

**December 27, 2020 - 9am only**  
**Service of Lessons and Carols**

**Welcome**

A. Thank you for coming to worship with us this first Sunday after Christmas. Our service today is a traditional service of Lessons and Carols. O Come, let us worship the Babe in the Manger...the Bright Star of Bethlehem.

**Song “*Silent Night*” v1**

*Silent Night, Holy night, all is calm all is bright.*  
*Round yon virgin mother child, Holy Infant, so tender and mild.*  
*Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

**Opening Prayer**

A. God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, let us share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

A. The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

**The First Lesson: Genesis 3:1-19**

*Adam and Eve rebel against God*

The serpent was more clever than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. The serpent said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden?’” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. But God did say, ‘You must not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.’” “You will certainly not die,” the serpent said to the woman. “God knows that when you eat fruit from that tree, you will know things you have never known before. Like God, you will be able to tell the difference between good and evil.” The woman saw that the tree’s fruit was good to eat and pleasing to look at. She also saw that it would make a person wise. So she took some of the fruit and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her. And he ate it. Then both of them knew things they had never known before. They realized they were naked. So they sewed together fig leaves and made clothes for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the LORD God walking in the garden. It was during the coolest time of the day. They hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called out to the man. “Where are you?” he asked. “I heard you in the garden,” the man answered. “I was afraid, because I was naked. So I hid.”

The LORD God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten fruit from the tree I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "It's the fault of the woman you put here with me. She gave me some fruit from the tree. And I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What have you done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me. That's why I ate the fruit." So the LORD God spoke to the serpent. He said, "Because you have done this, 'You are set apart from all livestock and all wild animals. I am putting a curse on you. You will crawl on your belly. You will eat dust all the days of your life. I will make you and the woman hate each other. Your children and her children will be enemies. Her son will crush your head. And you will bite his heel.'" The LORD God said to the woman, "I will increase your pain when you give birth. You will be in great pain when you have children. You will long for your husband. And he will rule over you." The LORD God said to Adam, "You listened to your wife's suggestion. You ate fruit from the tree I warned you about. I said, 'You must not eat its fruit.' "So I am putting a curse on the ground because of what you did. All the days of your life you will have to work hard. It will be painful for you to get food from the ground. You will eat plants from the field, even though the ground produces thorns and prickly weeds. You will have to work hard and sweat a lot to produce the food you eat. You were made out of the ground. You will return to it when you die. You are dust, and you will return to dust."

### **Song "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella" ...Sally Poquette**

#### **The Second Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*Christ's birth and role of peace and justice are foretold by Isaiah*

The people who are now living in darkness will see a great light. They are now living in a very dark land. But a light will shine on them. LORD, you will make our nation larger. You will increase their joy. They will show you how glad they are. They will be as glad as people are at harvest time. They will be as glad as warriors are when they share the things they've taken after a battle. You set Israel free from Midian long ago. In the same way, you will break the heavy yoke that weighs Israel down. You will break the wooden beams that are on their shoulders.

You will break the rods of those who strike them down. Every fighting man's boot that he wore in battle will be burned up. So will every piece of clothing covered with blood. All of them will be thrown into the fire. A child will be born to us. A son will be given to us. He will rule over us. And he will be called Wonderful Adviser and Mighty God. He will also be called Father Who Lives Forever and Prince Who Brings Peace. There will be no limit to how great his authority is. The peace he brings will never end. He will rule on David's throne and over his kingdom. He will make the kingdom strong and secure. His rule will be based on what is fair and right. It will last forever. The LORD's great love will make sure that happens. He rules over all.

### **Song "Go Tell it on the Mountain" v1**

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching over silent flocks by night,  
behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!*

### **The Third Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9**

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown*

Jesse's family is like a tree that has been cut down. A new little tree will grow from its stump. From its roots a Branch will grow and produce fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on that Branch. The Spirit will help him to be wise and understanding. The Spirit will help him make wise plans and carry them out. The Spirit will help him know the LORD and have respect for him. The Branch will take delight in respecting the LORD. He will not judge things only by the way they look. He won't make decisions based simply on what people say. He will always do what is right when he judges those who are in need. He'll be completely fair when he makes decisions about poor people. When he commands that people be punished, it will happen. When he orders that evil people be put to death, it will take place. He will put on godliness as if it were his belt. He'll wear faithfulness around his waist. Wolves will live with lambs. Leopards will lie down with goats. Calves and lions will eat together. And little children will lead them around. Cows will eat with bears. Their little ones will lie down together. And lions will eat straw like oxen. A baby will play near a hole where cobras live. A young child will put its hand into a nest where poisonous snakes live. None of those animals will harm or destroy anything or anyone on my holy mountain of Zion. The oceans are full of water. In the same way, the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the LORD.

### **Song "Christmas Alleluia" v4**

*A star shown bright up in the east  
To Bethlehem, the Wise Men three  
Came many miles and journeyed long for You  
And to the place at which You were  
Their frankincense and gold and myrrh  
They gave to You and cried out Hallelujah  
Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah*

### **The Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-4**

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem. The LORD says, "Bethlehem Ephrathah, you might not be an important town in the nation of Judah. But out of you will come for me a ruler over Israel. His family line goes back to the early years of your nation. It goes all the way back to days of long ago." The LORD will hand over his people to their enemies. That will last until the pregnant woman bears her promised son. Then the rest of his relatives in Judah will return to their land. That promised son will stand firm and be a shepherd for his flock. The LORD will give him the strength to do it. The LORD his God will give him the authority to rule. His people will live safely. His greatness will reach from one end of the earth to the other.

### **Song "We Three Kings" v1-3**

*We three kings of orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again;  
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God Most High.  
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

### **The Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7**

#### **Jesus Is Born**

In those days, Caesar Augustus made a law. It required that a list be made of everyone in the whole Roman world. It was the first time a list was made of the people while Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone went to their own town to be listed. So Joseph went also. He went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea. That is where Bethlehem, the town of David, was. Joseph went there because he belonged to the family line of David. He went there with Mary to be listed. Mary was engaged to him. She was expecting a baby. While Joseph and Mary were there, the time came for the child to be born. She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.

#### **Song "What Child Is This?" v1**

*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.*

### **The Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:8-20**

#### **The shepherds go to Bethlehem**

There were shepherds living out in the fields nearby. It was night, and they were taking care of their sheep. An angel of the Lord appeared to them. And the glory of the Lord shone around them. They were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news. It will bring great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you. He is the Messiah, the Lord. Here is how you will know I am telling you the truth. You will find a baby wrapped in strips of cloth and lying in a manger." Suddenly a large group of angels from heaven also appeared. They were praising God. They said, "May glory be given to God in the highest heaven!

And may peace be given to those he is pleased with on earth!" The angels left and went into heaven. Then the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem. Let's see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby. The baby was lying in the manger. After the shepherds had seen him, they told everyone. They reported what the angel had said about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary kept all these things like a secret treasure in her heart. She thought about them over and over. The shepherds returned. They gave glory and praise to God. Everything they had seen and heard was just as they had been told.

**Song: “Hark the Herald”v1**

*Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born king;  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”  
Joyful, all you nations rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new born king!”*

**The Seventh Lesson: John 1:1-14**

*The Word became flesh*

In the beginning, the Word was already there. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. All things were made through him. Nothing that has been made was made without him. Life was in him, and that life was the light for all people. The light shines in the darkness. But the darkness has not overcome the light. There was a man sent from God. His name was John. He came to be a witness about that light. He was a witness so that all people might believe. John himself was not the light. He came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. The Word was in the world. And the world was made through him. But the world did not recognize him. He came to what was his own. But his own people did not accept him. Some people did accept him and did believe in his name. He gave them the right to become children of God. To be a child of God has nothing to do with human parents. Children of God are not born because of human choice or because a husband wants them to be born. They are born because of what God does. The Word became a human being. He made his home with us. We have seen his glory. It is the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father. And the Word was full of grace and truth.

**Children’s Message**

**The Apostle’s Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I Believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; He descended to the dead. On the third day He rose again; He ascended into heaven, He is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

**Song: “O Come All Ye Faithful” v1**

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

## Prayers of the People

A: Drawn near to God as children and heirs of Christ's promise, we pray for all people of God, for our nation and our world, and for those in need. [*A brief silence.*]

A: For those in our Community of Faith: Bishop Beaudoin and staff, Bishop Eaton and staff, Memorial Church Staff, Student Katie Leslie, Intern Rebecca West-Estell, Monroe Corridor Parish, Hope Learning Academy teachers and families and all teachers and students in all schools, and for faith communities throughout the world. Help us to see ourselves in our neighbors, especially those who differ from us, and draw us together in common service to those who are hungry, poor, and oppressed. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: For the well-being of the earth as we begin another year entrusted with its care. Give us lively imaginations to see ways to conserve its limited resources, harness its renewable energies, and conform ourselves to its natural goodness. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: For peace among nations, for peace in our homes, and for peace in our hearts. Urge us to cry out at injustice and inequality among your people until vindication comes and righteousness prevails. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: For our military personnel: Ryan Woods, Henry Kozak, Dustin Pawloski, and Reid Leslie; guard their lives and keep them safe, Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: For our **homebound**: Dotty Sauer, Claudia Sauer, Bob Rank, Kathy Schoembs, Sam Schlegel, Phyllis Ballas, Joanne Hummel, Doris Buchholz (hospice care), Pat Reiber; and those who are in need of **healing**: Ronald Dotson, Eli Loga, Dick Zaborski, Chris Witzel, Kathy Schaefer, Jess Weber (great grandson of Judy & Ken Schwieder), Ken Schwieder, Afaf Barakat, Brenda Facey, Cindy Bunch, Katie Maly, Sheila MacKay Davidson, Marcene Jackson, Leslie Bean, Don Gurwell, Diane Swartz, Dave Gilbert, Char Bachmayer, Diane Denhof, Fred Schaefer, Michael Curtis, and all suffering with Covid 19; Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: For those grieving the loss of friends and family; especially the families of John Vance, Oscar Bunch, Walt Carlson (Sandy Goodnough's brother), Marie Wenzlick (Teresa Loga's aunt), Mary Elwer (Teresa Loga's great aunt). Only you can turn the shadow of death into daybreak. Keep us in union with all your saints, and bring us with them to the joyous feast of heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Lord, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Into your outstretched arms, O God, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Jesus Christ, the light and life of the world. **C: Amen.**

## The Blessing

A: May the Christmas Babe in the manger inspire you to live a life of love as you are loved. Bless you in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Song: "Joy to the World" v1**

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;  
let ev'ry 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.*

A. Go in peace. **C. Share the good news!**

<b>Musicians:</b>	<b>Mandy Fisher, Amy Horst</b>
<b>Assistant:</b>	<b>Amy Horst</b>
<b>Reader:</b>	<b>Amy Hoffman</b>
<b>Children's Message:</b>	<b>Sue Peters</b>