

Mercy

Presbyterian Church

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

*“Once you were not a people,
but now you are God’s people;
Once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.”*

1 Peter 2:10

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CCLI LICENSE #11042946

All Hymns/Songs (excl. O Holy Night): Trinity Hymnal © Great Commission Publications

Bryan Rigg, Pastor • 434-907-0711 (m) • bryan.rigg@mercypres.org
101 D Northwynd Circle, Lynchburg, VA 24502 • Website: www.mercypres.org

Hearing assist receivers available in the lobby, for use with personal headphones
(disposable headphones available if needed).

For assistance, please notify a deacon or sound team member.

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2023

SERVICE OF LESSONS & 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.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

194

*"The Redeemer will come to Zion, to those in Jacob who repent of their sins,"
declares the LORD. Is. 59:20*

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
2. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes, on
3. O come, thou Rod of Jes - se, free thine own from Sa - tan's
4. O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us by thy
5. O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come and o - pen wide our

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here,
Si - nai's height, in an - cient times didst give the law
• tyr - an - ny; from depths of hell thy peo - ple save,
draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night,
heav'n - ly home; make safe the way that leads on high,

REFRAIN
un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in cloud and maj - es - ty and awe.
• and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -
and death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
and close the path to mis - er - y.

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

Latin antiphons, 12th cent.
Latin hymn, 1710
Tr. by John Mason Neale, 1851; alt. 1961

VENI EMMANUEL. L.M.ref.
Plainsong, 13th cent.
Arr. by Thomas Helmore, 1856

2ND LESSON: GENESIS 22:15-18

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

¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

O Holy Night

Placide Cappeau
Words by
Translation by
John Sullivan Dwight

Music by
Adolphe Charles Adam
CCLI SONG # 32015
© WORDS & MUSIC: PUBLIC DOMAIN

VERSE

♩ = 90 C F C

1. O ho - ly night! the stars are bright - ly shin - ing, it is the
2. Led by the light of faith se - rene - ly beam - ing, with glow - ing
3. Tru ly He taught us to love one an - oth - er; His law is

6 C/G G C

night of the dear Sav - ior's birth; Long lay the world in
hearts by His cra - dle we stand; So led by light of a
love and His gos - pel is peace; Chains shall He break, for the

12 F C C7 Em/B B7

sin and er - ror pin - - ing, till He ap - peared and the soul felt its
star sweet - ly gleam - ing, here came the wise men from O - ri - ent
slave is our broth - er, and in His name all op - pres - sion shall

17 Em G7/D G7 C G7/D

worth. A thrill of hope, the wea - ry world re - joic - es, for yon - der
land. The King of kings lay thus in low - ly man - ger, in all our
cease. Sweet hymns of joy in grate - ful cho - rus raise we, let all with -

CHORUS

24 G7 C Am Em

breaks a new and glo - rious morn; Fall on your knees, O,
tri - als born to be our Friend; He knows our need, to
in us praise His ho - ly name; Christ is the Lord, O,

31 Dm Am C/G G/F C/E

hear the an - gel voic - es! O night di - vine,
weak - ness is no stran - ger. Be - hold your King,
praise His name for - ev - er! His pow'r and glo -

38 F C/G G7 C C/E G G/F

O night when Christ was born! O night, O
be - fore Him low - ly bend! Be - hold your
ry ev - - er - more pro - claim! His pow'r and

45 C/E F C/G G7 C

ho - - ly night, O night di - vine!
King, be - fore Him low - ly bend!
glo - - ry, ev - - er - more pro - claim.

3RD LESSON: ISAIAH 9:2-7

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

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shone.

³ You have multiplied the nation;
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

⁴ For the yoke of his burden,
and the staff for his shoulder,
the rod of his oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

⁵ For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult
and every garment rolled in blood
will be burned as fuel for the fire.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,
to establish it and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196

Waiting for the consolation of Israel. Luke 2:25

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

4TH LESSON: MICAH 5:2-5a

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

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

⁵ And he shall be their peace.

201 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small ... out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Mic. 5:2

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!
 4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by:
 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
 cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

5TH LESSON: LUKE 1:26-38

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

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² 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 father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Silent Night! Holy Night!

210

They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. Luke 2:16

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - diant
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!

6TH LESSON: LUKE 2:1, 3-7

Jesus is born in Bethlehem, the City of David.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ... ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

203

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

A great company of the heavenly host [was] praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." Luke 2:13, 14

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King;
 2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
 3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ - teous - ness!

peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
 Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
 pleased as man with men to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
 born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them sec - ond birth.

REFRAIN
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

7TH LESSON: Luke 2:8-20

The Shepherds arrive to see the promised Savior.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Angels We Have Heard on High

214

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN
 Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,
 glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

8TH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12

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

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." ⁹After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

COLLECTION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

213

What Child Is This

Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? Matt. 2:2

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate, where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him;

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Wörd is plead - ing.
the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing:
Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you:
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by:

haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
hail, hail the Wörd made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y.
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y.

9TH LESSON: John 1:1-14

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

MEDITATION “Giving & Receiving” - Rev. Bryan Rigg

SERMON NOTES

Sunday, December 10, 2023 | Bryan Rigg
“Giving & Receiving” | John 1:1-14

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Ps. 98:4

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her
 2. Joy to the earth! The Sav - ior reigns: let men their songs em -
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness

and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 and heav'n and na - ture sing.

sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heav'n and na - ture sing,

Based on Psalm 98
Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
Arr. by Lowell Mason, 1836

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!