



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP *with UCC Westerly*

LESSONS & CAROLS
December 20, 2020 @ 9:45am*
Broadcast live from our sanctuary

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Gathering Music – “Lord of the Light”

[WORDS & MUSIC: Doug Brummund, ©2020 B.R. Music. All rights reserved.
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PASTOR’S WELCOME

Prelude – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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DEACON’S GREETING

INVITATION TO WORSHIP – *Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle of Love*

[<https://www.saltproject.org/progressive-christian-blog/advent-candle-lighting-litanies>]

Reader One: Because too many people are wandering in the wilderness, because too many people are sitting in the valley of the shadow of death, we light candles ...

Reader Two: Because people all over the world are suffering and we are too busy to notice, we light candles ...

Reader One: Today we stop everything and light these candles: one for hope, one for peace, one for joy, and one for love... (*light the 4th candle of the Advent wreath*)

Reader Two: May the light from these candles overwhelm the world.

Reader One: May the light from these candles illuminate the valley of the shadow of death.

Reader Two: May the light and fire from these candles burn away everything that is preventing God’s love from being born among us.

Both: Brothers and sisters, be not afraid, even now – even now. God’s love is overwhelming the world!

OPENING SONG – “People Look East”

[WORDS: Eleanor Farjeon, MUSIC: Trad. French carol, harm. By Martin Shaw© 1928 Oxford University Press, All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

1. *People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east: Love, the Guest is on the way.*
2. *Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east: Love, the Star is on the way.*
3. *Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east: Love, the Lord is on the way.*

UNISON PRAYER OF REFLECTION

As Christmas trees are lighted and people rush to complete last minute tasks for Christmas, keep us close to you, Holy God. Keep us mindful of you so that the one whose coming we celebrate, Jesus Christ, may be honored by all we do. May our every action in this season shine forth with your love that all may know we are your people. Love through us. Let Christ be seen in us, for we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

A CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION IN LESSONS AND CAROLS

First Lesson Genesis 1:1-5, 26, 31; 2:1-3 Bethany Foster

Second Lesson Genesis 2:15-19 Lynn Murray

Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Kathy Tarasuk

Carol -- "O Little Town of Bethlehem" [@Public Domain]
*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see they 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.*

Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 Rev. Ruth

Fifth Lesson Luke 1: 26-35, 38 Bethany Foster

Special Music *Go Tell It on the Mountain* Tone Chimes Choir
[Afro-American Spiritual adapted and arranged by William Farley Smith. ©1989, United Methodist Publishing House. All rights reserved. Reprinted under ONE LICENSE#A-734569]

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-17 Lynn Murray

Seventh Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 Kathy Tarasuk

Eighth Lesson John 1:1-5 Rev. Ruth

Carol -- "O Come All Ye Faithful" [@Public Domain]
*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.*

A TIME OF PRAYER

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayers

The Lord's Prayer in whatever words are most comfortable for you.

OUR RESPONSE TO GOD

Acknowledgement of Gifts & Offerings*

Anthem by the Tone Chimes Choir – “*Angels We Have Heard on High*” [© Public Domain]

*Doxology “*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Christ all creatures here
✠ below; Praise Holy Spirit, Comforter; One God, Triune, whom we adore. Amen.*”

[©Public Domain]

CLOSING SONG -- *On this Day Earth Shall Ring* [©Public Domain]

1. *On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord,
Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.*

Refrain: Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!

2. *On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ,
Heaven’s King; born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.*

Refrain: Id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o-o-o, id-e-o gloria in excelsis Deo!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A PRAYER OF BENEDICTION

[adapted from *Touch Holiness*, Duck & Tirabassi, ©1990, The Pilgrim Press, p. 240]

Through Christ you are a child of God who dearly loves us all. Go forth in peace, joy and hope to share God’s love. Rise up to heed Christ’s call. Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Postlude – “*Gloria from 12th Mass*”

MUSIC: W.A. Mozart, arranged by John Hiles, Copyright 1882 by F.D. Sudds. ©Public Domain]

THE READINGS

1st Lesson – Genesis 1:1-5, 26; 31; 2:1-3

Bethany Foster

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, ‘Let there be light’; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Then God said, ‘Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.’ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

2nd Lesson – Exodus 3:7-15

Lynn Murray

Then the LORD said, ‘I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.’ But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ He said, ‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.

But Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your ancestors has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’ God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I AM has sent me to you.”’ God also said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”:

This is my name for ever, and this my title for all generations.

3rd Lesson – Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Kathy Tarasuk

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.

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

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

His authority shall grow continually,
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 onwards and for evermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

4th Lesson – Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Rev. Ruth

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
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.
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;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek 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.
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
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.

5th Lesson – Luke 1:26-35, 38

Bethany Foster

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' 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. 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.

6th Lesson – Luke 2:1-17

Lynn Murray

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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 for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.' And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!'

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.' So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child;

7th Lesson – Matthew 2:1-12

Kathy Tarasuk

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

“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.” ’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

8th Lesson – John 1:1-5

Rev. Ruth

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.