

# COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS DECEMBER 24, 2020

**PRELUDE**

*"Gentle Mary"*

Daniel Gawthrope

**OPENING READING:** John 1:1-5

**CALL TO WORSHIP/ADVENT WREATH LIGHTING:**

**We have watched, we have waited,**

**...in hope;**

**...in peace;**

**...in joy;**

**...in love.**

**Now our redemption draws near. Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!  
Amen!**

**OPENING HYMN # 133** (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;**

**O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!**

**Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

*Refrain:*

**O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**True God from true God, Light from light eternal,  
born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created! [Refrain]**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!**

*[Refrain]*

FIRST LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
"Unto us a Child is Born"

SOLO "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Christian Zembower

SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-6  
"The Branch from Jesse"

CAROL # 129 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

**Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.**

**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 for us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.**

**This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.  
Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death he saves us  
and lightens every load.**

THIRD LESSON: Luke 1:26-38  
"The Birth of Jesus Foretold"

CAROL #112 (vs 1, 2 & 4) "On Christmas Night All Christians Sing"

**On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;  
on Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,  
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.**

**Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;  
then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,  
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?**

**All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;  
all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:  
"Glory to God in highest heaven; peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!"**

FOURTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7  
"The Birth of Jesus"

CAROL # 121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

**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.**

**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 all on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
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.**

**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!**

**FIFTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-20**

*“The Shepherds and Angels”*

**CAROL # 119 (vs. 1 & 3)**

*“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*

**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 the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”**

*Refrain:*

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”  
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. [Refrain]**

**SOLO**

*“O Holy Night”*

Christian Zembower

**SIXTH LESSON: John 1:1-14**

*“In the Beginning Was the Word”*

**CLOSING HYMN # 122**

*“Silent Night”*

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
'round yon virgin mother and child!  
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing “Alleluia:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!”**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

## **BENEDICTION**

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### **TODAY AT COVENANT:**

Organ/piano:	Jessica Siple, Music Director
Euphonium:	Christian Zembower
Tenor Soloist:	Austin Bird

Serving this evening as liturgists are David Wood, Gwen Hunter, Hal Hunter, Frankie Wolff, Mary O'Keeffe, Don Coble, Pat Smith, and Kathi Cary.

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**Covenant**

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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