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Sunday, December 26, 2021
Online Service of Lesson & Carols

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Beloved in Christ,
this Christmas Season it is our duty and delight
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which is come to pass,
and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture
the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin
until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child;
and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people;
for peace upon the earth he came to save;
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember
the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;
the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved;
the aged and the little children;
and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not,
or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven,
in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

Opening Hymn – Once in Royal David's City (*UMH 250*)

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

The almighty God bless us with divine grace,
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life,
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Carol – Of the Father's Love Begotten (UMH 184)

First Lesson – Genesis 3:8 –15, 17–19 – Rosemary Jacobs

*God announces in the Garden of Eden
Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion
and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Carol – Come, Thou Long–Expected Jesus (UMH 196)

Second Lesson – Genesis 22:15 –18 – Matthew McKinley

*God promises to Abraham that by his descendants
all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.*

Carol -- O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (UMH 211, stanzas 1-2)

Third Lesson – Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 – Nanci Smith

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

Carol -- Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (UMH 216)

Fourth Lesson – Micah 5:2 –5a – Jamie Brettman

*The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor
and peace for all of God's creation.*

Carol – O Little Town of Bethlehem (UMH 230)

Fifth Lesson – Luke 1:26 –35, 38; Luke 2: 1-16 – Roy & Donna Ramsey

*The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that
she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.
Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem where Jesus is born.
The angels appear to shepherds and send them to see the
Savior of the world, lying in a manger.*

Carol – The First Noel (UMH 245)

Sixth Lesson -- Matthew 2:1 –11 – Dave Landis

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Carol – We Three Kings (UMH 254)

Seventh Lesson – John 1:1 –14 – Aaron Brown

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Choral Anthem – “One Small Child” by David Meece, Arr. Benjamin Harlan

Closing Prayer

Benediction

May the Christ who by his Incarnation
gathered into One things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Go forth in peace and joy.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!



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