

## A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS – DECEMBER 25, 2016

*Congregation please join in reading the bold font. All songs/readings will be unannounced.*

**Prelude** "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" W. Held

**Call to Worship** "O Come, Let Us Adore Him" #126  
*Please join during second time.*

Into our world from the safety of the womb.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Into the stable. Into forgotten places.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

Into the lives of the poor, bringing hope.

Into the lives of the powerful, bringing humility.

Into the lives of the weary, bringing rest.

Into the lives of the wise, bringing restlessness.

Into our lives, bringing love.

**Come, again, Lord Jesus.**

Jesus came into the world.

**Jesus will come again.**

**\*Song of Worship** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" #135

**God's Story** Genesis 3:8-13  
*Our need for a Savior.*

### **Our Response - Confession**

God of the generations-

**long ago sin and separation entered into the world.**

**And in this day, we still find ourselves in the story  
of this ancient woman and this ancient man.**

**We find ourselves quick to serve our own purposes,  
to hide from your presence,**

**and to point blame-filled fingers to avoid the reality of our sin.**

**Yet, like you did so long ago,  
you show up in the midst of our sin.**

**Your great love makes a way for a Savior  
who will always overcome our serpent-like sinfulness.**

**In our Savior's name we pray . . . amen.**

**God's Story—Forgiveness** Genesis 3:14-15  
*Our hope for a Savior.*

**Our Response** "Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come" #146

**God's Story** Genesis 22:15-18  
*The promised blessing is for all people.*

**Our Response** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" #133  
vs. 1, 3, 5

**God's Story** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
*The Savior foretold by the prophets.*

**Our Response** "It Came upon the Midnight Clear" #170

<b>God's Story</b>	Luke 1:26-35, 38 <i>Mary's role is God's promised blessing.</i>	
<b>Our Response</b>	"The Savior of the World"	
<b>God's Story</b>	Luke 2:1-7 <i>The Savior is born. The promised blessing arrives.</i>	
<b>Our Response</b>	"Hallelujah, Light Has Come"	Leaps of Faith
<b>God's Story</b>	Luke 2:8-16 <i>The Savior is born. The promised blessing is proclaimed.</i>	
<b>Our Response</b>	"Angels from the Realms of Glory"	#174 vs. 1, 2, 4, 5
<b>God's Story</b>	Matthew 2:1-11 <i>The Savior is born . . . worthy of our best.</i>	
<b>Our Response</b>	The Giving of Our Tithes and Offerings "Sweet Little Jesus Boy"	Maggie Kensak
<b>God's Story</b>	John 1:1-14 <i>The Word became flesh - God with us.</i>	
<b>Our Response</b>	"Litany of the Incarnation"	
	When the time was right, God sent the Son; <b>sent him and nourished him, reared him and risked him, filled him with laughter and tears and compassion, filled him with anger and love and devotion.</b> Unwelcomed child, refugee and runaway; <b>Christ is God's own Son.</b> Feeder and teacher, healer and antagonist; <b>Christ is God's own Son.</b> Lover of the unlovable, toucher of the untouchable, forgiver of the unforgivable; <b>Christ is God's own Son.</b> Befriended by the weak, despised by the strong, deserted by his listeners, betrayed by his friends, bone of our bone, flesh of our flesh, heaven's pardon over earth's mistakes; <b>Christ is God's own Son.</b> The Word became flesh; <b>the Word joined us; became one of us; Christ is God's own Son.</b>	
<b>*God's Story – The Blessing</b>	John 3:16-17	
<b>*Our Response</b>	"Go, Tell It on the Mountain"	#151
<b>*Postlude</b>	"Glory to God"	G. F. Handel

**Participants:** Glenda DeKoster, Cindy Cleveringa, Rosalyn DeKoster, Philip DeKoster, Leaps of Faith, Maggie Kensak, Pastor Elizabeth and Pastor Mike