



Centenary
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 25, 2022 10:30 a.m.

*As the Prelude begins, you are invited to enter a time of prayer
and meditation as we prepare to worship God together.*

The Prelude *Mary's Little Boy Child* Jester Hairston

+ The Call to Worship

Leader: Christ is born, give him glory!

**People: Christ has come down from heaven; receive him!
Christ is now on earth; exalt him!**

Leader: O earth, sing to the Lord!

**People: O you nations, praise him in joy,
for he has been glorified!**

+ The Processional Hymn No. 240

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MEDELSOHN

The Greetings and Concerns of the Parish

The Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Season 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.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by his holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a great light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

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

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, the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

The Blessing

The almighty God bless us with divine grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

+ The Carol No. 220

Angels from the Realms of Glory (v 1,2,4) REGENT SQUARE

The 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 woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

The Carol No. 219

What Child Is This

GREENSLEEVES

The Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

+ The Carol No. 229

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

W ZLOBIE LEZY

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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

The Carol No. 217 *Away in a Manger* AWAY IN A MANGER

The Fourth Lesson Isaiah 11:1-4a
*The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice
for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.*

+ **The Carol No. 230**
O Little Town of Bethlehem (v. 1,2,4) ST. LOUIS

The 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 shall never end.*

The Carol No. 228 *He Is Born* IL EST NE

The Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1-7
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

The Carol No. 245 *The First Noel (vs. 1, 2)* THE FIRST NOEL

The Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-16
*The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world,
lying in a manger.*

+ **The Carol No. 238**
Angels We Have Heard on High (vs. 1, 2, 4) GLORIA

The Eighth Lesson Matthew 2:1-11
*The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus,
the King of the Jews.*

The Carol No. 221
In the Bleak Midwinter CRANHAM

The Ninth Lesson John 1:1-14
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

+**The Carol No. 234**
O Come, All Ye Faithful (VS. 1, 3, 6) ADESTE FIDELES

The Offertory Prayer

The Offertory

Do You Hear What I Hear

Noel Regney and Gloria Shayne

The Collect

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. **Amen.**

The Blessing

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. **Amen.**

Leader: Go forth in peace and joy.

All: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

+ **The Hymn No. 246** *Joy to the World* (v 1, 2, 4) ANTIOCH

+ **The Postlude** *Skating* Vince Guaraldi

+ The congregation stands



Merry Christmas!

Welcome to our Christmas Day Service! We are delighted you are here to share in worship with us on this morning. If you are not actively involved in the life of another church, we invite you to join us regularly here at Centenary!

Centenary United Methodist Church is a Reconciling Congregation, extending hospitality and encouraging full participation of all, regardless of age, race, national origin, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, education, economic background, and physical or mental ability.