



A Service of Lessons & Carols

December 29, 2024 10:30 a.m.

# Welcome!

- *We invite children to use our activity area in the sanctuary. If your child needs a break away from the Sanctuary, feel free to use Room 3 of the Education Wing.*
- *Assistive listening devices are available at the sound booth (rear of sanctuary).*
- *Greeting you today are David Bentzel, Lisa Love, and Dave & Judy Thompson .*

*The chancel flowers are presented in memory of beloved family members by Gail Mark.*

*Worship begins with the first note of the prelude – may we silence our voices and open our hearts, allowing the music to draw us together into the presence of God.*

Prelude

*There's a Song in the Air*  
Seneca Mikesell, vocal; Kellen Mikesell, violin

arr. James Laster

Welcome

\*Call to Worship

L: Sing to the Lord a new song;

P: **Sing to the Lord, all the earth!**

L: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

P: **Tell the good news of salvation from day to day.**

\*Carol 143

*Angels, From the Realms of Glory*

\*Prayer of Invocation

**Eternal and loving God, wonderfully creating us in your own image; becoming human in Jesus, sharing the flesh and blood of our humanity. So fill us with your spirit that we may come to share in your divinity, and that in the company of those who knew your birth among us, we may sing glory and know your peace. This we pray in the name of Jesus of Bethlehem and Egypt, of Nazareth and Jerusalem. Amen.**

First Lesson – Creation

Genesis 1:1-5 & John 1:1-5

For love, God gave up power and made the world to have a relationship with. Christians understand that the very movement-of-creation, the divine-Word, became supremely visible in Jesus. So we celebrate his birth!

*\*Those who are able are asked to please stand.*

Carol 132 (v.1 & 2)

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

Second Lesson — Covenant

Genesis 9:12-16

God's commitment to all people is from the beginning of time and will continue beyond the end of time.

Carol 141 (v.1 & 2)

*On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

Third Lesson — Choice

Luke 1:26-33

In this traditional story, a woman dares to believe new possibilities can be conceived when it seems impossible. So, she chooses to work in partnership with God for a better world.

Carol 144 (v.1, 2, 4)

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Fourth Lesson — Birth

Luke 2:1-20

God is more than a theory or a story, when we suddenly realize the Holy Spirit of the Universe presents to us in a person. "Immanuel = God-with-us."

Carol 140

*Once in Royal David's City*

Special Music

*Shepherd's Pipe Carol*

John Rutter

Kellen Mikesell, vocal

Fifth Lesson — Good News for All People

John 1:9-12,14,16-18; Matthew 2:1-11

Christianity has a long history of people getting excited that hopes for a better world are seen to be fulfilled.

Carol 123

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

Presentation of God's Tithes and Our Offerings

Offertory

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

trad. Polish carol

Dave Getz, clarinet

arr. F. Wiley/D. Winkler

\*Doxology (Tune: "Old Hundredth")

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost;  
Amen.***

\*Prayer of Dedication

God of mystery and might, we praise you and worship you for the gift of your son, Jesus Christ. In his face, we behold your glory; for in his life, as in his death, is your gift of salvation. By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving, that we may give as we have received. Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you, God of love and peace, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People/ The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sixth Lesson — God's Presence Overcoming Fear

Matthew 2:1-12

As people experienced God-with-them in Jesus, so throughout our personal spiritual journeys we discover that at the heart of creation there is a saving Love present, greater than the deathly force of fear in ourselves or others.

\*Carol 147 (v.1-3)

*The First Nowell*

\*Benediction

Postlude

*How Great Our Joy*  
Seneca Mikesell, cello

arr. Stan Pethel

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Organist/Choir Director — Byron Mikesell