

SLATE RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
December 24, 2024 7:00 pm.
Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols
Rev. Carroll Fitzgerald

THE PRELUDES

“Mary, Did You Know” Lowry/Greene
“O Holy Night” Adam

THE SERVICE OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Candles: Hope, Peace, Joy, Love and
The Christ Candle
John Johnson, Pastor Carroll Fitzgerald

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song;
People: sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Leader: Sing to the Lord and bless God’s name;
People: tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

***OPENING HYMN #249** “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

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!

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye bright hosts of heav’n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Continued, page 2*

A freewill offering to support Mason-Dixon Community Services may be placed in the offering plates as you exit the sanctuary.

Have a blessed Christmas.

*Indicates that all who are able should stand.

THE SECOND LESSON

God's promise to Abraham

Genesis 22: 15-18

THE CAROL #245 “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 appears.

Refrain:

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

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadows put to flight.

Refrain

THE THIRD LESSON

A great light in the darkness

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

THE CAROL #251 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

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, goodwill to men,
from heav'n's all-gracious King”,
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

Continued, page 4

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him! O come, let us adore
him! O come, let us adore him- Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

Refrain

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

*The service of Lessons and Carols is adapted from The
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that has been
celebrated annually at King's College, Cambridge, since
1918. The nine Scripture lessons are those traditionally
used at the festival, while the carols provided to
accompany each passage have been selected from The
Celebration Hymnal.*

THE FIRST LESSON

Adam and Eve disobey God

Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19

THE CAROL #250 “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie;
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
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 men 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.

THE SIXTH LESSON

Mary gives birth in Bethlehem

Luke 2: 1-7

THE CAROL #262

“Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus- no crying He makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side ‘til morning is nigh.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Angels announce the Messiah

Luke 2: 8-16

ANTHEM

“The Night the Shepherds Heard Angels Sing”

Emily Collins

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.

THE FOURTH LESSON

And a little child will lead them Isaiah 11: 1-4a, 6-9

ANTHEM

“There Has Never Been Such a Night”

Lani Smith

THE FIFTH LESSON

An angel appears to Mary

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

THE CAROL #277 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

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.”

Continued, page 5

THE NINTH LESSON

And the Word became flesh

John 1: 1-14

*SILENT NIGHT

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.

Silent night, holy night, Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia.
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Wondrous star, lend thy light.
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King.
Christ the Savior is born! Christ the Savior is born!

*BLESSING AND CHARGE

May the Christ, who, by his incarnation, gathered into
one the things of heaven and earth, 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.

Alleluia!

Go forth in peace and joy.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

*THE POSTLUDE

“Hallelujah Chorus”

At the Messiah’s 1743 London premier, King George II
was so moved by the music that he stood for the entirety of
the Hallelujah Chorus. Tonight, this tradition is optional as
we encourage you to greet others with the Christmas joy
that shines from the light of our Savior, before departing.

THE CAROL #278 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o’er the plains
And the mountains in reply,
Echo back their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem, and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Magi come from the East

Matthew 2: 1-11

THE CAROL #288

“We Three Kings”

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar-
Field and fountain, moor and mountain-
Following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia! Earth to heav’n replies.

Refrain