

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Pulaski Heights United Methodist Church
Classic Worship, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.
December 17, 2023

*Today's spoken liturgy is taken from the United Methodist Book of Worship.
The asterisk (*) indicates to stand, as you are able.*

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

OPENING VOLUNTARY *Savior of the Nations, Come* *J.S. Bach*
Sungyun Kim, organ

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH (9:00) Gail & Rod Hocott
(11:00) Susan and Dee Dietz

Leader: We light this candle as a symbol of Christ our Joy.
May the joyful promise of your presence, O God,
make us rejoice in our hope of salvation.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

All Sing: Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

BIDDING PRAYER

Pastor: Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas,
it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message
of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

The pastor continues, and concludes with:

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven,
in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

**People: 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.**

HYMN 250 *Once in Royal David's City* IRBY

*The congregation will remain seated until directed to stand prior to the third stanza.

1. Solo Kathryn Howell, soloist
2. Choir

*3. & 4. Congregation:

**Jesus 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.**

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

ANTHEM *Prepare the Way of the Lord* *Michael Larkin*

ANTHEM *Comfort Ye My People* *Joseph Martin*

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9
The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

ANTHEM *There Shall a Star from Jacob Come Forth* *Felix Mendelssohn*

THIRD LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38
The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

SOLO *Gesu Bambino* *Pietro Yon*
Karen Clark, soprano

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIVING OF OUR TITHES & OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Carol of Joy* *arr. Jay Rouse*
(Carol of the Bells/Joy to the World)
Dr. Frode Gundersen, piano

* **DOXOLOGY 95** OLD 100th

**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.**

* **HYMN 229** *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* W ZLOBIE LEZY

**Infant Holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging, angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all.**

**Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.**

* **FOURTH LESSON** Luke 2:1, 3-7
St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

* **HYMN 240** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* MENEDELSSOHN

**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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 newborn 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 newborn King!"**

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16
The shepherds go the manger.

ANTHEM

The First Noel *arr. David Willcocks*

SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11
The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

ANTHEM

My Dancing Day *Mark Burrows*

*** SEVENTH LESSON**

John 1:1-14
St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

This is the Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

*** HYMN 234**

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.**

**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)***

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

**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)***

*** DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

Pastor: May the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One things earthly
and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Go forth in peace and joy.

Amen: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

*** CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Christmas Fantasy *Diane Bish*
Sungyun Kim, organ

Communion is available immediately following this service in the Chapel.

WORSHIP LEADERS

Dr. John Robbins, *Senior Pastor*; Rev. Jay Clark, *Executive Pastor*; Rev. Katye Chambers, *Associate Pastor*
Rev. Ellen Rowland, *Pastor of Youth & Families*; Dr. Frode Gundersen, *Director of Music, Arts & Worship*
Sungyun Kim, *Organist/Associate Music Director*; The Pulaski Heights UMC Chancel Choir

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Violin: Drew Irvin, Katherine Williamson, Meredith Hicks, Sandy McDonald
Viola: Katherine Reynolds, Tim McDuff; Cello: Joanna Klett; Bass: Russell Thompson
Susan Antonetti, flute

USHERS

(9:00) Caroline Beauchamp (*Lead*), Nancy Bartlett, Grant Cox, Rick Fleetwood
(11:00) Nancy Leonhardt (*Lead*), Cher Dupuy, Ryan Eppinette, John Jones, Jim Moody

FLOWERS

The Sanctuary and Columbarium flowers are given to the glory of God and in loving memory
of John N. Roberts by Kathy Roberts and family.



**PULASKI
HEIGHTS**

United Methodist Church
4823 Woodlawn Drive • Little Rock, AR • 72205

www.phumc.com

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