



REFORMATION PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 13, 2020

6:00 PM

## ADVENT PROGRAM OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*Carols are instrumental, with words provided for personal reflection.*

### PRELUDE

Mr. Chris Zhang

### WELCOME

Rev. Matt Lucas

### INTROIT — *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

Ms. Karen Kuykendall

Translation: Gerard Moultrie | Arranged: Stephen Cleobury

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Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand;  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of Kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on earth he stood,  
Lord of lords, in human vesture  
In the body and the blood  
He will give to all the faithful  
His own self for heavenly food.

### LESSONS

Miss Lillian Riddle

#### ISAIAH 7:14

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

#### MATTHEW 1:18-23

Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel"

## CAROL — *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

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, Thou Rod of Jesse, free  
Thine own from Satan's tyranny;  
From depths of hell Thy people save,  
And give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, from on high,  
And cheer us by Thy drawing nigh;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Key of David, come  
And open wide our heav'nly home;  
Make safe the way that leads on high,  
And close the path to misery.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Adonai, Lord of might,  
Who to Thy tribes, on Sinai's height,  
In ancient times didst give the law  
In cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel.

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel was originally written in Latin and translated into English in 1851. The Hebrew word 'Immanuel,' appears in the Book of Isaiah as a sign of God's protection and in the Gospel of Matthew as a title for Jesus. The haunting melody of 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel has its roots as far back as 15th Century France with a sketchy-at-best history; the actual composer of one of the world's most popular carols is enigmatically anonymous (taken from <https://www.classicfm.com/discover-music/occasions/christmas/lyrics-o-come-o-come-emmanuel-origins/>).*

## LESSONS

Mr. Tom Sauter

### ISAIAH 11:1-9

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 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. 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, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. 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. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. 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.

### MATTHEW 11:2-6

Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. And blessed is the one who is not offended by me."

### CAROL — *People Look East*

People, look east. The time is near  
Of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
Trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
One more seed is planted there:  
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
That in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though you long have ceased to build,  
Guard the nest that must be filled.  
Even the hour when wings are frozen  
God for fledging time has chosen.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
One more light the bowl shall brim,  
Shining beyond the frosty weather,  
Bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
With the word, the Lord is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love, the Lord, is on the way.

*Written by Eleanor Farjeon, People, Look East first appeared in The Oxford Book of Carols (1928). This lively tune, the traditional French carol Besançon, provides a festive and joyful setting for the carol's text, which is full of Advent imagery. Singing this carol is indeed one way to prepare both our homes and hearts for the coming of the Savior (taken from <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-people-look-east>).*

## LESSONS

Miss Lillian Riddle

ISAIAH 40:3-5

A voice cries:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;  
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.  
Every valley shall be lifted up,  
and every mountain and hill be made low;  
the uneven ground shall become level,  
and the rough places a plain.  
And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,  
and all flesh shall see it together,  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”

LUKE 4:16-19

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
and recovering of sight to the blind,  
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,  
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

## CAROL — On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's cry  
Announces that the Lord is nigh;  
Awake and hearken, for he brings  
Glad tidings of the King of Kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;  
Make straight the way for God within,  
And let us all our hearts prepare  
For Christ to come and enter there.

We hail Thee as our Savior, Lord,  
Our refuge and our great reward;  
Without Thy grace we waste away  
Like flow'rs that wither and decay.

Lay on the sick Thy healing hand  
And make the fallen strong to stand;  
Show us the glory of Thy face  
Till beauty springs in ev'ry place.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee  
Whose advent sets Thy people free,  
Whom with the Father we adore  
And Holy Spirit evermore.

*John the Baptist's announcement "Prepare the way for the Lord" (Matthew 3:3, a quote from Isaiah 40:3) is the primary basis for this Advent hymn. Stanzas 1 and 2 apply that message to people today; stanza 3 is a confession by God's people of their need for salvation; stanza 4 is a prayer for healing and love; stanza 5 is a doxology. During Advent, this song is especially sung in worship services about repentance and renewal (taken from [https://hymnary.org/text/on\\_jordans\\_bank\\_the\\_baptists\\_cry](https://hymnary.org/text/on_jordans_bank_the_baptists_cry)).*

## LESSONS

Mr. Tom Sauter

### 1 SAMUEL 16:1, 6-7

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

### ISAIAH 11:10

In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples—of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

### PSALM 118:22-23

The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the cornerstone.  
This is the LORD's doing;  
it is marvelous in our eyes.

## CAROL — *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

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.

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.

This Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;  
True Man, yet very God, from sin and death He saves us,  
And lightens every load.

O Savior, Child of Mary, who felt our human woe,  
O Savior, King of glory, who dost our weakness know;  
Bring us at length we pray, to the bright courts of Heaven,  
And to the endless day!

*Most Christmas carols exist for the rhythm or melody, but Lo, How a Rose exists for the chords. There is almost no rhythmic variation: The four voices move together, syllable after syllable, in patient homophony. This is a hymn about beholding, listening, and watching revelation flourish. Lo, How a Rose is a unique hymn that helps us contemplate the beauty of the Christmas story. (taken from <https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2015/12/lo-how-a-rose-eer-blooming/421518/>).*

## CLOSING REMARKS

Rev. Matt Lucas

## BENEDICTION

## POSTLUDE

## SERVICE LEADERS



Rev. Matt Lucas  
Sr. Pastor



Mr. Chris Zhang  
Pianist



Miss Lillian Riddle  
Reader



Mr. Tom Sauter  
Reader



Mr. Doug Dolan  
Audio/Visual



Ms. Karen Kuykendall  
Music Director



Mr. Bill O'Brien  
Audio/Visual