

Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
... a welcoming community.

Lessons & Carols

The title 'Lessons & Carols' is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. The word 'Lessons' is on the top line, and '& Carols' is on the bottom line. A musical staff with several notes is integrated into the design, passing through the ampersand and the 'C' of 'Carols'.

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO OUR GUESTS:

We extend a warm welcome from Bethel Presbyterian Church!

We invite you to participate in signing the Friendship Folders adding your name and address and if you desire a church newsletter or a pastoral call.

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we say "sins...sin against us"
rather than "debts..." or "trespasses..."

Prayer requests can be noted on the cards provided in the pew racks
and placed in the offering plate.

**The Service for the Lord's Day
Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 25, 2022 - 11:00 AM**

** Indicates congregation standing if able.
Congregational responses indicated in bold.*

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Chiming of the Hour

Welcome and Announcements

Please sign the Friendship Pad found in your pew, passing it down the pew then back.

The tradition of the Lessons & Carols service goes back to 19th century England. This special service proclaims the Word not through a sermon but through nine 'lessons,' or scripture readings, and nine accompanying carols. Today's service honors the structure of this traditional service while incorporating different scripture readings and carols to tell the Christmas story.

Lighting of the Candles

Throughout this season we have lived, waited, and remembered
the hope, peace, joy, and love of God found in Christ.

Today we gather together and light candles in honor of the Christ Child.

With the birth of Christ, salvation has drawn near.

The God who ordered the chaos of the universe
has come down into the chaos of our world.

The Word which was with God at the beginning
came down and lived with us.

While we were yet living in the valley of the shadow of death,
the light of new life burst forth.

We light this candle for Christ (*Light #5*)

On this day we remember God has come in the Christ Child.

(Light #1) We remember to look hopefully for the coming of Christ.

(Light #2) We remember the Lord of All who brings peace
surpassing all understanding.

(Light #3) We remember the Spirit who breathes joy into our lives.

(Light #4) We remember God is Love.

Prayer

All glory to you, great God, for the gift of your Son,
whom you sent to save us.

With singing angels, let us praise your name, and tell the earth his story,
that all may believe, rejoice, and bow down, acknowledging your love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Call to Worship (*L = Leader, P = People*)

L: In days to come, the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills.

P: all the nations shall stream to it.

L: Many peoples shall come and say,

**P: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."**

L: For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

**P: He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;**

L: they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;

**P: nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war anymore.**

L: O house of Jacob, come,

P: let us walk in the light of the Lord!

Carol No. 133	“O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL” <i>(Verses 1 & 3)</i>	ADEST FIDELES
First Lesson	Isaiah 11:1-10	
Carol No. 123	“IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR” <i>(Verses 1 & 5)</i>	CAROL
Second Lesson	Isaiah 35:1-10	
Carol No. 134	“JOY TO THE WORLD” <i>(Verses 1 & 4)</i>	ANTIOCH
Third Lesson	Matthew 1:1-17	
Carol No. 129	“LO, HOW A ROSE E’ER BLOOMING” <i>(Verses 1 & 2)</i>	ES IST EIN’ ROS’
Fourth Lesson	Luke 1:26-38	
Carol No. 119	“HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING” <i>(Verses 1 & 2)</i>	MENDELSSOHN
Fifth Lesson	Matthew 1:18-25	
Carol No. 88	“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL” <i>(Verses 1 & 7)</i>	VENI EMMANUEL
Sixth Lesson	Luke 1:39-58	
Carol No. 100	“CANTICLE OF THE TURNING” STAR OF THE COUNTRY DOWN <i>(Verses 1 & 4)</i>	

Call to Offering

For generations and generations, it has been a Christian tradition to give gifts on Christmas. Children give homemade cards, parents and friends give presents wrapped in brightly-colored paper and bows. We do this in remembrance of the Magi who gave gifts when Jesus arrived. But we also do this because we love one another, and when you love someone, it feels good to give. So just as we give gifts to one another on Christmas morning, let us also turn that same love toward God. Let us be generous with our time, talents, and treasures, because when we love someone, it feels good to give.

Offertory

* Hymn No. 606 **“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”** OLD 100TH

*Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow;
praise him, all crea-tures here be-low;
praise him a-bove, ye heaven-ly host;
praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost. A-men.*

* Prayer of Dedication

God of love, we give you thanks for your son, Emmanuel,
whom you sent to dwell with us.

Bless these gifts that have been given,

that they may help us to share the Good News of your son with others.

Bless all of us here,

that we may live as those ever mindful that God dwells with us. Amen.

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

Carol No. 121

“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”

ST. LOUIS

(Verses 1 & 3)

Eighth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

Carol No. 113

“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

GLORIA

(Verse 1)

Ninth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

Carol No. 147

“THE FIRST NOWELL”
(Verses 1 & 3)

THE FIRST NOWELL

* Charge and Blessing

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that
from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation, God has been by our side.
From generation to generation, we are not alone.
The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name,
loves you, and calls you forth,
saying, “Go be the person you are called to be,
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon.”
May it be so. Amen.

* Benediction Response No. 136 “GO, TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN”
(Verse 3)

***Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;
go, tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born!***

***Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,
and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.***

***Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;
go, tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born!***

* Postlude

Liturgy by Rev. Anna Strickland
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