

# A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 31, 2023

9:00 A.M.



ITEMS IN THIS FONT ARE TITLES

Items in this font are said by the worship leaders.

**Items in this font are said by everyone.**

*Items in this font are non-spoken instructions.*

Prelude *(a time for silent meditation)*

Greetings and Announcements

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(please stand if able)*

Glory to God in the highest!

**And hope to every discouraged heart.**

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care 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 is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.**

Therefore, let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God,  
**from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.**

***Opening Hymn: “Angels, from the Realms of Glory” LBW #50***

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . Almighty God, you have filled us with the new light of the Word who became flesh and lived among us. Let the light of our faith shine in all we do; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

#### LESSON I

Genesis 3:8-15 - *(God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.)*

<sup>8</sup> And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

<sup>9</sup> But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” <sup>10</sup> And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I

was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”<sup>11</sup> He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”<sup>12</sup> The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.”<sup>13</sup> Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

<sup>14</sup> The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all livestock  
and above all beasts of the field;  
on your belly you shall go,  
and dust you shall eat  
all the days of your life.

<sup>15</sup> I will put enmity between you and the woman,  
and between your offspring and her offspring;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

O Lord and Ruler of the hosts of heaven, God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and of all their righteous offspring:

**You made the heavens and the earth with all their vast array.**

O Lord, you are full of compassion, long-suffering, and abounding in mercy.

**You hold back your hand; you do not punish as we deserve.**

In your great goodness, Lord, you have promised forgiveness to sinners that they may repent of their sin and be saved.

**And now, O lord, I bend the knee of my heart, and make my appeal, sure of your gracious goodness.**

I have sinned, O Lord, and I know my wickedness only too well.

**Therefore, I make this prayer to you: Forgive me, Lord.**

Do not let me perish in my sin, nor condemn me to the depths of the earth.

**For your lovingkindness has appeared to us in Christ our Saviour.**

We are not saved by anything we have done, but by your mercy poured out on us richly. In the name of + Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven.

**All the powers of heaven sing your praises, and your forgiveness is good news of great joy! Amen.**

Hymn: “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”  
55

LBW #

*Remarks*

#### LESSON II

Genesis 22:1-3, 15-18 - *(God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.)*

After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.”<sup>2</sup> He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.”<sup>3</sup> So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### THE OFFERING

Let us with gladness present the offerings of our life and labor to the Lord.

*(Please leave your offering on our website:  
<https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi->*

bin/Vanco\_ver3.ups?appver3=Dc8dzPGn4-  
LCajFevTkh9MYPCImH2sG-  
jdxWYJMFGW lQfxkD4hBw8WoQ6UZLveQuLkSxosar20939JW  
iAad87o7zqy-  
JU UuLu19bUbJx2MmPFcXvWIUz6A7FDgkhUKkoPpduXvnt8g  
XUeZjQYbn9G3frHWC59Y VCHQ6 VCoE=&ver=3

## OFFERTORY

Hymn: "As with Gladness Men of Old"  
#82 v.1,3

LBW

*Remarks*

## LESSON III

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 - (*Isaiah foretells of the coming of the Saviour*)

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,  
on them has light shone.

<sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born,  
to us a son is given;  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

<sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace  
there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all

**And also with you.**

Carol: "Emmanuel" (2X)

**Emmanuel, Emmanuel.**

**His name is called Emmanuel**

**God is with us, revealed in us,**

**His name is called Emmanuel**

*Remarks*

LESSON IV

Isaiah 11:1-2, Micah 5:2-4 - (*Foretelling of Jesus from Jesse's line  
and the glory of Bethlehem*)

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

<sup>2</sup> 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

*Remarks*

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Please stand if able*)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and  
earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn: "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"  
#125

WHM

*Remarks*

#### LESSON V

Luke 1:26-35, 38 - (*The birth of Jesus is foretold by the Angel Gabriel*)

<sup>26</sup> In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup> to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup> And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup> But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup> And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup> And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup> He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup> and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

<sup>34</sup> And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

<sup>35</sup> And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you;

therefore, the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.  
<sup>38</sup> And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*Please stand if able*)  
(*Each petition ends with . . . Hear us Oh God. The congregation responds: Your mercy is great.*)

Hymn: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” WHM #136 vs.  
1,2

*Remarks*

#### LESSON VI

Luke 2:1-16 - (*Jesus is born in Bethlehem & worshipped by shepherds*)

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup>to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city

of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> “Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

<sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us.” <sup>16</sup> And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

#### THE LORD’S PRAYER *(Please stand if able)*

**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.**

Hymn: “The First Noel”  
1,2

LBW # 56 vs.

*Remarks (Please be seated)*

#### LESSON VII

Matthew 2:1-12 *(The visit of the Magi)*

<sup>2</sup> Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup> When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup> and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to

be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ““And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who will shepherd my people Israel.””

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup> After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup> And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

#### BLESSING

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, and the everlasting peace of Jesus who is Savior, Christ and Lord. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you now and forever.

**Amen**

Hymn: “The First Noel”

LBW # 56 vs. 3,4

*Remarks*

#### LESSON VIII

John 1:1-14 (*The Word becomes Flesh*)

<sup>1</sup> In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. <sup>4</sup> In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup> The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

<sup>6</sup> There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup> He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup> He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light.

<sup>9</sup> The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup> He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup> He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup> But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup> who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

BENEDICTION

May Christ, who by His Incarnation gathered into one thing earthly and heavenly, now fill us with His joy and peace; and may God's blessing be with us and remain with us forever.

**Amen.**

Hymn: "Go Tell It on the Mountain"

LBW #70

DISMISSAL

Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere!

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERVING OUR LORD IN WORSHIP TODAY**

Worship Leader: Deaconess Gail Oines  
Music Director: Michael Dettra  
Worship Assistants: John Flint, Jeanne Gryszka, George Henry

### **GUEST REGISTER**

If you are visiting with us today, please sign our Guest Book in the narthex.



### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The Altar Flowers to the Glory of God.

### **PASTOR MATT'S END OF DECEMBER SCHEDULE**

Pastor Matt will return Wednesday, January 3.

Pastor Bo Banister will be providing emergency pastoral coverage for Pastor Matt while he is away. Pastor Banister can be reached at 765-426-0500.

### **CHURCH OFFICE SCHEDULE FOR END OF DECEMBER**

The church office will reopen on Wednesday, January 3.



### **SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE IN DECEMBER**

Sunday School class will resume on January 7.

### **INSTALLATION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS AND RECOGNITION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS FINISHING TERMS – SUNDAY, JANUARY 7, 9:30 SERVICE**

On Sunday, January 7, at the 9:30 service, the Installation of new Council Members and the Recognition of Members of Council Members finishing their terms will take place.

### **SPAGHETTI DINNER – JANUARY 27**

Saturday, January 27 is the date for Pastor Matt's Spaghetti Dinner. More information to follow.

### **BLOOD DRIVE, TUESDAY, JANUARY 30**

The Blood Drive at Advent will take place, January 30, 2024 from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm. Please consider donating and asking your friends and neighbors to join you. All those participating will be entered for a chance to win tickets for Super Bowl LVIII, February 11th in Las Vegas. Package includes tickets, round trip airfare, hotel and a \$1,000 gift card. Sign up in the narthex or online at RedCrossBlood.org and enter Sponsor Code: Adventlutheran, or call 1- 800-Red Cross or Audrey at 215-913-1037, Thank you for your support.



### **PING PONG - TUESDAYS AT 6:30**

**RESTARTING JANUARY 9** All are welcome to join us for an evening of Ping Pong at the church on Tuesday nights at 6:30pm restarting after the Christmas Holidays, January 9. Please call the church 215-355-2529 if you want to give it a try. (It helps to know how many tables to set up).



### **THURSDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY, 7:00 PM via ZOOM**

Bible Study will resume on Thursday, January 4, 2024. The study is on the book Bonhoeffer by John W. Matthews. From the Theology for Life Series, it is a brief overview of the life and writings of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89632518358?pwd=Smg5dm1Ba0VZamZjNG1YMko2MlVvdz09> Meeting ID: 896 3251 8358 Passcode: 011905



### **STITCH CLUB**

The Stitch club items are available throughout the year. If you need any of the items made by the Stitch Club, i.e., blankets, hats, baby items, please contact

Hanna McCollum, 215-262- 9032, or Jeff Jobes, 215-355-4149

**DRIVE in AND DROP off FOOD COLLECTION**

If you have food for the Warminster Food Bank that you or your friends would like to donate and the church is not open, just drive in and drop off the food under the seat of the bench outside the front door. You may still bring food into the church narthex during church and office hours. A list of the Food Bank's most needed items is in the narthex or on the website [www.warminsterfoodbank.org](http://www.warminsterfoodbank.org). Thank you for helping our neighbors in need.

**STITCH CLUB CHANGE**

Stitch Club will no longer be meeting on Saturdays.

The Stitch club items are **available throughout the year**. If you need any of the items made by the Stitch Club, i.e., blankets, hats, baby items, please contact Hanna McCollum, 215-262-9032, or Jeff Jobes, 215-355-4149



**ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION**

The 2024 sign-up sheet to dedicate flowers to beautify the altar each Sunday is available. Please sign up on the sheet on the table in the narthex with your name and dedication. Two bouquets are available each week. The cost is \$25 per bouquet. In addition to making the altar more beautiful, you take the flowers home after the late service to enjoy during the week. If you have any questions call Cindy Frey 267-205-0713.

**THIS WEEK AT ADVENT**



**FIRST SUNDAY OF CHRISTMAS**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31**

**No 8:00 a.m. Worship and No Sunday School**

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Lessons and Carols
- 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time open

**HAVE A HAPPY & BLESSED NEW YEAR!**

**MONDAY, JANUARY 1**

- 7:30 p.m. A.A. Open Meeting

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 4**

- 7:30 p.m. Adult Bible Study via Zoom

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 5**

- 7:30 p.m. A.A. Step Meeting

**BAPTISM OF OUR LORD**

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 7**

- 8:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with Holy Communion
- 9:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion  
Sunday School, age 4 – grade 6

