

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS DECEMBER 24, 2019

Welcome

*Unison Call to Worship

Every year is the same
a journey to Bethlehem, riding a donkey
no room at the inn, a stable, a manger
the birth of a male child
angels on high, shepherds in the fields
every year is the same
and yet, every year is different
in the cave of our hearts
in the fabric of our lives
in the soul of our earth
you continue, O God, to be born!
Advent means coming
Come, Lord Jesus.

Lighting the Christ Candle the Smith Family

Congregation (*still standing*):

***“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.”***

Reader: We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ. As the Lord has promised, in days to come...

(The candle is lit.)

Reader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

All: Let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

Congregation (seated):

***“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.”***

Opening Prayer

*Carol # 113 *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Lesson 1: Christ’s Birth Foretold Isaiah 9:2,6

Carol # 82 *“Come, Thou Long-expected Jesus”*

Lesson 2: The Peaceful Kingdom Isaiah 11:1,2,6

Carol # 128 (vs. 1 & 2) *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

Lesson 3: Gabriel’s Visit Luke 1:26-38

Carol # 98 (vs. 1 & 6) *“To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary”*

Lesson 4: Good News to Two Women Luke 1:39-45

*Carol # 99 *“My Soul Gives Glory to My God”*

Lesson 5: Joseph’s Dream Matthew 1:18-25

Carol # 110 (vs. 1 & 2) *“Love Has Come”*

Lesson 6: Journey to Bethlehem Luke 2:1-5

Carol # 121 *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

Lesson 7: The Birth of Jesus Luke 2:6-29

Carols (see insert)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of love, you come to us in the smile of a baby, who had only a manger for a bed. We see you in the joyful play of children. We hear you in the retelling of the stories of Mary, Joseph and the baby, and the community of believers who followed them. We feel your awesome presence as we sing carols, walk through the stillness of winter snow, and experience the smells of love in the baking of special Christmas confections. (over)

