

# A Service Of Lessons And Carols

St. Paul's Free Methodist Church  
7:00 p.m. Thursday, December 12, 2019

(Please note that the **bold** print is spoken by the congregation in unison.)

**Processional**      *Sing Aloud On This Day!/Personent Hodie -- arr. Gustav Holst* (Chamber Singers)

## Greeting

Pastor:            Lord, open our lips.

**Congregation:** **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise! Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor:            Alleluia! Our King and Savior now draws near: come, let us adore him.

## Prayer

Pastor:            Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a virgin: grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever.

**Congregation:** **Amen.**

**Hymn**  
**HFL 139**

***Once In Royal David's City (Congregation)***

## Old Testament Lessons

***Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19***

Reader 1:        They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

Reader 2:        "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

Reader 1:        "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

Reader 2:        "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."

Reader 1:        Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?"

Reader 2:        "The serpent tricked me, and I ate."

Reader 1: The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.” ... And to the man [God] said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken;

**Congregation: You are dust, and to dust you shall return.”**

*Jesus Christ The Apple Tree -- Elizabeth Poston (Chamber Singers)*

***Isaiah 11:1-9***

Reader 1: A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

Reader 2: The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

Reader 1: His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;

Reader 2: He shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

Reader 1: The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together,

**Congregation: And a little child shall lead them.**

Reader 2: The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;

**Congregation: For the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.**

*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming -- Michael Praetorius (Chamber Singers)*

***Micah 5:2-4***

Reader 1: But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days.

Reader 2: Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth;

Reader 1: Then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel.

Reader 2: And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.

**Congregation: And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.**

Hymn  
HFL 136

*O Little Town Of Bethlehem* (Congregation)

### Gospel Lessons

*Luke 1:26-35, 38*

Reader 2: In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

Reader 1: But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

Reader 2: The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.

Reader 1: Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

Reader 2: The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God."

Reader 1: Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn

*Canticle Of The Turning* (Congregation)

URW 18

*Luke 2:1-7*

Reader 1: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*I Wonder As I Wander* (Appalachian Carol) – adapt. and arr. John J. Niles and Lewis H. Horton (Chamber Singers)

*Luke 2:8-16*

Reader 2: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

**Women: “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”**

Reader 2: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

**Men: “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.”**

Reader 2: So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Hymn

*Angels We Have Heard On High (Congregation)*

HFL 122

*Matthew 2:1-11*

Reader 1: In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

Reader 2: When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

Reader 1: They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Reader 2: Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

Reader 1: When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother;

**Congregation: And they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.**

*I Saw Three Ships (Traditional) – arr. Edwin Fissinger (Chamber Singers)*

*John 1:1-14*

Reader 2: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

Reader 1: There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Reader 2: He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

**Congregation: But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.**

Hymn

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (Congregation)*

HFL 554

**Benediction**

Pastor: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Now may He Who, by his Incarnation, gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Congregation: Amen.**

Recessional

*O Come, All Ye Faithful* (Chamber Singers and Congregation)

HFL 121

**You're invited to participate in a freewill offering for the benevolence ministry of the Bond County Ministerial Alliance by placing your donations in the baskets at the rear doors as you exit the sanctuary.**

**(Please make out any checks to the Bond County Ministerial Alliance.)**