

December 12, 2021
Sanctuary Worship, 11:00AM

Welcome to worship today!

Please remember to follow the directions of our ushers and wear appropriate facemasks at all times inside the building.



*Third Sunday
of Advent*

Welcome

Lighting Our Third Candle

Tim & Heather Johnson

Leader: During Advent our eyes are opened to the wonders of God.

People: With God all things are possible.

Leader: During Advent our faith is nurtured by the promise of God.

People: With God all things are possible.

Leader: During Advent our hope is reawakened to the presence of God.

People: With God all things are possible.

Leader: During Advent our lives are touched by the love of God.

People: With God all things are possible.

God Is Near

A Candle Lighting Ceremony for Advent

Words and Music by
JOEL RANEY

Congregation:

Lis - ten to the an - gels, hear the mes - sage they bring;
tell - ing the news of a com - ing King; fill - ing the
world with hope and good cheer. Je - sus, Em -
man - u - el, _____ God is near. _____

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Festival of Lessons and Carols

Hymn – *Once in Royal David's City*

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby in a manger for His bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ, her only Child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,

And His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and low lived our Savior long ago.

But our eyes in truth should see Him through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above.
As He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable with the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children crowned, all in white, His praise will sound!

Cecil Frances Alexander; Henry Gantlett, arr. by John Leavitt.

The Bidding Prayer

First Lesson: To Us a Child Is Born

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Carol – Break Forth, O Beauteous, Heavenly Light

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light and usher in the morning;
Ye shepherds, shrink not with afright, but hear the angel's warning.
This Child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be,
The pow'r of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

Rev. J. Troutbeck, translator; J.S. Bach, edited by John Leavitt.

Second Lesson: The Branch from Jesse

Isaiah 11: 1-4, 6-9

Carol – Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung.
It came, a Flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to men a Savior when half-spent was the night.

This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'rywhere.
True man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us and lightens ev'ry load.

Micheal Praetorius; ed. & arr. by John Leavitt.

Third Lesson: A Promised Ruler from Bethlehem

Micah 5: 2-5a

Carol – *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above the deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth;
And praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Immanuel!

Phillips Brooks; Lewis Redner, arr. by John Leavitt.

Fourth Lesson: The Birth of Jesus Foretold

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

Carol – *O How Joyfully*

O how joyfully, O how blessedly, grace comes to us at Christmastime!
God to us has given blessings from heaven.
Sing for joy, sing for joy at Christmastime!

O how joyfully, O how blessedly, grace comes to us at Christmastime!
Heaven's hosts in the sky sing rejoicing from on high;
Sing for joy, sing for joy at Christmastime.
Sing for joy, sing at Christmastime!

Trad. German Carol; arr. by John Leavitt.

Fifth Lesson: The Birth of Jesus

Luke 2: 1-7

Carol – *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,

and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

William J. Kirkpatrick, arr. by John Leavitt.

Sixth Lesson: The Shepherds and the Angels

Luke 2: 8-16

Carol – Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Ding dong! Merrily on high, in heav'n the bells are ringing!
Ding dong, verily the sky, is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo, gloria Deo, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o! by priest and people sungen.
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo, gloria Deo, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria Deo, gloria Deo, gloria Deo, Hosanna in excelsis!
Ding dong gloria Deo!

Trad. French carol, arr. by John Leavitt.

Seventh Lesson: The Visit of the Magi

Matthew 2: 1-11

Carol – As With Gladness Men of Old

As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by Thee.

As they offered gifts most rare at thy cradle, rude and bare,
So may we with holy joy, pure and free from sin's alloy,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to Thee our heav'nly King.

In the heav'nly country bright need they no created light;
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, Thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing alleluias to our King.

William C. Dix; Conrad Kocher, arr. by John Leavitt.

Eighth Lesson: The Escape to Egypt

Matthew 2: 13-18

Carol – Coventry Carol

Lullay Thou little tiny Child, by, by lully, lullay;
Lullay, thou little tiny Child, by, by, lully, lullay.

O sisters, too, how may we do, for to preserve this day;
This poor Youngling for whom we sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

Herod the King, in his raging, charged he hath this day;
His men of might, in his own sight, all children young, to slay.
Then woe is me, poor Child, for Thee, and ever mourn and say;
For Thy parting nor say nor sing, by, by, lully, lullay.

English melody; Robert Croo, arr. by John Leavitt.

Ninth Lesson: The Word Became Flesh

John 1: 1-14

Carol – Only Begotten, Word of God Eternal

Only begotten, Word of God eternal Lord of Creation, merciful and mighty,
Hear us your servants, as our tuneful voices rise in Your presence.
Holy, this temple where our Lord is dwelling; this is none other than the gate of heaven
Ever your children year by year rejoicing chant in Your temple.
God in three Persons, Father everlasting, Son co-eternal, ever blessed Spirit:
To You be praises, thanks and adoration, Glory forever, glory hallelujah!

Text from Bern, 9th Century; Maxwell J. Blacker; John Leavitt.

Closing Prayers

Closing Hymn – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord.
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, risn' with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sign, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Charles Wesley; Felix Mendelssohn; arr. by John Leavitt.

What to know this week...

Copies of the January/February Upper Room are now available in the lobby and the back of the sanctuary.

In keeping with our theme for Advent: God Is Near, we have daily scripture readings, a song to click and play/sing, and a prayer focus for the week. Please use this season to draw near to God, and enjoy the scripture and music! Devotions are posted a week at a time on the church website: www.stjumc.us.

Get involved! We still have openings for our December 19 Live Nativity cast and crew. Please consider sharing your time with the community to bring the birth of Christ to life! Sign up here: www.signupgenius.com/go/20f0b49afaa22a75-live1

The UMW is offering honorary and memorial luminaries this Christmas. Luminaries will line the walkway in front of the church and burn Christmas Eve 5:30-9:00pm. To place an order, you can find the order form on the lobby table, in the December newsletter or online at www.stjumc.us/members. The cost for each luminary is \$3; please make checks payable to St. James UMW. Forms and payments can be left in the offering baskets or dropped in the office door drop.

*Christmas Eve Services: 6:00PM Christmas Under the Trees
7:30PM Sanctuary Worship*

Both of our in-person Christmas Eve services will include communion and candlelighting. Online worship will be available for those who are not able to participate in in-person worship.

Food Pantry Needs for Advent: spaghetti sauce (plastic jar or can), jelly (plastic container), 2 lb. rice (usually available at Dollar Tree), canned fruit