

MUSIC FOR GATHERING: Christmas Carol Medley

HYMN **O Come, O Come, Emmanuel** #211, vss. 1-2

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ,

This Christmas Day 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 this hoy 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 good will 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 greater 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 prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

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.**

CAROL **"Emmanuel, Emmanuel"** #204

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.

CAROL **"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"** #196

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

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

CAROL **"He Is Born"** #228, vss. 1-2

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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

CAROL **"Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"** #216, vss. 1-2

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 or Micah 5:2-5a

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.

CAROL **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"** #230

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.

VOCAL SOLO "Mary, Did You Know"

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7

Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

CAROL **"The First Noel"** #245, vs. 1

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

CAROL **"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"** #236

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the king of the Jews.

CAROL "We Three Kings" #254

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

CAROL O Come, All Ye Faithful" #234

COLLECT

DISMISSAL WITH 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.**

Go forth in peace and joy.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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**Today's Worship Leaders**

Rev. Dennis B. Bromley, Pastor

Becky Sopha, Director of Music

Liturgists: Ruth Barrett, Lynne Gohn, Betty Tabor

Sound Tech: Dennis Tabor

In 1880 E. W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Truro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for Christmas Eve. In 1918 it was adapted for the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, by its Dean, Eric Milner-White, who also wrote The Bidding Prayer. The Blessing after The Lord's Prayer, added by Milner-White, was first included in its present form in 1930. The Nine Lessons given here have been customarily used in recent years at King's College. The service has been edited for United Methodist congregations.



*10:00 am Christmas Day, 2016*

*United Methodist Church of Ludington*

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