

Wesley United Methodist Church

10:00 AM Sunday Worship

December 29, 2024

First Sunday after Christmas Day/Christmas Lessons and Carols

At Wesley we foster a sanctuary culture by creating a safe environment where all feel welcomed, loved, accepted, valued, and affirmed for who they are, through intentional practices such as empathy, compassion, generosity, hospitality, and inclusion.

Please let an usher know if you have questions, need assistance, or have a concern about health or safety.

Prelude

Two Christmas Preludes of Peter Pindar Stearns 1931-2016

Away In a Manger

Lo, How a Rose e'er Blooming

Greeting

*Call to Worship

One: Christ is born; give him glory!

**Many: Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!
Christ is now on earth; exalt him!**

One: O you earth, sing to the Christ!

Many: O you nations, praise him in joy, for he has been glorified!

*Hymn

"Joy to the World"

UMH 246

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

*Praise Songs

Osee Praise

Halleluyah, Halleluyah, Praise the almighty God!

He is worthy of our praise! Oh...

He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...

He is worthy of our praise! Halleluyah!

***Please stand in body or in spirit.**

Osee Yee Praise Him Halleluyah!...
He is worthy of our praise! Oh...
He is worthy of our praise! Oh Praise God...

Joy Like A River

Joy like a river in my soul...

Litany for Christmas

One: All the ends of the earth
have seen the salvation of our God. Alleluia!

Many: Shout to the Lord, all the earth. Alleluia!

One: O Christ, splendor of God's eternal glory,
the mighty Word, sustaining the universe:
Renew our lives by your presence.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, born into the world in the fullness of time
for the liberation of all creation:
Release all into your promised freedom.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, begotten of the Father before all time,
born in a stable at Bethlehem:
May your church be a sign of hope and joy.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, truly God and truly human,
born to a people in fulfillment of their expectations:
Fulfill our desires in you.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

One: O Christ, born of the Virgin Mary,
child of wonder and splendor,
mighty God of all ages, Prince of Peace:
May the whole world live in peace and justice.

Many: Lord, have mercy.

[After a moment of silent prayer, all pray the following prayer in unison.]

**All powerful and unseen God,
the coming of your light into our world
has brightened weary hearts with peace.
Teach us to proclaim the birth of your Son Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Children's Time

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| First Lesson | Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 | Gifty Bentum-Asante |
| Hymn | “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” | UMH 216 (Stz 1 & 2) |
| | <p>Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as those of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.</p> <p>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 to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.</p> | |
| Second Lesson | Titus 2:11-14 | Linda D’Acri |
| Hymn | “Love Came Down at Christmas” | UMH 242 |
| | <p>Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas; star and angels gave the sign.</p> <p>Worship we the God-head, Love incarnate, Love divine; worship we our Jesus, but where-with for sacred sign?</p> <p>Love shall be our token; love be yours and love be mine; love to God and neighbor, love for plea and gift and sign.</p> | |
| The Offering | | |
| Offertory | Bronya Aba – Christmas Is Here | E. C. Bilson, Snr. |
| | <p>Christmas is here and we have made it through another year. Our good Lord, we thank you. Help us through this new year. Give us fruitful jobs. Christmas is here and we have made it through another year. Our Savior, we thank you.</p> | |
| *Doxology | <p>Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below. Praise God above, ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.</p> | |
| *Prayer of Dedication | | |
| *Passing of Peace | “Shalom” | Mensah Essilfie |
| | <p>God’s peace be unto you, We wish you Shalom! The peace of God which transcends all understanding be with you forevermore.</p> | |

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| Third Lesson | Matthew 1:18-25 | Gary Robinson |
| Hymn | Away in a Manger | UMH 217 (Stz 1 & 3) |
| <p>Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.</p> <p>Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.</p> | | |

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| Fourth Lesson | Luke 2:8-16 | Ellen Orofino |
| Solo | Cover Him, Joseph | Gilbert Martin b. 1941 Paul LaBelle, baritone |
| <p>Cover Him, Joseph, the evening is cold, Night mists have fallen, the day has grown old; Tired the people who toss in their sleep, Weary the shepherds still watching their sheep, Tender the mother, gracious and mild, God in his mercy has given this child.</p> <p>Cover Him, Joseph, he's still a wee boy, Hope binds us daily in heavenly joy; Far in the future some dark days may loom, Strengthen his life for the moments of gloom, Gentle the mother, gracious and fair, God in his mercy will answer her prayer.</p> | | |

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| Fifth Lesson | Matthew 2:1-11 | Debbie O'Driscoll |
| Hymn | "Angels We Have Heard on High" | UMH 238 (Stz 1 & 3) |
| <p>Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</p> <p>Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!</p> | | |

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| Sixth Lesson | Luke 2:25-38 | Naa Dromo Aryee |
| Hymn | "Star-Child" | TFWS 2095 (Stz 1, 3, 5) |
| <p>Star-Child, earth-Child, go-between of God, love Child, Christ Child, heaven's lighting rod, This year, this year, let the day arrive when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!</p> | | |

Grown child, old child, memory full of years,
sad child, lost child, story told in tears,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Hope-for-peace Child, God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child, Star of stars that shine,
This year, this year, let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone, everyone alive!

Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

Byungmoo Lee

Hymn

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"

UMH 184

Of the Father's begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he
of the things that are, that have been and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore.

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:
honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore. Amen.

Announcement

Collect (unison)

**Eternal God,
by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world.
Grant that, being born in our hearts,
he may save us from all our sins,
and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,
to whom be everlasting praise and glory,
world without end. Amen.**

*Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

UMH 251

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.
While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold throughout the heavens there shown a holy light.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

The shepherds feared and trembled, when lo! above the earth,
rang out the angel chorus that hailed the Savior's birth.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;
go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

*Dismissal with Blessing

Pastor: God forth in peace and joy.

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

Postlude

Joy to the World

Craig Phillips b. 1961

Worship Leaders: Naa Dromo Aryee, Gifty Bentum-Asante, Desmond Cheetham, Linda D'Acri,
David Dagle, Chris Kerns, Paul LaBelle, Byungmoo Lee, William Ness, Debbie O'Driscoll, Ellen Orofino,
Jennifer Quansah, Gary Robinson, Ghanaian Choir, Worship Tech Team

Call to Worship – *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 275.

Litany for Christmas – *Book of Common Worship*, Westminster/John Knox Press, 1993, p. 179.

Collect – *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 231.

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