

Christ Church United Methodist

December 29, 2024

(live-streamed & in - person) 10 am

Lessons and Carols Order of Worship

WELCOME

Dr. Daniel Blosser

PRELUDE

Christmas Medley
Flute Choir

OPENING PRAYER

*OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful
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;

Hymn 234
st.1

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Liz Curtis Higgs

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass 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.

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
the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

CAROL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.

Hymn 196

Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,

born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants
all the nations of the earth will obtain blessings.

CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn 211

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

st. 1,7

Refrain:

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife. (Refrain)

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6-7

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

CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Hymn 216

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 floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

st. 1, 2

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 us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

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 God's creation.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 230

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.

st. 1,4

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!

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 will never end.

CAROL

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

Hymn 218

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

st. 1,4

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophet seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

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

CAROL

Away in a Manger

Hymn 217

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

st. 1,3

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 fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world
and find him lying in a manger.

CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn 238

Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

st. 1,3

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men follow a star to find

the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

CAROL

What Child Is This

Hymn 219

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

st. 1,3

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. (Refrain)

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn 240

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th' incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

*WESLEYAN COVENANT PRAYER

I am no longer my own, but thine.
Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt.
Put me to doing, put me to suffering.
Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee,
exalted for thee or brought low for thee.
Let me be full, let me be empty.
Let me have all things, let me have nothing.
I freely and heartily yield all things
to thy pleasure and disposal.
And now, O glorious and blessed God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it.
And the covenant which I have made on earth,
let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING MUSIC

Gesù Bambino
Jeannie Lovett Barrick, soloist

arr. Mark Hayes

*DOXOLOGY

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

MESSAGE

It's All About Jesus

Liz Curtis Higgs

INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

*CLOSING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful
True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; (Refrain)

Hymn 234
st. 2,6

Refrain:

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: (Refrain)

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard On High

arr. Darwin Wolford

Musicians: Matthew Vanover, organ; Dr. Daniel Blosser, cantor; Daniel Light, piano

***Announcements are located on the following pages*

This Evening

The flowers in the Chancel area have been given by Bill and Debbie Cook in loving memory of their daughter, Susan.

Holiday Closure:

The church office and building will be closed Wednesday, January 1.

This Morning

Special thanks to Ben and Susan Blosser and Bill, Matthew, Beth and Lilly Higgs for participating in today's service.

The flowers have been placed on the altar this morning in loving memory of Rusti Silverthorn's parents, Agnes and Russell Cofer and Bob Silverthorn Jr's parents, Robert and Marilyn Silverthorn.

Fifth Sunday Offering

In the face of challenge the Kentucky United Methodist Children's Home family has always continued to have a generous and compassionate heart for vulnerable Kentucky Children. This offering represents 25% of critical income for the kids. They are dependent on these gifts to find healing. Give in person or online at ccum.net/give

Announcements

Help us celebrate the ministry of **Liz Curtis Higgs** as she prepares for her December 31 retirement. **A light reception will follow today's service in the Gathering Hall.** To **express appreciation** for Liz, you may write a note and mail it or drop it off to the church and/or contribute to the "Flower Fund" for the new garden Liz plans to work on in her retirement. Checks may be made to CCUM with "Liz Flower Garden" in the memo line, or made online at ccum.net/offering, select "Liz's Flower Garden" fund.

The Staff Parish Relations Committee has granted a **renewal leave** for **Dr. Dan Blosser** beginning January 2 through February 27. Renewal leave provides energizing renewal for clergy, staff and the congregation. It is an important part of maintaining focus, commitment, passion and skill for ministry. Dan has prepared the staff and his team well for his absence. We invite you to extend prayers for Dan during this time of renewal.

Charge Conference | January 26 | 12:30 pm

All Administrative Council members are asked to attend and all church members are invited to attend this annual church business meeting. Childcare is available upon request by January 19 to gina@ccum.net.

Grief Support | Prayer Room 150b | 11 am | Wednesdays, January 8 - February 26

Experiencing the death of a loved one is something you do not have to walk through alone. As you are grieving, transitioning, and coping, you can **receive support and encouragement** through your church. If you have questions, email Melissa at melissa@ccum.net.

MEN

Men's Lunch - Meet and Meat! | Sunday, January 12 | 12:30 pm | Fellowship Hall

All men are invited to join us immediately following the 11:15 am worship service for **lunch, fellowship and fun!** We're excited to welcome our **guest speaker, Rear Admiral Gene Price** (Retired). The menu features smoked ham, baked beans and macaroni and cheese. Please note that there will be no Men's Breakfast in January, so this lunch is a great opportunity to connect. Please sign up at ccum.net/men.

SERVE

Roll up your sleeve and join us for the next **Red Cross Blood Drive** on **Tuesday, January 7** from 1 - 6 pm in Fellowship Hall! Please schedule an appointment by contacting Kim Brice at (502) 727-2581. Walk-ins are also welcome.

FELLOWSHIP

New to Christ Church? Looking to learn more? Join Rev. Dr. Eric Bryant and Rev. Amy Chapman for **Belong! A Christ Church Connect Class**, Sundays in February at 10 am in the Chapel. Register at ccum.net/belong, registration is encouraged but not required.

YOUTH/CHILDREN

Created By God 2025 | February 14 - 16

The human body is fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139)! Created By God is a **weekend retreat** designed to help prepare fifth grade students and their families to have Christ centered conversations around the topics of human sexuality, values and relationships. Parents should plan to attend an information meeting in order for your child to participate. Registration will open in January.

