

Mercy Presbyterian Church

ORDER OF WORSHIP SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022 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."

1 ST 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 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.

3. 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.

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

1. O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of the 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! Oh hear the angels' voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

2. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!

3. Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! Oh praise His name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim

*Authors: Adolphe Charles Adam / John S. Dwight / Placide
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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 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

1. Come Thou long-expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free
From our fears and sins release us
Let us find our rest in Thee
Israel's strength and consolation
Hope of all the saints Thou art
Dear desire of every nation
Joy of every longing heart

2. Joy to those who long to see thee
Dayspring from on high appear
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing
News, Glad tidings of a birth
"Go to him, your praises bringing
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

3. Come to earth to taste our sadness
He whose glories knew no end
By His life He brings us gladness
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend
Leaving riches without number
Born within a cattle stall
This the everlasting wonder
Christ was born the Lord of all

4. Born Thy people to deliver
Born a child and yet a King
Born to reign in us forever
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne

*Authors: Words by Charles Wesley; Music by Rowland
Hugh Prichard
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4 TH LESSON: MICAH 5:2-5a

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

CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee 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.

2. For Christ is born of Mary,
And, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together
Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King
And peace to men on earth.

3. How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray,
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

Authors: Lewis Henry Redner & Phillips Brooks © Public Domain

5 TH 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!
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!

3. 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!

*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

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

1. Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem.”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King!”

2. Christ, by highest heav'n adored:
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see
Hail th' incarnate Deity!
Pleased, as man, with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King.”

3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild, He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die:
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing
“Glory to the newborn King.”

*Authors: Charles Wesley and Felix Mendelssohn
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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:

Chorus

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

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee,
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song?
Chorus

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

*Authors: Edward Shippen Barnes,
James Chadwick
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8 TH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

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

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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 © Public Domain

9 TH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-10

The prophet Isaiah predicts the future Kingdom and her King.

MEDITATION - 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!

POSTLUDE

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CCLI LICENSE #11042946

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