

Today's Banner Focus is:

**Joy**

Altar Flowers

The beautiful flowers on the altar are placed in honor of the birthday of

**Tami Bernhardt**

by her loving husband Dan Bernhardt.

*First-Time Visitors!*

Please stop by the Coffee Bar or Welcome Desk to get your special welcome gift!

**The Wesley Window**

will not be published  
December 26 or January 2.

It will return  
on January 9.

**Sunday,  
December 30:**

Three worship  
services only!

8:30 & 11:00  
Traditional and  
9:30 Contemporary

**The Church Office**

will be closed  
December 24 & 25,  
and January 1.



A Wesley Choir Production

Friday, January 11, 2019  
Wesley United Methodist Church  
6:30pm • \$10.00

Tickets On Sale Now!  
Proceeds benefit ReStart Augusta



Lord,  
come  
and  
save us.

*Christmas Eve Services*  
**AT WESLEY**

**11:00am**  
Family Service with  
Communion & Candlelight  
Sanctuary

**4:00 & 6:00pm**  
Traditional Communion  
Candlelight Service with  
Choir & Orchestra, Sanctuary

**4:00pm**  
Contemporary Communion  
Candlelight Service  
Celebration Space

**11:00pm** Lessons & Carols  
Sanctuary



**Wesley Women's  
Retreat**

March 1-3, 2019  
Greenville, SC

REGISTER ONLINE TODAY!  
[http://wesleyumc.net/  
age-groups/adults](http://wesleyumc.net/age-groups/adults)



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706-869-0888 | [www.wesleyumc.net](http://www.wesleyumc.net) | [office@wesleyumc.net](mailto:office@wesleyumc.net)



*The Gift of Life*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018

Third Sunday of Advent

GATHERING MUSIC

*To the World, Joy*

Youth Handbells

WELCOME AND GREETING

Greg Porterfield

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH - JOY

Steve & Ingrid Stapleton (9:30)  
Daryl & Sharon Morse (11:00)

OFFERTORY

*Sing We Now of Christmas*

Youth Handbells

## The Gift of Life

### FIRST LESSON

#### Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

arr. Poston  
*Ensemble*

The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be,  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.  
His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see,  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

### SECOND LESSON

#### O Come, O Come Emmanuel

*Congregational Hymn*

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lonely exile here,  
until the Son of God appear.

(Refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

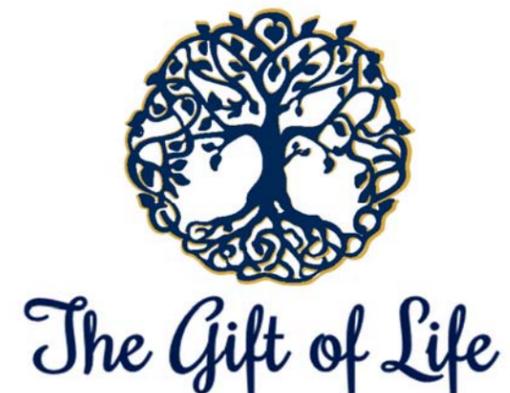
O come, thou Dayspring,  
come and cheer our spirits by thy justice here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

(Refrain)

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

### Paradise Lost

### Abraham's Blessing



Each year on Christmas Eve at 11:00 p.m., Wesley offers a service of Lessons and Carols. The order of service is one which has been taking place across the globe for more than a century and is perhaps best known today because of its annual broadcast from King's College at Cambridge. Originally conceived in 1880, the service gradually evolved into what we see today. The Festival of Lessons and Carols was first held at King's College in 1918 and has been performed every year since.

Today the service typically begins with a lone boy soprano singing the first verse of *Once in Royal David's City* with the choir and congregation joining on subsequent verses. After that, a series of scriptures, also called Lessons, are read and then followed by the singing of a carol. There are a total of nine lessons. The most notable aspect of this service is that instead of simply reading scriptures directly pertaining to the birth of Jesus, it begins in the book of Genesis outlining the plight of Adam and Eve and the separation we experienced from God in the original sin. The lessons move the story forward beginning with our need for redemption, the prophecies which foretell the coming of the Messiah, the birth of Jesus and finally the passage from John, which proclaims the great mystery with the text "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the Word was God."

The lesson concludes with "The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

*Jesus Christ the Apple Tree* is a traditional carol choice to follow the very first lesson where we learn of Adam and Eve's disobedience. Whereas life in the garden was lived in eternal abundance through the Tree of Life, sin introduced not only separation from God but death. When one sees the Tree of Life as a metaphor for Jesus, the text comes alive with meaning. Today's service begins and ends with the powerful text of this poem. It seemed appropriate to come full circle as it is such a common way to represent ideas of an eternal nature. During the Christmas season, we see God's eternal nature in the Christmas wreath made from evergreens. We often illustrate the Trinity as the convergence of three rings. During this Christmas season, we celebrate the birth of Christ not just because He is God's son but because we recognize that we have come full circle, God's will has been done; we have been redeemed and reconciled to the one who created us. Simply put, we celebrate the Gift of Life!

More than a Merry Christmas, I wish for you God's presence during this special season!

Jeff Wickell  
Director of Music Ministries

## O Come, All Ye Faithful

arr. Rutter

### *Congregational Hymn*

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 of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten not created;

(Refrain)

O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

(Refrain)

O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n!  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

(Refrain)

O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him;  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

## BENEDICTION

Greg Porterfield

*Director of Music Ministry*  
Jeff Wickell

*Youth Choir Accompanist*  
Laura Lowe

*Assistant Director of Music*  
Heather Peacock

*Readers*  
Caleb Collins  
Grace Wickell

*Piano & Organ*  
Elaine Maxwell

*Sound & Lights*  
Trey Enfinger

*Special Thanks*  
Men in Mission

## THIRD LESSON

## The Promised Messiah

### **Joy to the World**

arr. John Rutter

#### *Celebration Choir & Orchestra*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heav'n and nature sing,  
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men 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.

## FOURTH LESSON

## The Branch of Jesse

### **Gesu Bambino**

arr. Mark Hayes

#### *Celebration Choir, Wesley Choir & Orchestra*

When blossoms flower e'er 'mid the snows upon a winter night,  
Was born the child, the Christmas rose, the king of love and light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at his blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

(Chorus)

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas rose, its king of love and light  
Let ev'ry voice acclaim his name, the grateful chorus swell  
From paradise to earth he came that we with him might dwell.

(Chorus)

O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

## FIFTH LESSON

### An Angel Appears to Mary

#### O Magnum Mysterium

arr. Antognini

*Wesley Choir*

O magnum mysterium et admirabile sacramentum  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum  
jacentem in praeseptio. Beata Virgo cujus viscera  
meruerunt portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia!

O great mystery and wonderful sacrament  
that even the animals saw the new-born Lord  
lying in a manger. Blessed Virgin, whose womb  
was worthy to bear our Lord Christ. Alleluia!

## SIXTH LESSON

### The Birth of Jesus

#### How Great Our Joy

arr. Courtney

*Celebration Choir & String Orchestra*

While by the sheep we watched at night, glad tidings brought an angel bright.  
How great our joy! How Great our joy!

There shall be born, so he did say, in Bethlehem a child today.  
How great our joy! How Great our joy!

There shall the child lie in a stall, this child who shall redeem us all.  
How great our joy! How Great our joy!

This gift of God we'll cherish well, that ever joy our hearts shall fill.  
How great our joy! How Great our joy!  
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high!

## SEVENTH LESSON

### The Shepherds Hear the Good News

#### Tidings of Comfort and Joy

arr. Snyder

*Wesley Choir*

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day  
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came  
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;  
how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name.  
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;

## EIGHTH LESSON

### The Wise Men Seek Jesus

#### What Strangers Are These?

arr. Forrest

*Celebration Choir, Flute & Harp*

What strangers are these that wander through the town? Hush, 'tis Joseph and weary Mary.  
And what does he seek so hopeless and in vain? He is seeking shelter for Mary.  
For she is the blest and chosen of the Lord, Who will bear to us a goodly King.  
And who is this king of whom ye proudly sing? Know ye not the Christ, Jesus the Saviour?

What wee child is this that in a manger lies? Hush, 'tis Jesus Christ, Son of Mary.  
Say what fair maid is this whose joy is mixed with awe? O 'tis Mary, Holy Mother of Jesus.  
O these are the shepherds and these the magi kings, who have brought him their gifts of gold and myrrh.  
But why kneel in homage here before a babe? They adore their King, Jesus the Saviour.

Who are these that march from death unto life? These are they who love Jesus the Christ Child.  
And how do they triumph o'er the gates of hell? Through the grace of him, Jesus the Saviour.  
He is born to redeem mankind from sin and strife, To bring peace, joy, love and brotherhood.  
O where shall I find him? Where shall I seek? He is here and now, Jesus your Saviour.

## NINTH LESSON

### The Incarnation

#### The Tree of Life

arr. Rutter

*Celebration Choir, Wesley Choir & Orchestra*

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit, and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
the glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all: but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.