

Bethel Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

~ a community of faith coming together,
for fellowship, study and service . . .
seeking God's peace, justice and love ~

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 26, 2021 - 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.

* Opening Hymn No. 133 "O Come, All Ye Faithful"
(Verses 1 & 4)

ADESTE FIDELES

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.

Wreath Lighting Song *(Sung to tune Hymn No. 146 "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child)*

***Shine, Christ Can-dle! Beam your flame to a world be-night-ed;
Shine, the Good News to pro-claim that all earth's in-vi-ted
To re-ceive the Ho-ly One, Born, like us, true hu-man,
Yet Mes-si-ah, God's own Son, who for us sal-va-tion's won!***

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.

Opening Sentences *(L = Leader, P = People)*

(Psalm 96)

L: Sing to the Lord a new song;

P: sing to the Lord, all the earth!

L: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

P: tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

L: Declare God's glory among the nations,

God's marvelous works among all the peoples.

P: For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised.

L: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice.

**P: Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
the world, and those who live in it.**

L: Let the whole creation sing for joy
at the presence of God, who is coming.

**P: God is coming indeed, to judge the earth with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity and truth. Praise the Lord!**

Carol

"O SING A SONG OF BETHLEHEM"

Choir

First Lesson Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 Adam Badger
Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation

Carol No. 121 **“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”** ST. LOUIS
(Verses 1 & 4)

Second Lesson Genesis 22:15-18 Bonnie Phillips
God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed

Carol No. 88 **“O COME, O COME EMMANUEL”** VENI EMMANUEL
(Verses 1 & 7)

Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Celia Simon
The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah

Carol No. 123 **“IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR”** CAROL
(Verses 1 & 5)

Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 Cyndi Fowler
The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation

Carol No. 129 **“LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING”** ES IST EIN' ROS'
(Verses 1 & 2)

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38 Dan Hyder
An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child

Carol No. 127 **“HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING”** MENDELSSOHN
(Verses 1 & 4)

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-7 Gary Lemasters
Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child

Call to Offering

With grateful hearts, let us offer ourselves and our gifts to God,
in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Offertory

“O MAGNUM MYSTERIUM”

by Morten Lauridsen

Rebecca Price, solo

Translation: *O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord, lying in their manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!*

* 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**_[AA1]

Loving God: we give you thanks for Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh.
Receive the gifts we offer in union with Christ’s gift for us.
Clothe us with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience,
that we may be Christ for others. In his name we pray. Amen.

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-16

Kathy Banker

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah

Carol No. 113

“ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH”

GLORIA

(Verses 1 & 3)

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

Ken Dungan

Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus

Carol No. 151

“WE THREE KINGS OF ORIENT ARE”

J. H. Hopkins, Jr. 1857

(Verses 1 & 5)

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-14

Mike McElhinney

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth

Special Music

“O HOLY NIGHT”

ADOLPHE ADAM

Dianne Griffith, solo

Prayers of the People

*(With the words "God of light",
you are invited to respond "hear our prayer.")*

God's light shines on us so that we may be light to the world.
Let our prayers be such a light of hope.

God of light, **hear our prayers.**

We kindle a prayer for your church ...

Speak to us so that we may be messengers of the great news of your love,
like the angels to the shepherds and the shepherds to Mary,
that our lives would proclaim your wisdom
and that our words would become treasure to the lost.

God of light, **hear our prayers.**

We kindle a prayer for your world ...

This world you love so much you took up skin to live in it.
May every place and every heart invite you in joyfully
and become your dwelling place.

May our city halls and courthouses make accommodation
for your grace and justice.

God of light, **hear our prayers.**

We kindle a prayer for our neighborhoods ...

That we would welcome strangers and immigrants
knowing we are hosting Joseph and Mary,
that the rooms we offer to refugees will be places of your birth.

God of light, **hear our prayers.**

Take these little lights of prayers and make them brighter.
Help us not to fear the light of truth but to love the light.
Help us to be the light of salvation dispelling darkness
and casting our fears. 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 sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

* Closing Hymn No. 134 **“JOY TO THE WORLD”**
(Verses 1 & 4)

ANTIOCH

* Charge & Blessing

Whatever you do, in word or deed,
do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus,
giving thanks to God through him.

May the Christ inhabit you, the Father uphold you,
and the Spirit sustain you, now and forever.

* Postlude