

Lessons & Carols

December 22, 2024
Peace Lutheran Church
Hutchinson, MN

PRELUDE: Drummer Boy, Hosanna Handbells

INVOCATION: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLES

Readers: Peterson family

On this fourth week of Advent, we light the candle of love. How great is the love the Father has lavished upon us! This is how God showed his love: He sent his one and only Son into the world as a baby born in Bethlehem.

See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. (1 John 3:1)

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

...Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)

⁴ Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant ⁵ or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶ it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. ⁷ Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸ Love never ends. ¹³ So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love. (1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13)

We light this candle in love, the love of our coming Savior, Jesus. (*Lighting the four Advent Candles*).

Come, Lord Jesus. **Come and bring us love.**

SOLO: Light of the World, Grace Puckett

1. Light of the world, treasure of Heaven, Brilliant like the stars, in the wintery sky
Joy of the Father, reach through the darkness, Shine across the earth, send the shadows to flight

2. Light of the world, from the beginning, The tragedies of time, were no match for Your love
From great heights of glory, You saw my story, God, You entered in, and became one of us

Chorus: Sing hallelujah, sing hallelujah, Sing hallelujah for the things He has done
Come and adore Him, bow down before Him, Sing hallelujah to the light of the world

3. Light of the world, crown in a manger, Born for the Cross, to suffer, to save
High King of Heaven, death is the poorer, We are the richer, by the price that He paid. Chorus.

4. Light of the world, soon will be coming, With fire in His eyes, He will ransom His own
Through clouds He will lead us, straight into glory, And there He shall reign, forevermore. Chorus.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-19

Reader: Weston Witte

⁸ And 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.

⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

¹³ 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."

¹⁴ 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.

¹⁵ 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."

¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

¹⁷ 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; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ 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." (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 357 (Maroon): O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, v. 1 & 8

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Emmanuel, Your people cry; Be God with us, Messiah, Adonai.
Yes, come and all Your children bless. And turn us from our sins to righteousness,
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18

Reader: Weston Witte

¹⁵ And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ 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, ¹⁸ and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 361 (Maroon): O Little Town of Bethlehem, v. 1, 3, 4

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy 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.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n;
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear Christ enters in.

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 Emmanuel!

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 *Reader: Liam Schlueter*

² 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.
⁶ 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.
⁷ 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. (ESV)
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO: Carol of the Bells, Hosanna Handbells

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 *Reader: Aiden Fromm*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
² 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.
³ 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, ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.
⁶ 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.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw
like the ox. ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall
put his hand on the adder's den. ⁹ 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. (ESV)
This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: When Love Crossed O'er

- 1. One glorious night When love crossed over, And cast aside Both crown and throne
To live beside The common man, As was foretold The promised One**
- 2. And there He lay In humble straw, As angels sing "goodwill to all"
A gift from God To reconcile, All men to Him This perfect child**
- 3. Behold this day A Savior's born, And in whose fate This world has longed
Conceived in faith Received with love, Come kneel beside This child of God**

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-38 *Reader: Annabelle Luthens*

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."
³⁴And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"
³⁵And 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸And 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. (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Solo: Mary Did You Know? Grace Puckett

Mary, did you know That your baby boy will one day walk on water?
Mary, did you know That your baby boy will save our sons and daughters?
Did you know That your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered Will soon deliver you

Mary, did you know That your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary, did you know That your baby boy will calm a storm with His hand?
Did you know That your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
And when you kiss your little baby, You've kissed the face of God

Mary, did you know?
The blind will see, The deaf will hear And the dead will live again
The lame will leap, The dumb will speak The praises of the Lamb

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7

Reader: Weston Witte

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And 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, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And 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. (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Peace, Peace (choir and handbells) / HYMN 363 (Maroon): Silent Night

Peace, peace, peace on earth and goodwill to all.

This is a time for joy. This is a time for love.

Now let us all sing together of peace, peace, peace on earth.

**Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! Alles schläft; einsam wacht
Nur das traute heilige Paar. Holder Knab im lockigten Haar,
Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh! Schlafe in himmlischer Ruh!**

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! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heav'nly hosts sing, "Alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!**

**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.**

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16

Reader: Annabelle Luthens

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"**Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!**" ¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN: Sing We the Song of Emmanuel

- 1. Sing we the song of Emmanuel
This the Christ who was long foretold
Lo in the shadows of Bethlehem
Promise of dawn now our eyes behold
God Most High in a manger laid
Lift your voices and now proclaim
Great and glorious, Love has come to us
Join now with the hosts of heaven**
- 2. Come we to welcome Emmanuel
King who came with no crown or throne
Helpless He lay, the Invincible
Maker of Mary, now Mary's son
O what wisdom to save us all
Shepherds, sages, before Him fall
Grace and majesty, what humility
Come on bended knee, adore Him**
- 3. Go, spread the news of Emmanuel
Joy and peace for the weary heart
Lift up your heads for your King has come
Sing for the Light overwhelms the dark
Glory, shining for all to see
Hope alive, let the gospel ring
God has made a way, He will have the praise
Tell the world His name is Jesus**

EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11

Reader: Aiden Fromm

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ² 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." ³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "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."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸ 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."

⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹ 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. (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Solo: We Three Kings, Hosanna Handbells

NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14

Reader: Liam Schlueter

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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. (ESV)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Solo: I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day (Casting Crowns) Grace Puckett

*I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play
And mild and sweet their songs repeat
Of peace on Earth, good will to men
And the bells are ringing (peace on Earth)
Like a choir they're singing (peace on Earth)
In my heart I hear them (peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men*

*And in despair I bowed my head
"There is no peace on Earth," I said
For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on Earth, good will to men
But the bells are ringing (peace on Earth)
Like a choir singing (peace on Earth)
Does anybody hear them? (Peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men*

*Then rang the bells more loud and deep
God is not dead, nor doth He sleep
(Peace on Earth) (Peace on Earth)
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail
With peace on Earth, good will to men
Then ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
Of peace on Earth, good will to men*

*And the bells, they're ringing (peace on Earth)
Like a choir they're singing (peace on Earth)
And with our hearts, we'll hear them (peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men*

*Do you hear the bells, they're ringing? (Peace on Earth)
The light, the angels singing (peace on Earth)
Open up your heart and hear them (peace on Earth)
Peace on Earth, good will to men*

Message "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" Pastor Kurt Weber

PRESENTATION OF OFFERINGS SOLO: O Holy Night, Choir and Handbells

1. O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining, It is the night of the dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born, O night, O Holy night, O night divine!
2. Led by the light of faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here come the wise men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend, Behold your King; before Him lowly bend
3. Truly He taught us to love one another; His law is love and His gospel is peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother, And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim, His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim

Prayers & The Lord's Prayer

BLESSING

HYMN 379 (Maroon): O Come, All Ye Faithful, v. 1, 2, 3

**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.**

**Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes.
Son 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.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
O 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.**