

WORSHIP FOR SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 2021

First Presbyterian Church of Union, Missouri

FIRST SUNDAY of CHRISTMAS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Luke 2)*

One: Come, all you faithful ones. Come, all who are seeking to be faithful.
Come, all who are seeking. Come.

All: **"Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us."**

LESSON AND CAROLS

OPENING AND PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Traditional)*

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

FIRST LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" GtG 88 *(Verses 1 & 6)*

**1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.**

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

**6. 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.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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SECOND LESSON Isaiah 9:2,6-7

HYMN "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" GtG 82

**1. Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us;
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**

**2. Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

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THIRD LESSON Micah 5:2-5a

HYMN "O Little Town of Bethlehem" GtG 121 (*Verses 1 & 3*)

**1. 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.**

**3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive
him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

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FOURTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35,38

HYMN “To a Maid Whose Name Was Mary” GtG 98 (*Verses 1 & 6*)

**1. To a maid whose name was Mary,
the angel Gabriel came.
“Fear not,” the angel told her,
“I come to bring good news;
good news I come to tell you,
good news, I say, good news.”**

**6. As Mary heard the angel,
she wondered at his words.
“Behold, I am your handmaid,”
she said unto her God.
“So be it; I am ready
according to your word.”**

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FIFTH LESSON Matthew 1:18-21

***HYMN** “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” GtG 119 (*Verses 1 & 3*)

**1. 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 the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn king!”**

**3. 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!”**

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SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7

HYMN “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” GtG 129 (*Verses 1-2*)

**1. Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
by faithful prophets sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.**

**2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it,
the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
she bore for us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.**

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SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-20

***HYMN** “Angels We Have Heard on High” GtG 113

**1. Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**3. 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!**

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EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

HYMN "As with Gladness Men of Old" GtG 150 (*Verses 1-3*)

**1. 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 to thee.**

**2. As with joyful steps they sped,
Savior, to thy lowly bed,
there to bend the knee before
thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with willing feet
ever seek thy mercy seat.**

**3. As they offered gifts most rare
at thy manger, rude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,**

**all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to thee, our heavenly king.**

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NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

***HYMN** “Joy to the World” GtG 134

**1. Joy to the world,
the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let every heart
prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven
and nature sing.**

**2. Joy to the earth,
the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods,
rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**3. No more let sins
and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his
blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**

**4. He rules the world
with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

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***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Pastor: ...And let the gathered people of God say...

People: ...Amen.

***POSTLUDE**

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