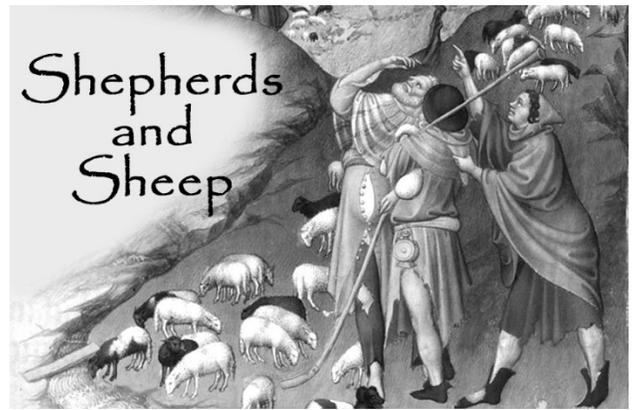


A Service of Lessons & Carols
St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Christmas Day
December 25, 2022



Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teddie McConnell

Prelude

Seung-mee Oh

Call to Worship

Lay Reader #1

We light this candle as a sign of the coming light of Christ.
Advent means coming. (Christ candle is lit.)

We are preparing ourselves for the days when the nations shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.

The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (God is with us).

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Service parts in bold: Everyone speaks in unison.
Parts with an asterisk: * Please stand in body or in spirit.

* Hymn #133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!

(Refrain): O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created! (Refrain).

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain).

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).

* Passing of the Peace and Christmas Blessings

Pastor Teddie

Let us share the peace of God with each other, as we greet one another in the name of Christ.

* Christmas Prayer (unison)

Pastor Teddie

God of mystery and might, on that holy night you give us your Son, wrapped in swaddling clothes, a savior, lying in a manger. On that holy night, draw us into the mystery of your love.

Join our voices with the heavenly host that we may sing to your glory.

Help us to repent of our sins, change our ways, and accept your forgiveness and grace.

Give us a place among the shepherds that we may find the One for whom we wait, Jesus Christ, our Messiah and our Lord. Amen.

* Hymn #140

Once in Royal David's City (Verses 1 and 2)

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Scripture

Luke 1:26-33

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

* Hymn #121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

⁸Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, ¹⁹and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them. This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

* Hymn # 113

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

(Refrain). Glo - ria in excelsis Deo! Glo - ria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain).

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain).

Reflection

Shepherds and Sheep

Pastor Teddie

* Hymn # 147

The First Nowell (Verses 1 – 5)

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

(Refrain): Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. (Refrain).

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. (Refrain).

This star drew nigh to the northwest; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. (Refrain).

Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. (Refrain).

Lay Leaders will come forward and light their candles from the Christ Candle. They will then pass the light to the persons on the center aisle. Please pass the light to the person next to you, leaving candles lit throughout the singing of Joy to the World and the Benediction Prayer.

L: The light of Christ comes into the world.

P: It is a light that shines in the darkness. light which the darkness cannot overcome.

L: May we bear this light in our hearts.

P: May we carry this light into the world.

* Hymn #134

Joy to the World

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 earth, 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 blessing 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.