



# THE WORSHIP OF GOD

## Fayetteville First UMC

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Service of Lessons & Carols  
December 12, 2021  
11:00 AM

Spark means light.  
Spark means action.

The Season of the Nativity  
reveals Christ  
in both ways:  
as light for our way  
and as acts of grace.

Receive the spark.  
Share the spark.

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### GREETING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Thomas Martin  
Senior Minister

### MUSIC OF PREPARATION

*Wexford Carol*  
arr. Lori Line  
Mr. Rick Massengale  
Guest Musician

### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Dr. Martin and **People**

Behold, a light shines in the darkness  
**and the darkness does not overcome it.**

### \* THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Once in Royal David's City*  
IRBY

Jenna Livsey, soloist

*Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;  
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.*

Chancel Choir

*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 lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.*

Congregation sings remaining verses

*And through all His wondrous childhood He would honour and obey,  
Love and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms He lay:  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as He.*

*For He is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us He grew;  
He was little, weak and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew;  
And He feeleth for our sadness, and He shareth in our gladness.*

*And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;  
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above,  
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.*

*Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
We shall see Him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;  
Where like stars His children crowned all in white shall wait around.*

## **LIGHTING OF THE THIRD ADVENT CANDLE**

Congregational Response:

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

## **THE BIDDING PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER**

The Rev. Allyson Lawrence  
Associate Minister

**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.**

A CAROL

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

arr. Howard Helvey

Justin Maxey & Rick Massengale, piano

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day: I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance;*

*Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love, this have I done for my true love*

*Thus was I born of a virgin pure, of her I took fleshly substance;  
Thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance.*

*In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor, this was my chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance.*

## **THE FIRST LESSON**

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

A CAROL

*Adam lay ybounden*

Peter Warlock

*Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond:  
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.  
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,  
as clerkes finden written in their book.  
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been  
Ne had never our lady abeen heavenly queen.  
Blessed be the time that apple taken was.  
Therefore we moun singen: Deo gracias!*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.*

A CAROL

*Cradle Carol*

Dan Forrest  
Stephen Rotz, tenor

*Lord Jesus, Savior, infant weak, why come to earth as one so meek?  
A newborn babe, helpless and small; and yet Creator of us all.  
Thou hast no beauty, form, nor grace; no fortune, rank, no fame, no place  
That men should see Thee and adore a babe so humble and so poor.  
But to the soul whose eyes are healed, to whom the Truth has been revealed,  
Thy glory challenges the sun; Thou art a thousand joys in One.  
Though strangers see a babe in straw, Thy children see the Lord of all  
Who laid aside His rightful reign to take away our sin and shame.  
This sacrifice of love divine, this condescension to mankind  
With beauty robes Thy lowly frame and sanctifies Thy simple name.  
O aid my worship, Mighty King, that I might with the angels sing,  
"Glory to God on high!" Now crowned again beyond the sky!  
Oh, help me see Thee and adore this little child, my God and Lord.*

## THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

A CAROL

*Recit: For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth  
Air: The People that Walked in Darkness*

G.F. Handel  
from *Messiah*  
Eric Lindsey, bass

*For, behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people;  
But the Lord shall arise upon thee, and His glory shall be seen upon thee.  
And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

*The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light,  
and they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,  
upon them hath the light shined.*

## SPARK: GIFTS

Dr. Martin

\*A CAROL

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL

*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.*

*Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,  
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world.  
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,  
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.*

*And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,  
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,*

*Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing!*

*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.*

## **THE FOURTH LESSON**

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

## **\*A CAROL**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

ES IST EIN ROS ESPRUNGEN

*Lo, how a Rose e're blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those 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.*

*O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel with glorious splendour the darkness everywhere.  
True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us,  
And share our every load.*

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Dr. Martin

## **THE FIFTH LESSON**

Luke 1:26-35,38

*The prophet in exile foresees the coming glory of the Lord.*

## **A CAROL**

*Huron Carol*

arr. Paul Halley

*'Twas in the moon of winter-time  
When all the birds had fled,  
That mighty Gitchi Manitou  
Sent angel choirs instead;  
Before their light the stars grew dim,  
And wandering hunter heard the hymn:*

*"Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born,  
In excelsis gloria."*

*Within a lodge of broken bark  
The tender Babe was found,  
A ragged robe of rabbit skin  
Enwrapp'd His beauty round;  
And as the hunter braves drew nigh,  
The angel song rang loud and high.*

*The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair  
As was the ring of glory on the helpless Infant there.  
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.*

*O children of the forest free,  
O sons of Manitoul,  
The Holy Child of earth and heaven  
Is born today for you.  
Come kneel before the radiant Boy.  
Who brings you beauty, peace and joy.*

## **THE SIXTH LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7

*Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

## **A CAROL**

*The Virgin's Slumber Song, Op. 76*

Max Reger  
Kayla Harriot, soprano

*Amid the roses Mary sits  
And rocks her Jesus-child,  
While amid the treetops  
Sighs the breeze so warm and mild.*

*And soft and sweetly sings  
A bird upon a bough:  
Ah, baby, dear one,  
Slumber now!*

*Happy is Thy laughter,  
Holy is Thy silent rest,  
Lay Thy head in slumber  
Fondly on Thy Mother's breast.  
Ah, baby, dear one,  
Slumber now!*

## **THE SEVENTH LESSON**

Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

## **\*A CAROL**

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

CRANHAM

*In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan;  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid-winter long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.  
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;*

*But His Mother only in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the Beloved with a kiss.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

## **THE EIGHTH LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-12

*The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.*

## **A CAROL**

*Ding! Dong! Merrily on High*

arr. Howard Helvey

Justin Maxey & Rick Massengale, piano

*Ding! dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:  
Ding! dong! verily the sky is riv'n with angel-singing.  
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!  
E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,  
And "Io, io, io!" by priest and people sungen:  
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers!  
May you beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers!  
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria!*

## **THE NINTH LESSON**

John 1:1-14

*Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

## **\* A CAROL**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

*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;*

*Refrain:*

*O come, let us adore Him, O Come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!*

*God of God, Light of light,  
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created;  
Refrain*

*See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;  
Refrain*



*Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
Fain we embrace thee with love awe,  
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?  
Refrain*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
Refrain*

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given!  
WORD of the Father, now in flesh appearing!  
Refrain*

**\* A CAROL**

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! the herald angels sing; "Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic host 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 th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men 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, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

**\* BENEDICTION**

Dr. Martin

**POSTLUDE**

*Toccata on Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

arr. Diane Bish  
Mr. Maxey, organ

*When the crucifer, acolytes and ministers have departed the sanctuary,  
the congregation is dismissed to serve God and neighbor.*

\* Please stand in body or spirit.

Congregational responses are in **bold type**.

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**Please remember in your prayers:**

Van Askew  
Annelle Burch  
Joe Byers  
Nancy Byers  
Richard Clayton

Anne Free  
Margaret Grainger  
Martha Hale  
Chenelle Hernandez  
Tangie Hubbard

Cindy Jennings  
Doris Kerlin  
Claudia Rhodes  
Helen Voyles  
Mabel Wilbanks

Brad Wilkinson  
Vivian Wilson



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