

A Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols for December 27, 2020

Welcome and Announcements

*Passing the Peace

*Greeting

Christ is born; give him glory!
Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!
Christ is now on earth; exalt him!
Sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Praise him in joy, all you nations, for he has been glorified!

* Hymn of Praise *"Joy To The World"* #246 UMH

*Prayer

O Almighty God, by the birth of your holy child Jesus you gave us a great light to dawn on our darkness. Grant that in his light we may see light. Bestow upon us that most excellent Christmas gift of love to all people, so that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us, and that we may have the ever-brightening hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Prayers of the People/The Lord's Prayer

A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8 –15, 17–19

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.

CAROL: # 196 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15 –18

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

CAROL # 211 O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1, 7)

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

CAROL: #206 I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light (stanzas 1, 3)

FOURTH LESSON: Micah 5:2 –5a

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.

CAROL: # 230 O Little Town of Bethlehem (stanzas 1, 3)

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26 –35, 38

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

CAROL: #215 To a Maid Engaged to Joseph (stanzas 1, 4-5)

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1 –7

Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

CAROL: #245 The First Noel (stanza 1)

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8 –16

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

CAROL: #229 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1 –11

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

CAROL: #254 We Three Kings (stanza 1)

NINTH LESSON: John 1:1 –14

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

*CAROL: #234 O Come, All Ye Faithful (stanzas 1-3)

***Benediction** (following the ninth lesson)