

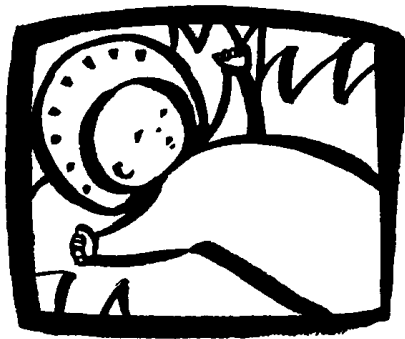
NOTES ABOUT THE SERVICE

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Our worship this evening is an adaptation of the *Lessons and Carols* service traditionally held at King's College, Cambridge, England, on December 24th every year. *Lessons and Carols* was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's College after experience as an army chaplain.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SERVED THIS EVENING

Lectors	Jim Lauersdorf, congregational president Roy Beall, secretary Joe Becker, financial secretary Norman Gullixson, elder Michael Joecks, trustee Lance Baker, trustee
Lights	Aaron Pruitt, trustee
Presiding Minister	Pastor Jeffrey Sonntag
Organist	Anne Sonntag



Christmas Day Festival Worship - 10:30 AM




A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Friday, December 24th at 7:00 PM

WELCOME

We are glad that you have joined us to celebrate the birth of the Christ child!

- ◆ **Restrooms** are located in the hallway to the right as you leave our sanctuary.
- ◆ **Cry Room** is located across from the kitchen in the entryway. It is equipped with a live-feed TV so you can continue to participate in the service.
- ◆ **An offering plate** can be found in the entryway. God's love for us moves us to give these gifts, which are one way in which we support the preaching and teaching of God's Word here and around the world. Visitors may join us if you like, but please do not feel obligated to do so. If you'd like to give online via our secure giving site you can scan this code: 
- ◆ **Candles** will be distributed at the beginning of the service. We will light and use these candles at the end of the service to sing "Silent Night".
- ◆ **Gift bags** for children will be distributed after worship. Please be sure to pick one up on your way out of the building.
- ◆ **Prayer before worship** Father, open my heart to hear and believe your word, so that through faith your Son may take his rightful place not just in the manger, but also within my heart. In his name I pray. Amen.



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Pastor Jeffrey Sonntag
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CANDLE LIGHTING

*The acolytes will come to your pew and light the candle nearest the center aisle.
Please then light the candle next to you until all the candles are lit in the pew.
Remember to tip the unlit candle and leave the lit candle vertical.
When all the candles are lit, the lights will be dimmed.*

STAND

BLESSING

M: May he who by his incarnation gathered things earthly and heavenly into one, fill us with such joy that comes with the knowledge of the forgiveness of sins and the hope of eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty – the Father, the Son, (†) and the Holy Spirit – be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

A CHILD BORN TO SAVE US

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-20

CAROL #60

Silent Night! Holy Night

Verse 4 will be sung *A Cappella*.

1. **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.**
2. **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!**
3. **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.**
4. **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.**

A CHILD NAMED JESUS

DEVOTION & SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: "The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel"--which means, "God with us." When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. But he had no union with her until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus

CAROL #67

What Child Is This

1. **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?
This, this is Christ the King, Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary!**
2. **Why lies he in such mean estate Where oxen now are feeding?
Good Christians, fear; For sinners here The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through; The cross he'll bear for me, for you.
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the Son of Mary!**
3. **So bring him incense, gold and myrrh; Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings Salvation brings; Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high; The virgin sings her lullaby.
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, The babe, the Son of Mary!**

WORSHIP THEME: *What Child is this?*

A baby is born every twelve seconds. That's 140 million babies born each year. Yet, there is something that sets this child apart from all others. It is not simply his humble beginnings, with a cattle trough as his first cradle. It is not just the miraculous nature of his birth, his mother being a virgin. There is so much more. This child is the only hope we have for peace and a future. This child can wipe away every tear, drive away every fear. Here is the truth of Christmas. With this child, you lack nothing. Without him, you have nothing. Let us use this season of Christmas to answer this most important question: **WHAT CHILD IS THIS?**

OPENING CAROL #50

Once in Royal David's City



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y
2 He came down to earth from heav - en
3 But our eyes at last shall see him
4 Not in that poor, low - ly sta - ble



Stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a
Who is God and Lord of all, And his
Through his own re - deem - ing love, For that
With the ox - en stand - ing by Shall we



moth - er laid her ba - by In a man - ger
shel - ter was a sta - ble, And his cra - dle
child, so dear and gen - tle, Is our Lord in
see him, but in heav - en, Set at God's right



for his bed; Mar - y was that moth - er mild,
was a stall; With the poor and mean and low - ly
heav'n a - bove, And he leads his chil - dren on
hand on high. Then like stars his chil - dren crowned,



Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
To the place where he is gone.
All in white, his praise will sound.

EXHORTATION AND PRAYER

M: Beloved in Christ: In this Christmas season it is our duty and delight to hear again the message of the angels and, in heart and mind, to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us, the Christ-child, lying in a manger.

Let us read and learn in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God from the first days after our fall, and into the birth and glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. Let us hear how peace was lost, and how peace is restored.

But first, let us pray, for this is good and right.

M: Heavenly Father, we pray for ourselves and all people who worship you and your Son this holy night. By your holy Word, lead us to say with the angels,

C: **Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for your blessing upon the people of our city, our state, our nation, and our world.

C: **Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for the poor and helpless, the cold and hungry, the sick and sad, that you would give them the joy of your salvation and the comfort of your presence.

C: **Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We pray for unbelievers and enemies of the Church, that through your Law and Gospel you would lead them to recognize your Son as their only hope for eternal life.

C: **Glory to God in the highest!**

M: Finally, we remember before you all those who rejoice with us in heaven, who live in greater light and beauty than we, that multitude which no one can number, who died in faith, and now praise you in your heavenly temple. We confess that we are united with them and with one another.

C: **Glory to God in the highest!**

M: We humbly offer up these prayers and praises in the words Christ himself taught us.

C: **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 and ever. Amen.**

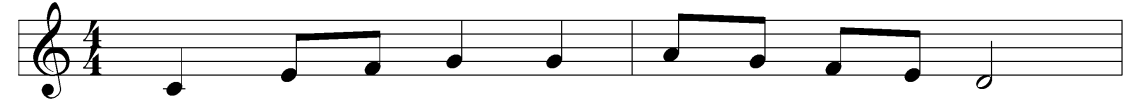
A CHILD THAT PROVES GOD'S LOVE

FIFTH LESSON

1 John 4:9-14

Carol #707

Peace Came To Earth



1 Peace came to earth at last that cho - sen night
2 And who could be the same for hav - ing held
3 You show the Fa - ther none has ev - er seen,
4 How else could I have known you, O my God!



When an - gels clove the sky with song and light And
The in - fant in their arms and lat - er felt The
In flesh and blood you bore our griefs and pain, In
How else could I have loved you, O my God! How



God em - bod - ied love and sheathed his might— Who could but
wound-ed hands and side, all doubts dis - pelled— Who could but
bread and wine you vis - it us a - gain— Who could but
else could I em - brace you, O my God! Who could but



gasp: Im - man - u - el! Who could but sing: Im - man - u - el!
sigh: Im - man - u - el! Who could but shout: Im - man - u - el!
see: Im - man - u - el! Who could but thrill: Im - man - u - el!
pray: Im - man - u - el! Who could but praise: Im - man - u - el!

A CHILD THAT COMES THROUGH A MIRACLE

FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

CAROL #61

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
3 Hail, the heav'n - ly Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of



new - born King; Peace on earth and mer - cy mild,
last - ing Lord, Late in time be - hold him come,
Right - eous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all you
Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



na - tions rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
God - head see, Hail th' in - car - nate De - i - ty!
glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th' an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus,
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to

Refrain



born in Beth - le - hem!"
our Im - man - u - el! Hark! The her - ald
give us sec - ond birth.



an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

THE NEED FOR THE CHILD

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

CAROL #42

Come, Your Hearts and Voices Raising



1 Come, your hearts and voic - es rais - ing, Christ the
2 See how God, for us pro - vid - ing, Gave his
3 Christ, from heav'n to us de - scend - ing And in
4 Ja - cob's Star in all its splen - dor Beams with
5 Gra - cious Child, we pray you, hear us; From your



Lord with glad - ness prais - ing; Loud - ly sing his love a -
Son and life a - bid - ing; He our wea - ry steps is
love our race be - friend - ing, In our need his help ex -
com - fort sweet and ten - der, Forc - ing Sa - tan to sur -
low - ly man - ger cheer us. Gent - ly lead us and be



maz - ing, Wor - thy folk of Chris - ten - dom.
guid - ing From earth's woe to heav'n - ly joy.
tend - ing, Saved us from the wi - ly foe.
ren - der, Break - ing all the pow'rs of hell.
near us Till we join th' an - gel - ic choir.



and on earth peace!

LUKE 2:14

A CHILD THAT BRINGS LIGHT AND PEACE

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 9:2,6,7

CAROL #54

Where Shepherds Lately Knelt



1 Where shep-herds late-ly knelt and kept the an-gel's word,
2 In that un-like-ly place I find him as they said:
3 How should I not have known I-sa-iah would be there,
4 Can I, will I for-get how Love was born, and burned



I come in half-be-lief, a pil-grim strange-ly stirred;
Sweet new-born Babe, how frail! and in a man-ger bed,
His proph-e-cies ful-filled? With pound-ing heart I stare:
Its way in-to my heart un-asked, un-forced, un-earned,



But there is room and wel-come there for me,
A still, small voice to cry one day for me,
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me,
To die, to live, and not a-lone for me,



But there is room and wel-come there for me.
A still, small voice to cry one day for me.
A child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.
To die, to live, and not a-lone for me?

A CHILD WITH A SPECIAL PURPOSE

THIRD LESSON

Jeremiah 23:5-6

CHILDREN'S CAROL #57

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain, Over the hills, and ev'rywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born.

1. While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens There shone a holy light.

Refrain

2. The shepherds feared and trembled When lo, above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

3. Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain

