

AN EVENING OF IESSONS AND CAROIS

December 20, 2020 | 6 p.m.



SERVICE ORDER

GATHERING Welcome & Prayer

Pastor Laramie Minga

THE FALL OF MANKIND First Lesson: Genesis 3:8–19 Prayer of Confession: Yet We Sin "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

THE PROMISE

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15–18 "Deliver Us" Craig Lindsay Laramie Minga Congregation

Micah Lindsay Laramie Minga & Levi Lindsay

THE PROPHET FORETELLS THE COMING SAVIOR

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2–7 Prayer of Longing for God's Promise "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" "Let Every Heart Prepare Him Room"

THE PEACE OF CHRIST IS FORETOLD

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1–10 "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" Brock Newman Pastor Travis McNeely Congregation Worship & Student Choirs

> Camille Trahan Congregation

THE ANGEL GABRIEL GREETS MARY

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26–38 "God in Flesh Appearing" "To Thee My Heart I Offer" Eddie Freiberger, Jr. Worship & Student Choirs Worship & Student Choirs

JOSEPH, MARY, AND JESUS'S BIRTH

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1–7 Prayer of Thanks "Silent Night" "Glory in the Darkest Place"

Lydia Bearry Pastor Lewis Richerson Worship & Student Choirs Jillian McNeely & Savanah Clouse

THE SHEPHERDS AND THE ANGELS

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8–16 "Sussex Carol" "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Cameron Lindsay Worship & Student Choirs Congregation

KING HEROD, THE MAGI, AND THE CHRIST CHILD

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1–12 "What Child Is This" "Joy Has Dawned" "Angels We Have Heard on High"

THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION REVEALED

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1–14 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Angela Minga Congregation Congregation

Jimmy Bozeman Congregation

First Lesson: The Fall of Mankind

Scripture Reading: Genesis 3:8-19

r nd they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field. On your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring. He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing. In pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you. In pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you. And you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken, for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

Prayer of Confession

Pastor Laramie Minga

Eternal Father,

The hou art good beyond all thought, but we are vile, wretched, miserable, blind. Our lips are ready to confess, but our hearts are slow to feel, and our ways reluctant to amend. We bring our souls to Thee. Break them, wound them, bend them, mold them. Unmask to us sin's deformity that we may hate it, abhor it, flee from it. Our faculties have been a weapon of revolt against Thee. As rebels we have misused our strength and served the foul adversary of Thy kingdom. Give us grace to bewail our insensate folly. Grant us to know that the way of transgressors is hard, that evil paths are wretched paths, that to depart from Thee is to lose all good. We have seen the purity and beauty of Thy perfect law, the happiness of those in whose heart it reigns, the calm dignity of the walk to which it calls, yet we daily violate and scorn its precepts. Thy loving Spirit strives within us, bringing us Scripture warnings, yet we choose devices and desires to our own hurt, impiously resent, grieve, and provoke him to abandon us.

All these sins we mourn, lament, and for them cry pardon. Work in us a more profound and abiding repentance. Give us the fullness of a godly grief that trembles and fears, yet ever trusts and loves, which is ever-powerful, and ever-confident. Grant that through the tears of repentance we may see more clearly the brightness and glories of the saving cross.

-Adapted from "Yet I Sin" in The Valley of Vision

Craig Lindsay

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence



WORDS: *Liturgy of St. James*, 4th cent.; tr. Gerard Moultrie MUSIC: French melody, 17th cent.; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Second Lesson: The Promise

Scripture Reading: Genesis 22:15–18

nd the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

"Deliver Us"

Pastor Laramie Minga & Levi Lindsay

Our enemy, our captor is no pharaoh on the Nile. Our toil is neither mud, nor brick, nor sand. Our ankles bear no calluses from chains, yet Lord, we're bound. Imprisoned here, we dwell in our own land.

Deliver us; deliver us. O Yahweh, hear our cry, and gather us beneath your wings tonight.

Our sins they are more numerous than all the lambs we slay. Our shackles they were made with our own hands. Our toil is our atonement and our freedom yours to give. So Yahweh, break this silence if you can.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often I have longed to gather you beneath my gentle wings."

Third Lesson: The Prophet Foretells the Coming Savior

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Brock Newman

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy. They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born. To us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Prayer of Longing for God's Promise

Pastor Travis McNeely

Micah Lindsay



Words: Latin Hymn; tr. st. 1, 2 John Mason Neale; st. 3, 4 Henry Sloane Coffin Music: Plainsong; arr. Mark Rice

O sing your praise! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long! Let every heart prepare Him room and every voice a song!

He comes to set the prisoner free. He comes to reign triumphantly.

O sing your praise! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long! Let every heart prepare Him room and every voice a song!

He comes to save, this King of kings. He comes with healing in His wings.

Born Thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King, born to reign in us forever, now Thy gracious kingdom bring.

O sing your praise! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long! Let every heart prepare Him room and every voice a song!

Fourth Lesson: The Peace of Christ Is Foretold

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 11:1–10

Camille Trahan

The shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. And he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together. And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze. Their young shall lie down together. And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain. For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.



Words: Charles Wesley Music: Rowland H. Prichard



Fifth Lesson: The Angel Gabriel Greets Mary

Scripture Reading: Luke 1:26–38

Eddie Freiberger, Jr.

Join the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

"God in Flesh Appearing"

Hear the song of Bethlehem through the ages still it rings. Sweet refrain of seraphim, sacred praises to the King.

Hear the cries of a Child calling to a world that's weary. Precious Lord, meek and mild, He is God in flesh appearing.

Sovereign Lord with feet and hands, love divine in flesh and blood, Son of God and Son of man, this is heaven's gift to us.

Hear the cries of a Child calling to a world that's weary. Majesty, meek and mild, He is God in flesh appearing.

Here now, the long-awaited One. Here now, at last our Savior comes!

Silence reigned so very long. Prophets' voices went unheard. Then tonight so clear and strong, Jesus Christ the living Word. Worship & Student Choirs

To Thee my heart I offer, Oh Christ-child sweet and dear. Upon Thy love relying, be Thou ever near. Oh take my heart and give me Thine and may it be forever mine, Oh Jesus, holy, undefiled, my Savior meek and mild.

What brought Thee to the manger, Oh Christ-child sweet and dear? Thy love for me a stranger, be Thou ever near. Oh, Lord how great Thy perfect love, that reaches from the heav'ns above. Thy love for us, by sin defiled, that made Thee, God, a child.

Let me be Thine forever, Oh Christ-child sweet and dear. Uphold me with Thy mercy, be Thou ever near. Thy hand bestows Thy gifts to me, and all I have I offer Thee. My heart, my soul and all I own, let these be Thine alone.

Sixth Lesson: Joseph, Mary, and Jesus's Birth

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Lydia Bearry

Join those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Prayer of Thanks for God's Promised Messiah

Pastor Lewis Richerson

"Silent Night"

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright 'round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light, radiant, beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light. With the angels let us sing "Alleluia" to our King. Christ the Savior is born. Christ the Savior is born.

"Glory in the Darkest Place"

Out of the depths of silent night, Immanuel, come hear our cry. Our grief is strong, our burdens great. The night is long and hope is faint.

You came to set the captive free, a morning star of joy and peace. Why does this darkness feel so deep? Why can't our weary spirits see?

Glory, glory, glory in the darkest place. Glory, glory, glory, let Your mercy reign.

Out of the depths of silent night, a Savior born, a mother's sigh. The darkness trembled at this star, a beam of hope for troubled hearts.

You came to make Your blessings known, and bear our curse of death alone. You came to share our suffering so in our sorrow we could sing.

Glory, glory, glory in the darkest place. Glory, glory, glory, let Your mercy reign. Jillian McNeely & Savanah Clouse

Seventh Lesson: The Shepherds and the Angels

Scripture Reading: Luke 2:8–16

Cameron Lindsay

nd in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

"Sussex Carol"

Worship & Student Choirs

On Christmas night all Christians sing to hear the news the angels bring: news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad since our Redeemer made us glad when from our sin He set us free all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before His grace then life and health come in its place. Angels and men with joy may sing all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night: "Glory to God in highest heav'n now and forevermore," Amen!



Words: Charles Wesley; alt. George Whitefield Music: Felix Mendelssohn; arr. William H. Cummings



Eighth Lesson: King Herod, the Magi, and the Christ Child

Scripture Reading: Matthew 2:1–12

Angela Minga

ow after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah, for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.





WORDS: William Chatterton Dix, 1865 MUSIC: Traditional English melody, 16th cent.; harm. John Stainer

8.7.8.7.6.8.6.7 GREENSLEEVES





Words and Music: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend

Angels We Have Heard on High



WORDS: Traditional French carol MUSIC: Traditional French melody GLORIA 7.7.7.7. with Chorus

Ninth Lesson: The Mystery of the Incarnation Revealed

Scripture Reading: John 1:1–14

Jimmy Bozeman

If the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.



Words: Latin Hymn, ascribed to John Francis Wade; tr. Frederick Oakeley Music: John Francis Wade