

DECEMBER 31, 2023

LESSONS & CAROLS



Love  
has come –  
Jesus,  
Immanuel

RINGING OF BELL

PRELUDE *Creator of the Stars of Night with  
Of the Father's Love Begotten*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Love Has Come v. 1,2 #292

<sup>1</sup> Love has come – a light in the darkness!  
Love shines forth in the Bethlehem skies.  
See, all heaven has come to proclaim it;  
Hear how their song of joy arises:  
Love! Love! Born unto you, a Savior!  
Love! Love! Glory to God on high.

<sup>2</sup> Love is born! Come share in the wonder.  
Love is God now asleep in the hay.  
See the glow in the eyes of his mother;  
What is the name her heart is saying?  
Love! Love! Love is the name she  
whispers; Love! Love! Jesus, Immanuel.

DIALOGUE:

L: The people who walked in darkness have  
seen a great light.  
C: The light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness has not overcome it.  
L: Those who dwelt in the land of deep  
darkness, on them light has shined.  
C: We have beheld Christ's glory,  
glory as of the only Son from the Father.  
L: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.  
C: In the Word was life, and the life was the  
light of all people.

OPENING PRAYER: *We pray together*  
The Lord be with you. And also with you.

Eternal God, at the beginning of creation you  
made the light that scatters all darkness. May  
Christ, the true light, shine on your people and  
free us from the power of sin and death. Fill us  
with joy as we welcome your Son at his glorious  
coming; for He lives and reigns with You and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

~ Lessons & Carols ~

LESSON 1:

GENESIS 1:1-5, 14-18  
*God said, "Let there be light"*



Creator of the Stars of Night

v. 1 #245

<sup>1</sup> Creator of the stars of night, your people's  
everlasting light, O Christ, redeemer of us all,  
we pray you hear us when we call.

LESSON 2: ISAIAH 9:2-7  
*The Coming King*



Creator of the Stars of Night

v. 3 #245

<sup>3</sup> At your great name, O Jesus, now all knees  
must bend, all hearts must bow: all things on  
earth with one accord, like those in heav'n  
shall call you Lord.

LESSON 3: MICAH 5:2-5A  
*God Promises a Ruler  
from Bethlehem*



O Little Town of Bethlehem

v.1 #279

<sup>1</sup> 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.

LESSON 4: LUKE 1:26-36, 38  
*The Birth of Jesus  
announced to Mary*



O Little Town of Bethlehem

v.2 No. 279

**<sup>2</sup> For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!**

**LESSON 5: MATTHEW 1:18-25**

*The Birth of Jesus Announced to Joseph*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly v.1 No. 276

**<sup>1</sup> Infant holy, infant lowly,  
for his bed a cattle stall;  
Oxen lowing, little knowing  
Christ the child is Lord of all.  
Swiftly winging, angels singing,  
bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
Christ the child is Lord of all!  
Christ the child is Lord of all!**



**LESSON 6: LUKE 2:8-20**

*Shepherds Visited by Angels*

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

v.2 No. 276

**<sup>2</sup> 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 child was born for you!  
Christ the child was born for you!**



**LESSON 7: MATTHEW 2:1-11**

*Visitors from the East*

As With Gladness Men of Old, vss. 1,2, No. 302

**<sup>1</sup> As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright; so, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led by Thee.**

**<sup>2</sup> As with joyful steps they sped, Savior, to the lowly bed, there to bend the knee before Thee, whom heav'n and earth adore; so may we with willing feet ever seek Thy mercy seat.**



**LESSON 8 LUKE 2:21-36**

*Jesus Receives His Name*



Of the Father's Love Begotten

v. 1 No. 295

**<sup>1</sup> Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.**

**LESSON 9: JOHN 1:1-14**

*The Word of Life*



Of the Father's Love Begotten

v. 4,5 No. 295

**<sup>4</sup> Let the heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; pow'rs, dominions, bow before him and extol our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.**

**<sup>5</sup> Christ to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be: honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory, evermore and evermore! Amen.**

**APOSTLES CREED**

**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 dead. 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.**

**PRAYERS**

**P: Hear us, O God,**

**C: Your mercy is Great.**

**SHARING OF PEACE**

**P: The peace of Christ be with you always.**

**C: And also with you.**

## OFFERING-- OFFERTORY—

GLOBE OFFERING *Children are invited to bring forward an offering to the globe in the front of the church. Globe offerings will go to one of our global mission partners to be decided by our youth.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

P: Holy God, your beauty shines forth from the manger and your love flows from the cross.

**C: As we gather us around these signs of your love come among us, warm us to extend your care among the hungry and all in need. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER WORDS OF INSTITUTION LORD'S PRAYER

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Glory to God in the highest.  
Come to the table of peace.*



## DISTRIBUTION & HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter No. 294

<sup>1</sup> In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long a-go.

<sup>2</sup> Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign; in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord\_ God almighty, Jesus Christ.

<sup>3</sup> What\_ can I give him, poor\_ as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise\_man, I would do my part; yet what I can, I give him: give\_ my\_ heart.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

L: God of wonder, in Jesus we behold the light of the world come near.

**C: As you have come among us now, send us out in joy to share the good news of your love. We ask this in the name of Jesus, through the Spirit dwelling among us now and forever. Amen.**

## BENEDICTION

P: God bless you and keep you.  
+ Jesus grant you grace and truth,  
and the Spirit send peace upon your hearts, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## SENDING SONG: Love Has Come v. 3 #292

<sup>3</sup> Love has come and never will leave us!  
Love is life everlasting and free.  
Love is Jesus within and among us.  
Love is the peace our hearts are seeking.  
Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christmas.  
Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

## *Ring of Bell*

## DISMISSAL:

L: Christ the Savior is born!

Go in peace. Proclaim the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE *UNFLAMBEAU –*

*Bring a Torch Jeanette Isabella*

## PARTICIPANTS

INTERIM PASTOR—Kris Ferkin  
WORSHIP ASSISTANT—Carmen Nesseth  
KEYBD/PIANO—Annette Thunhorst  
COMMUNION SET-UP—Larry & Kaia Lehman  
GREETERS—Sandy Doehling  
COMMUNION SERVERS—Sandy Doehling & Candy Herrlich  
COFFEE SERVERS—Herrlichs  
TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Barb Groth, Steve Johnson, Holly Aldorfer.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

LITURGICAL TEXTS USED WITH PERMISSION: Under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB143702.

PUBLIC DOMAIN HYMNS: *Creator of the Stars of Night, O Little Town of Bethlehem, Infant Holy, As With Gladness Men of Old, Of the Father's Love Begotten*

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OL/SKU #62232 *Love Has Come*-UN

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## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Lila Cole, Jennifer Lerfald, Carolyn Walker, Lavon Underdahl, Kevin Hildebrandt, Jim Fountaine, Liz Flaten, Boe Aronson.

## CALENDAR ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUN 12/31	9 AM	WORSHIP - LESSONS & CAROLS
WED 1/3	6 PM -----	WED WORSHIP <i>No Confirmation</i>
SUN 1/7	9 AM	WORSHIP – EPIPHANY/BAPTISM OF JESUS

*Take Home  
Poinsettias*

*Turn in  
Transition  
Surveys !*

*Finish  
Annual  
Reports*

*Pick up 2024  
Offering  
Envelopes*

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