



FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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# *LESSONS AND CAROLS*

# *CANDLELIGHT SERVICE*

December 24 2024

*(\* The congregation will please stand as able  
(BOLD-FACED TYPE) Congregation responds*

## THE CHURCH GATHERS

*SILENT PRAYER AND TIME FOR CENTERING*

**PROCESSION OF CHRIST CANDLE**

*Accompanied by Flute Trio*

**PRELUDE**     I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day

**Arr. For Handbells by Linda R. Lamb**

*Music: Jean Batiste Calkin Public Domain, arr. for Handbells Linda R. Lamb © 2016 Sound Forth, A division of the Lorenz Corp. 750 Old Hickory Blvd. Suite 2-202 Brentwood TN 37027, recorded with permission under [OneLicense.net](https://www.onelicense.net) # A-711296.*

## \*LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

Rice Family

Beloved, today we welcome the Christ Child,  
the fulfillment of our joy,  
as we proclaim with the prophet Isaiah,  
*“For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace”* (Isaiah 9:6).

**Christ our joy has come near.**

**Emmanuel, God with us,**

**has come to dwell with us as a tiny baby.**

*“His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.*

*He will establish and uphold it with justice  
and with righteousness*

*from this time onward and forevermore.*

*The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this”* (Isaiah 9:7).

We light this candle as a sign of Christ coming to dwell with us,  
to live in the neighborhood of vulnerable humanity  
as a vulnerable child.

May the light of Christ

warm our hearts and light our way

as we share the joy of God’s salvation wherever we go.

\***CAROL No. 234** (Verses 1, 2, 3 & 6)

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*Adeste Fidelis*

G Major:G D/F# D G D G C G/D D Em

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,  
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; O  
 4. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,

5 D A D G/B D/F# G D/A A7 D

come ye, O come ye, to Beth - le - hem.  
 lo, he shuns not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!  
 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;

9 G/B Am G Am G D/F# G Em Am/C D

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed;  
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;  
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

NC 13 G D/F# G D7/A G D/F# G

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O

17 Am G D/F# A7/E D7 G/B C G/D D7 G

come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

5. Child, for us sinners  
 poor and in the manger,  
 we would embrace thee  
 with love and awe.  
 Who would not love thee,  
 loving us so dearly?  
*Refrain*

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 born this happy morning,  
 Jesus, to thee be  
 all glory given.  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing:  
*Refrain*

Latin: *Adeste, fideles,  
 laeti triumphantes;  
 venite, venite in Bethlehem.  
 Natum videte  
 Regem angelorum.  
 Venite adoremus, venite adoremus,  
 venite adoremus, Dominum.*

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*The Congregation may sit.*

**LESSON**

Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

Henry Walford

The reign of the prince of peace and justice

# CAROL NO. 221 (Verses 1 & 2)

## In the Bleak Midwinter

CRANHAM

1 In the bleak mid-winter, frost-y wind made moan,  
2 Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus-tain;  
3 An-gels and arch-an-gels may have gath-ered there,  
4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i-ron, wa-ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a-way when he comes to reign:  
cher-u-bim and ser-a-phim thronged the air;  
If I were a shep-herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall-en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid-win-ter a sta-ble-place suf-ficed  
but his moth-er on-ly, in her maid-en bliss,  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid-win-ter, long a-go.  
the Lord God in-car-nate, Je-sus Christ.  
wor-shipped the Be-lov-ed with a kiss.  
yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

WORDS: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)  
MUSIC: Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

CRANHAM  
Irregular

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LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Mary Rosic

## The Annunciation

# CAROL NO. 216 (Verses 1 & 3)

## Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROSE

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!  
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,  
\*3 O Flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.  
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.  
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the  
To show God's love a - right, she bore to  
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.  
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Words: St. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). st. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859);  
tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*  
Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599;  
harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

76. 76. 676

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LESSON

Matthew 1:18-23

John Brown

An Angel speaks to Joseph in a dream

## CAROL NO. 230 (VERSES 1 & 2)

### O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry, And gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is giv'n!
4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;



1. A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
2. While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
3. So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
4. Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.



1. Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light:
2. O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3. No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin,
4. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



1. The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
2. And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth.
3. Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
4. O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Text: 86 86 76 86; Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

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LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Emily Southard

A child is born, who shall have authority

Deep in the cold of winter  
darkness and silence were everywhere  
softly and clearly, there came through the stillness  
a wonderful sound to hear

Chorus

*All bells in paradise, I heard them ring  
sounding in majesty the news that they bring  
all bells in paradise, I heard them ring  
welcoming our Savior, born on earth, a heavenly King  
all bells in paradise, I heard them ring  
Glory to God on high the angel voices sing*

Lost in awe and wonder  
doubting, I asked what this sign might be  
Christ our Messiah revealed in a stable  
a marvelous sight, a marvelous sight to see

Chorus

He comes down in peace, a child in humility  
the keys to his kingdom belong to the poor  
before him shall kneel the kings with their treasures  
gold incense and myrrh, gold incense and myrrh

Chorus

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**LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7

Michelle Parker

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus



# CAROL NO. 217 (Verse 1 & 2)

## Away in a Manger

## AWAY IN A MANGER



1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
2. The cat - tle are low - ing; the ba - by a - wakes,  
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask you to stay



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
But lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.  
Close by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love you, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in your ten - der care,



The lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.  
And fit us for heav - en, to live with you there.

Text: Sts. 1, 2, anonymous; st. 3, John T. McFarland, 1851–1913  
Tune: CRADLE SONG, 11 11 11 11; William J. Kirkpatrick, 1838–1921

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**LESSON**

**Luke 2:8-20**

**Alex Wilderman**

**The shepherds go to the manger**

**It Came Upon A Midnight Clear**

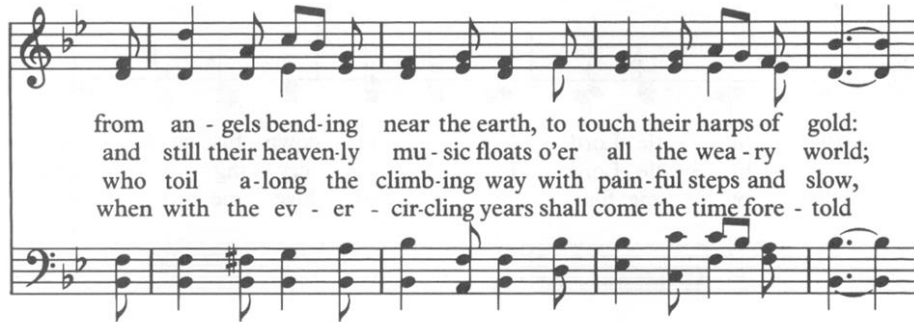
218 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



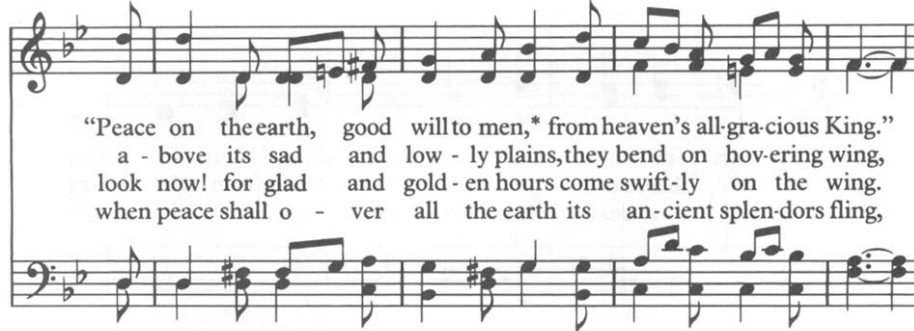
1. It came up-on the mid-night clear, that glo-rious song of old,  
2. Still through the clo- ven skies they come with peace-ful wings un-furled,  
3. And ye, be-neath life's crush-ing load, whose forms are bend-ing low,  
4. For lo! the days are has-tening on, by proph-et seen of old,



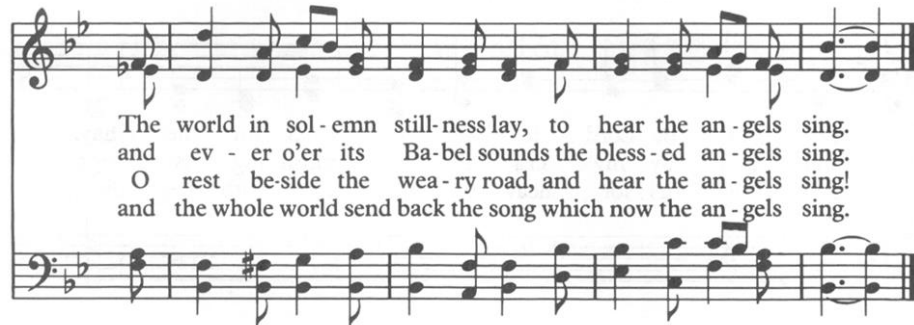
from an - gels bend-ing near the earth, to touch their harps of gold:  
and still their heaven-ly mu- sic floats o'er all the wea- ry world;  
who toil a-long the climb-ing way with pain-ful steps and slow,  
when with the ev - er - cir-cling years shall come the time fore - told



“Peace on the earth, good will to men,\* from heaven’s all-gra-cious King.”  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains, they bend on hov-ering wing,  
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift-ly on the wing.  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an-cient splen-dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still-ness lay, to hear the an - gels sing.  
and ev - er o'er its Ba-bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
O rest be-side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!  
and the whole world send back the song which now the an - gels sing.



*\*\*all\* may be substituted*

WORDS: Edmund H. Sears, 1849 (Lk. 2:8-14)  
MUSIC: Richard Storrs Willis, 1850

CAROL  
CMD

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**LESSON**            John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16, 17            Donna Downes  
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

# Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing: "Glo - ry to the  
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -  
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



1. new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,  
2. last - ing Lord; Late in time, be - hold him come,  
3. Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



1. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye  
2. Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the  
3. Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



1. na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies; With an -  
2. God - head see! Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty! Pleased as  
3. glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die, Born to



1. gel - ic hosts pro - claim: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
2. man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
3. raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

Text: 77 77 D with refrain; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1831–1915.

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THE CHURCH RESPONDS TO THE WORD OF GOD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER

**LORDS PRAYER (Pg. 895 UMH)**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.**

**Thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done in 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.**

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PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY MUSIC

# DOXOLOGY

D Bm A A<sup>7</sup> D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup>

Praise God\_ from whom all\_ bless - ings flow. Praise God,\_ all

7 D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> Bm A A<sup>7</sup>

crea - tures here\_ be - low. Praise God\_ a - bove, ye\_

12 D/F<sup>#</sup> G D A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D G A<sup>7</sup> D A<sup>7</sup> D

heaven - ly host. Praise Fa - ther, Son,\_ and Ho - ly Ghost.

18 A<sup>7</sup> D Bm F<sup>#</sup>m D G A<sup>7</sup> D A

No - el,\_\_\_ No - el, No - el, No - el,

22 Bm D/A G D A<sup>7</sup>/E D/F<sup>#</sup> D/A A<sup>7</sup> D

born is the King\_ of Is - ra - el.

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674  
Music: Trad. English Carol

*THE FIRST NOEL*  
Irr. with Refrain

Text and tune adapted by Dean McIntyre, The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, PO Box 340003, Nashville TN 37203-0003. Telephone 615-340-7073. Website <http://www.umcworship.org>. Email address: [music@gbod.org](mailto:music@gbod.org). Text and tune are public domain.

## \*CHRISTMAS PRAYER

It was cold and Mary and Joseph were fearful.

**But that did not stop the birth.**

They were poor and had no place fitting for their child.

**But that did not stop the birth.**

They were uncertain about what God wanted from them.

**But that did not stop the birth.**

Today we are still sometimes cold and fearful,  
certainly poor in many ways.

**We often feel we have no place  
and are unclear about what God wants of us.**

But these things did not stop the birth of Jesus then,  
nor will they now.

**Lord Jesus be born in us today.**

Like Mary and Joseph,  
who trusted in your grace,  
we offer ourselves and our gifts to you.

Bless our offering  
and hallow our every thought and our every action,  
that Christ may be revealed through them  
to the world that is yet in darkness.

**Amen.**

# \* CANDLELIGHT CAROL

## Silent Night, Holy Night

239

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright  
1. *Stil - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft, ein - sam wacht*  
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight;  
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light;  
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, won - drous star, lend thy light;

round you vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,  
*nur das trau - te hoch - hei - li - ge Paar, Hold - er Kna - be mit lock - i - gem Haar,*  
glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far, heav - en - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!  
ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
with the an - gels let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia to our King;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
*schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh, schlaf im himm - li - scher Ruh.*  
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!  
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Christ the Sav - ior is born, Christ the Sav - ior is born!

WORDS: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. by John F. Young;  
st. 4 trans. anon. (Lk. 2:6-20)  
MUSIC: Franz Gruber, 1818

STILLE NACHT  
Irr.

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## \*Benediction

VOLUNTARY

Improvisation for Christmas

# VOLUNTEERS ASSISTING IN TONIGHTS SERVICE:

Video and Sound Engineer: Alex Wilderman

Altar Flowers: Poinsettias and Flowers donated by members of the Congregation

Image on Cover: By Staff at UMC

Lesson Readers: (As Named previously)

Ushers: Methodist Youth Fellowship (Youth Group)

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## Looking Ahead

Readings for December 29, 2024

First Sunday after Christmas Day Year "C"

[1 Samuel 2:18-26 / Psalm 148](#)

[Colossians 3: 12-17 / Luke 2:41-52](#)

*†† Music premiered by the choir tonight, is dedicated to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for the work of Sylvia Dowst, one time Music Director and the first director of what is now the Granite State Choral Society in it's 50<sup>th</sup> season. During her tenure, many John Rutter works made their way into the Choir library and are still choir favorites today.  
Merry Christmas from the Choir!*