zechariah 9:9-10*

Kate Kelly

One: To a nation grown weary of war and weapons, God promises a king who will establish a reign of peace. <sup>9</sup> Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem! See, your king comes to you; triumphant and victorious is he, humble and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. <sup>10</sup> He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim and the war horse from Jerusalem; and the battle bow shall be cut off, and he shall command peace to the nations; his dominion shall be from sea to sea and from the river to the ends of the earth. The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

No. 02

FOURTH LESSON

*Haggai 2: 6-9*

Elle Linderman

One: The prophet Haggai promises to God's people a temple even more glorious than the temple of old. <sup>6</sup> For thus says the Lord of hosts: Once again, in a little while, I will shake the heavens and the earth and the sea and the dry land, <sup>7</sup> and I will shake all the nations, so that the treasure of all nations will come, and I will fill this house with splendor, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>8</sup> The silver is mine, and the gold is mine, says the Lord of hosts. <sup>9</sup> The latter splendor of this house shall be greater than the former, says the Lord of hosts, and in this place I will give prosperity, says the Lord of hosts." The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates*

No. 08

FIFTH LESSON

*Isaiah 35: 1-6*

Mary Kay Bush

One: The prophet Isaiah announces the renewal both of the land and of God's people on the coming day of redemption. <sup>1</sup> The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus <sup>2</sup> it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and shouting. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. <sup>3</sup> Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. <sup>4</sup> Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." <sup>5</sup> Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be opened; <sup>6</sup> then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

OFFERTORY INVITATION

CAROL AND OFFERTORY

*A Time Will Come for Singing*  
Sanctuary Choir

Schutte

\*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

No. 592

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SIXTH LESSON

*Luke 1: 26-35, 38*

Laurie Emery

One: The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign 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

*God, My Savior*  
Sanctuary Choir

Schutte

SEVENTH LESSON

*Mark 1: 1-15*

Tim Bacchus

One: Jesus proclaims the coming of the kingdom of God. <sup>1</sup> The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way, <sup>3</sup> the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight,'" <sup>4</sup> so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup> And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. <sup>8</sup> I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." <sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens

torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from the heavens, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." <sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. <sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

*On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry*

No. 10

### PRAYER FOR 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.**

### DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

#### Participants:

Rev. Dr. John Tittle, Pastor  
Clay Whittington, Interim Traditional Worship Music Leader  
Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation  
Ed Vander Woude, audio visual

#### Acknowledgments:

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