

Third Sunday of Advent - Joy



41st Annual Service of Lessons and Carols

In 1880 E.W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Truro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for Christmas Eve. In 1918 it was adapted for the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, by its Dean, Eric Milner-White, who also wrote The Bidding Prayer. The Blessing after The Lord's Prayer, added by Milner-White, was first included in its present form in 1930. The Nine Lessons given here have been customarily used in recent years at King's College. The service has been edited for United Methodist congregations.

*Presented by
The Chancel Choir and Peals of Joy Handbell Choir
December 11, 2022, 11:00 a.m.*

*First United Methodist Church
Arkadelphia, Arkansas*

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Order of Worship

Opening Voluntary: Jesus, Bambino by Pietro Yon

Processional: Once in Royal David's City (IRBY) UMH #250
(Please remain seated)
Verse 1 – Alexandra Tyler
Verse 2 – Choir Processional
Verses 3 and 4 – Congregation

Bidding Prayer Rev. Zeke Allen

The Lord's Prayer and Blessing

The Lighting of the Advent Candles HSU Choral Scholars
Alex Tyler, Sarah Davidson, Wesley Lamendola, Chris Moix

**Congregational Hymn: Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (HYFRYDOL) UMH #196*

First Lesson: 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. Genesis III:8-15, 17-19

...Penny Ferguson

This is the Truth Sent from Above (Herefordshire Carol) Ralph Vaughan-Williams

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love;
Therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all both rich and poor.

The first thing which I do relate is that God did man create,
The next thing which to you I'll tell: Woman was made with man to dwell.

Then after this 'twas God's own choice, to place them both in Paradise,
There to remain from evil free, except they ate of such a tree.

And they did eat, which was a sin, and thus their ruin did begin;
Ruined themselves, both you and me, and all of their posterity.

Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose,
And so a promise soon did run that He would redeem us by His Son.

Second Lesson: God promises Abraham that by his descendants all the nation of the earth shall obtain blessing. Genesis XXII:15-18

...Paul Hankins

Thou Shalt Know Him (Anonymous)

Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums,
Nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by his gown.
But his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.
Amen

Third Lesson: The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness. Isaiah IX: 2, 6-7

...Jeremy Smith

A Vineyard Grows (Jaroslav J. Vajda)

K. Lee Scott

Amid the world's bleak wilderness, a vineyard grows with promise green,
The planting of the Lord himself, the planting of the Lord.
His love selected this terrain, His vine with love He planted here
To bear the choicest fruit for Him.

We are His branches, chosen dear, and though we feel the dresser's knife,
We are the objects of his care.
From Him we draw the juice of life, for Him supply His winery
With fruit from which true joys derive.

Vine, keep what I was meant to be: your branch, with your rich life in me.

Fourth Lesson: The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation. Isaiah XI:1-4, 6-9

...Claire Gehrki

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers (Laurentis Laurenti 1660-1722)

Howard Helvey

Rejoice, rejoice believers, and let your light appear.
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, watch in expectation; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
Go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.

Arise, o heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

The saints who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore,
Shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory, the Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear.
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted we plead, O Lord,
To see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free!

Rejoice, rejoice, go forth, arise; Alleluia!

Fifth Lesson: The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised son whose kingdom shall never end. St. Luke I:26-35, 38 ...Carroll Jackson

**Canticle of Mary (Magnificat #199)* (UMH)

Sixth Lesson: Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born. St. Luke II:1-7 ...Missy Lewis

Night Long Awaited (Noche Anunciada – Stille Nacht) Sherri Hanson

Night long awaited, God comes to earth; blooming like roses, love given birth.
Still in the starlight, silent and clear, peace comes among us, Christmas is here.
Noche de paz, noche de amor! Brilla la estrella de paz.

Sleep in a manger safe and adored; all that is broken shall be restored.
Light for our shadows, grace for our loss; born for our dying; bearing our cross.
Noche de paz, noche de amor!
Todo duerme enderredor; Entre los astros que es parcen suluz,
Bella anunciando al ninito Jesus, Brilla la estrella depaz.

Now is God's promise born in the night; wake to its fullness; live in its light.
Christ comes among us; people draw near! Come to the manger, Christmas is here.
Brilla la estrella de paz.

Seventh Lesson: The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger. St. Luke II: 8-16 ...Sydney Covington

African Noel arr. Andre J. Thomas

Sing Noel, sing we all Noel.
O Come, ye people, gather here to hear the news of good cheer.
The King of Kings, the Lamb of God is born today in Bethlehem.

Eighth Lesson: The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

St. Matthew II: 1-11

...*Sabrina Mecum*

Peace Came to Earth (*Jaroslav J. Vajda*)

K. Lee Scott

Peace came to earth at last that chosen night when angels clove the sky with song and light. And God embodied love and sheathed His might. Who could but gasp: Immanuel!

And who could be the same for having held the infant in their arms, and later felt the wounded hands and side, all doubts dispelled. Who could but sigh: Immanuel!

You show the Father none has ever seen, in flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain; in bread and wine you visit us again. Who could but see Immanuel! Who could but thrill: Immanuel!

How else could I have known you, O my God. How else could I have loved you, O my God. How else could I embrace you, O my God. Who could but pray: Immanuel! Who could but praise: Immanuel!

Ninth Lesson (to be read by all): John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. St. John I: 1-14

In 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 came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. Thanks be to God!

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev Zeke Allen

OFFERTORY

Of the Father's Love Begotten (13th Century Plainsong)

arr. John Carter
Divinum Mysterium

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be;
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race.
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore Him; Angel hosts his praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

Doxology

UMH #95

Minister: The Lord be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Minister: Let us pray.

**Collect for All:*

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only Son,
Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive Him for our Redeemer, so we may with
sure confidence behold Him, when He shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns
with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen

**Congregational Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful (ADESTE FIDELIS)*

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;
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;
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 heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
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 given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

The Blessing

Rev. Zeke Allen

Closing Voluntary: All Hail This Brightest Day of Days by J.S. Bach

**Please stand if able*

Prayer Requests

Please keep Bobby and Waynette Shuler in your prayers. Bobby has had Covid for the past several days, and Waynette recently tested positive for it.

POINSETTIAS

In Memory Of:

Wayne McAfee from Kay
and his daughters Lee and Rachael
Tom Duncan from The Duncan Family
My parents Dr. Charles & Helen Smith from Michelle
Wright & Betty Carter from Bob & Susie Shehane
Harvey Shehane from Bob & Susie Shehane
Truman & Velva Finley from Bob & Susie Shehane
Mary Jo Mann (Grammy) Love always from
Beth, Todd, Trenton, Alexa, Tanner, and Lauren
Phil Roberts, in loving memory from
Nellene and Chris Roberts
David McCallum from Mom & Dad
Dr. James Lowry from Suzanne Lowry,
Caroline and John and their families
Barbara Wasson from Julia Hall
Mary Seals from Laura and Peter Alexander
Frank Alexander from Laura and Peter Alexander
Carolyn Graham from Eddie Graham
Mary Ardith Higgins from her son Bill
Dr. Meta Wallace from Dr. John Crawford

In Honor Of:

My grandchildren Austin, Jenna, Dalton, Brock, and
Sumner from Nancy Huerkamp
Pastor Zeke Allen
Church Office Staff
FUMC Church Family
Church Musicians
William Durand from Upper Room Sunday School Class
Phil Rice from Upper Room Sunday School Class
Rita Nickels from Upper Room Sunday School Class
Les Brown from Upper Room Sunday School Class
Suzanne Lowry from Julia Hall
Rose Phillips from Julia Hall
Kay McAfee from Julia Hall
Jewelie Mills from Wanda O'Quinn
Kathryn Thomason from Wanda O'Quinn
Chancel Choir and Handbell Choir from Bill Higgins

SERVING IN WORSHIP THIS MORNING ARE:

Minister: Reverend Zeke Allen

Choir Master: William Higgins **Organist:** Kay McAfee **Handbell Choir Director:** William Higgins

Instrumentalists: Ryan Lewis, percussion; Heather Thayer, French horn;

Shannon Clardy, oboe; Bryan Silva, flute; Zeke Allen, guitar

Soloist: Alexandra Tyler

Ushers: Norm Coppernoll, Bob Shehane, Eddie Graham, Jim Blanton, Daniel Maxey, Robert McCallum

Acolytes: Kaleb Cook **Sound:** Cindy Phillips **Media:** Lori Maxey **Cameras:** Sasha Maxey

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Share the Light: The 2nd and 3rd Sundays of December are special offering dates for Methodist Family Health Foundation Share the Light. Envelopes are available outside of each service for those wishing to donate.

Chris Tomlin/Mercy Me: Those attending the Chris Tomlin/Mercy Me concert meet today at 4:00 pm in the church parking lot. We will eat at Red Robin before the concert. Please bring money for supper and any snacks or souvenirs.

Church Meetings: The Ad Board meets tomorrow at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The Missions Committee meets Tuesday, December 13th, at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The SPRC meets this Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the parlor.

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party/Auction: In honor of his 60th birthday, Russ Breshears, Wesley Foundation Director, is hosting an Ugly Christmas Sweater Party / Auction Thursday, December 15th, 6:00 p.m., at the Wesley Foundation. Participants are asked to bring a Christmas sweet. These will be auctioned off along with homemade fudge and a smoked barbecue meal for 10 to raise money for student scholarships. There will be a prize for the ugliest Christmas sweater. The public is invited.

Ruth Circle: The Ruth Circle Christmas Potluck is noon on Friday, December 16th, at the home of Sue Waymack.

December Food Pantry: The Food Pantry will need help during December as our student helpers will not be here. Even an hour is helpful! We meet at the Fellowship Hall. Donation items are peanut butter and cereal.

Monday, December 19th

8:30 am: move boxes of food into the distribution area before receiving the Walmart donation (need folks who can lift)

9:00 am: Wal-Mart team meets at the loading dock

9:45 am: Unload, weigh and store Wal-Mart donations

Tuesday, December 20th

9:00 am: unload the Arkansas Food Bank truck (this will be a very large order and we need all the lifting help we can get!)

10:00 am: sort and store canned goods; finish packing 141 boxes for distribution, we plan on 400 boxes total

11:30 am: Homebound deliveries begin from the usual pick-up point

1 pm until 2pm: lunch break followed by devotional at 2:00 p.m.

3:00 pm to 5:30 pm: distribute food boxes.

Love/Appreciation Offering: We are collecting a love/appreciation offering for our pastor, Zeke Allen. Gifts should be left on the tree in the Narthex.

Annual Youth Caroling Christmas Party: The youth will go caroling at the Plaza and pass out handmade Christmas cards to our members there. Afterward, they will return to church and meet under the pecan trees for roast hotdogs and s'mores.

Carols, Candles, and Communion: Come celebrate the birth of Jesus with us Saturday, December 24th, at 6:00 pm in the sanctuary at our annual Candlelight, Carols, and Communion service.

Office Closed: The office will be closed Friday, December 24th, through Monday, December 26th, in observance of Christmas and Thursday, December 30th, and Friday, December 31st, in observance of New Year's Day.

Single Services: We will have a single service Sunday, December 25th, at 10:00 am in the Sanctuary and a single service Sunday, January 1st, at 10:00 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Tithes and Offerings: In order to qualify as a 2022 contribution, your gift must be postmarked or given by 12/31/2022. As per IRS code, we cannot accept checks dated 12/31/2022 for 2022 credit after 12/31/2022 unless it has been postmarked by 12/31/2022. The office will be open Friday, December 30th, until 1:30 pm. If you have requested offering envelopes for 2023, they will be available in the Narthex starting this Sunday. Also, please remember it is never too late to turn in your 2023 pledge.

