

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 17, 2017 • 10:30 AM
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

GREETING

HYMN OF ADORATION O Holy Night - Hear the Gospel Story

Musicians: 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!

Everyone: 2. Humbly He lay, Creator come as creature,
(to the end) 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 a 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!

PRAYER OF INVOCATION AND 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. And 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.

2ND LESSON: GENESIS 22:15-18

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

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."

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.

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.
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

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

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!

4TH LESSON: MICAH 5:2-5A

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

CAROL Peace Has Come (Mercy Musicians)

Behold the star of Bethlehem the Word of God has become flesh
Unto us a child is born the Savior of this broken world
Oh, hear the angel voices sing come let us adore Him
Peace has come for our King is with us
Fully God and fully man, he comes for all with open hands
He rules with love on David's throne, all praise belongs to Christ alone
Oh, hear the angel voices sing come let us adore Him
Peace has come for our King is with us
Holy, holy, holy. Jesus, we adore Thee
Peace has come for our King is with us
O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord
O come let us adore Him. O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord
Oh, hear the angel voices sing come let us adore Him
Peace has come for our King is with us

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 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 Son 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
© Public Domain

6TH LESSON: LUKE 2:1, 3-7
Jesus is born in Bethlehem, the City of David.

CAROL **Hope Has Come**
Children's Christmas Choir

(Children ages 4-5 are dismissed for "Equip for Worship". Visitors' children are welcome.)

7TH LESSON: LUKE 2:8-18
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 plain
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains*

Bridge
*Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis Deo
Glo-o-o-oria in excelsis Deo*

*3. Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King
Chorus 2X*

Chorus
*Glory to God Most High
All glory to God Most High*

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

8TH LESSON: MATTHEW 2:1-12
The wise men come and offer gifts to Christ the King.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

CAROL **God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen**

*1. God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray*

Chorus
*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy!*

*2. From God, our heavenly Father, a blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name
Chorus*

*3. "Fear not, then," said the angel, "Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Savior of a pure Virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him from Satan's power and might"
Chorus*

*4. The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind
And left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind
And went to Bethlehem straight-way the Son of God to find
Chorus 2X*

9TH LESSON: JOHN 1:1-14
The Apostle John unfolds the mystery of the Word made flesh.

MEDITATION **"Christmas Preparations"**
Rev. Rob Edwards

APOSTLE'S 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.

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.*

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

P.O. Box 2564, Forest, VA 24551 • Website: www.mercypres.org
Voicemail: (434) 237-1370 • Kimberly Paumen (Admin): kimberly@mercypres.org
Rob Edwards, Pastor • 434-386-7045 (m) • rob@mercypres.org

Mercy
Presbyterian Church

*"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."
I Peter 2:10*

Presbyterian Church in America (PCA)