

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2020
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRAYER OF INVOCATION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the Kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Throughout the Service of Lessons and Carols, at the conclusion of each Scripture passage, the reader will say, "This is the Word of the Lord." The congregation responds, "Thanks be to God."

1ST LESSON: GENESIS 3:8-15

After Adam and Eve's sin, God promises one who will come to destroy the serpent.

CAROL O Come, O Come Emmanuel

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel;
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer,
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free,
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;
From depths of Hell Thy people save,
And give them victory o'er the grave.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

4. O come, Thou Key of David, come,
And open wide our heavenly home;
Make safe the way that leads on high,
And close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

2ND LESSON: GENESIS 22:15-18

God promises Abraham that through his offspring all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

CAROL O Holy Night (Hear the Gospel Story)

1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

2. Humbly He lay, Creator come as creature,
Born on the floor of a hay-scattered stall.
True Son of God, yet bearing human feature,
He entered earth to reverse Adam's fall.
In towering grace, He laid aside His glory,
And in our place, was sacrificed for sin.
Fall on your knees! O hear the gospel story!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

3. Come then to Him Who lies within the manger,
With joyful shepherds, proclaim Him as Lord.
Let not the Promised Son remain a stranger;
In reverent worship, make Christ your Adored.
Eternal life is theirs who will receive Him;
With grace and peace, their lives He will adorn.
Fall on your knees! Receive the Gift of heaven!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

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3RD LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7

The birth of the Christ and his kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah.

CAROL Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. 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 floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

2. 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 Savior,
When half spent was the night.

3. The shepherds heard the story proclaimed by angels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glory was born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped and in the manger found Him,
As angel heralds said.

4. This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
True Man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,
And lightens every load.

5. O Savior, Child of Mary, who felt our human woe,
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know;
Bring us at length we pray, to the bright courts of Heaven,
And to the endless day!

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4TH LESSON: MICAH 5:2-5a

God promises the king will come forth from the humble city of Bethlehem.

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

5TH LESSON: LUKE 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel appears to tell Mary she will give birth to Jesus, Son of the Most High.

CAROL Silent Night

1. Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace!
Sleep in heavenly peace!

2. Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

3. Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven above,
Heav'nly Hosts sing alleluia!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!
Christ, the Saviour, is born!

*Authors: Franz Xaver Gruber / John Freeman Young /
Joseph Mohr
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6TH LESSON: LUKE 2:1, 3-7

Jesus is born in Bethlehem, the City of David.

CAROL What Child Is This?

1. What Child is this who laid to rest,
On Mary's lap is sleeping;
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
While shepherds watch are keeping?
This, This is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, Haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

2. Why lies He in such mean estate
Where ox and cattle are feeding?
Good Christian fear, for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
Nails spear shall pierce Him through,
The cross be borne for me for you.
Hail, Hail the Word made flesh,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

3. So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come peasant king to own Him.
The King of Kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, Raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, Joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

Raise, Raise the song on high;
The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, Joy for Christ is born,
The Babe, the Son of Mary.

*Author: William Chatterton Dix
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7TH LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

The Shepherds arrive to see the promised Savior.

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

1. Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains:

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing.
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Chorus

Chorus

Glo . . . ria in excelsis Deo!
Glo . . . ria in excelsis Deo!

*Authors: Edward Shippen Barnes / James Chadwick
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2. Shepherds, why this jubilee,
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Chorus

8TH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men come and offer gifts to Christ the King.

CAROL

He Shall Reign Forevermore

1. In the bleak mid-winter, all creation groans
For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone.
Light is breaking
In a stable for a throne.

Chorus

And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
Unto us a Child is born,
The King of Kings and Lord of Lords,
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.

2. If I were a wise man, I would travel far.
If I were a shepherd, I would do my part,
But, poor as I am,
I will give to Him my heart.
Chorus

Bridge

Here within a manger lies
The One who made the starry skies;
This baby born for sacrifice,
Christ, the Messiah!
Into our hopes, into our fears,
The Savior of the world appears;
The promise of eternal years,
Christ, the Messiah!

And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
Chorus

*Chris Tomlin / Matt Maher
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9TH LESSON: John 1:1-14

The Apostle John unfolds the mystery of the Word made flesh.

MEDITATION “Conceived by the Holy Spirit” - Rev. Bryan Rigg

CAROL Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found,
Far as, far as, the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders of His love.
And wonders, wonders of His love.

*Authors: Isaac Watts, George Frederic Handel
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BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth to serve the world as those who love our Lord and
Savior, Jesus Christ.

People: THANKS BE TO GOD!

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

POSTLUDE

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