

MERCY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
ORDER OF WORSHIP

SUNDAY • DECEMBER 15, 2019 • 10:30 AM
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE **Come Thou Long Expected Jesus** *(Instrumental)*

GREETING

HYMN OF ADORATION **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 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!

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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.

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 **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

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 com-ing, as . . . men of old have sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, . . .
A-mid the cold of win-ter, when . . . half spent was the night.

2. I-saiah 'twas foretold it, the . . . Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the . . . virgin mo-ther kind.
To show God's love aright, . . .
She bore to me a Sa-rior, when . . . half spent was the night.

3. The shepherds heard the sto-ry pro- . . . claimed by an-gels bright,
How Christ, the Lord of glo-ry was . . . born on earth this night.
To Bethlehem they sped . . .
And in the manger found Him, as . . . angel her-alds said.

4. This Flow'r, whose fragrance ten-der with . . . sweetness fills the air,
Di-spels with glorious splen-dor the . . . darkness ev-'rywhere;
True Man, yet very God, . . .
From sin and death He saves us, and . . . lightens ev-'ry load.

5. O Savior, Child of Ma-ry, who . . . felt our hu-man woe;
O Savior, King of glo-ry, who . . . dost our weak-ness know;
Bring us at length we pray, . . .
To the bright courts of Hea-ven, and . . . to the end-less day!

4TH LESSON: MICAH 5:2-5a

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

CAROL **Oh Little Town of Bethlehem**

(Choir only: Verse 1)

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

(Congregation joins)

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

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 **Mary's Song (Our King of Peace)** *(Mercy Choir)*

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

Jesus is born in Bethlehem, the City of David.

CAROL **What Child is This**

(Choir only: Verses 1 & 2)

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.

(Congregation joins)

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!

7TH LESSON: LUKE 2:8-20

The Shepherds arrive to see the promised Savior.

CAROL **What a Glorious Night** *(Children's Choir)*

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**

*(Children ages 4-5 are dismissed for a children's Bible lesson during the last stanza.
Visitors' children are welcome.)*

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

9TH LESSON: JOHN 1:1-14

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

MEDITATION **"Herald His Coming"**
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.

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

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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)