

Carol "Canticle of Light and Darkness" (Response 3) UMH No. 205

Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9 Clint Robson, Pew Bible p. 602 (OT)
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 No. 230

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38 Lauren Key, Pew Bible p. 53 (NT)
The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

Carol "Canticle of Mary" UMH No. 199

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1, 3-7 Ryan Clark, Pew Bible p. 54 (NT)
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

Carol "The First Noel" (stanza 1) UMH No. 245

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-16 Jan Schwarze, Pew Bible p. 54-5 (NT)
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

Carol "The First Noel" (stanza 2) UMH No. 245

Eighth Lesson Matthew 2:1-12 Herb Schwarze, Pew Bible p. 1-2 (NT)
The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Carol "We Three Kings" UMH No. 254

** Ninth Lesson John 1:1-14 Rev. Anita Taylor, Pew Bible p. 86 (NT)
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

** Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Stanzas 1, 2, & 3) UMH No. 234

** Dismissal with Blessing

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.

Amen.

Go forth in peace and joy.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

** Chiming the Trinity

** Postlude

** Please stand as you are able.

Today's flowers are given in honor of Louise Reno's 86th Birthday.

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 Rev. Anita Noble Taylor (919) 630-9160
 Desiree Davis-Omburo, Director of Music
 Betty Romani, Accompanist

Wed., Dec. 21 – Longest Night Service (7:00PM)
 Saturday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Service (7:00PM)
 Sunday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day Service (10:00 AM)
 Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017 – One Service (10:00 AM)

PARKWOOD

United Methodist Church



Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 18, 2016

A Service of the Word
Sunday, December 18, 2016 • 4th Sunday of Advent
Lessons & Carols

Chiming the Trinity

Welcome & Gathering Words

Light has dawned and God's promised restoration is at hand. Glory to God in the highest. God is with us!

Prelude

Call to Worship

Stir up your might, O God.

Come and save us.

Let your face shine upon us.

Give us a sign of the birth of Emmanuel,

One who will refuse the evil and choose the good.

A child of promise.

Stir up your might, O God.

Come and save us.

Glory Sightings

Opening Prayer (In Unison)

Lead us, Shepherd of Israel, like you led your people of old. Long have we fed on the bread of tears, and yearned to taste the joy of your presence. As we follow the child of promise, the child of hope, the child called Emmanuel, God with us, teach us to refuse the evil, even as we strive to choose the good. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent Wreath *"Come, Lord Jesus, Come"* **(Please see insert)**

** Hymn of Praise *"Once in Royal David's City"* UMH No. 250

** Sharing the Peace of Christ

Children's Time

Prayer of Illumination

Come, Holy Spirit, upon these words we hear, and upon our minds and hearts as we hear them. Breathe your truth into us, blow away all that is false, and fill us with the love that sets the universe ablaze.

Even so, come, Holy Spirit. Amen.

** Gospel Reading Matthew 1:18-25 Pew Bible p. 2-3 (NT)

Homily "DREAM" Rev. Anita Taylor

Advent Affirmation of Faith **(Please see insert)**

Offertory *"Gesù Bambino"* Margaret Eiland

** Doxology *"Canticle of Light and Darkness" (Responses 1)* UMH No. 205 **(Or see insert)**

** Offering Prayer (In Unison)

Thanks be to you, O God, maker of heaven and earth—giver of justice, lover of righteousness, hope of the afflicted, and friend of the poor. Your faithfulness never fails. Take and use these gifts we offer to further your purpose in the world and to fulfill the promise of the world to come; through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.



** The Bidding 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 things 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 fore evermore are one. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession **(Please see insert)**

The Lord's Prayer UMH No. 895

The 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 No. 184

First Lesson Genesis 3:8-19 Ken Ganong, Pew Bible p. 3 (OT)
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 No. 196

Second Lesson Genesis 22:15-18 Sharon Schulze, Pew Bible p.17 (OT)
God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

Carol *"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (stanzas 1, 2, 4, 7)* UMH No. 211

Third Lesson Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Marie Porter, Pew Bible p. 600 (OT)
The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.