

A FESTIVAL
OF
NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



“With the poor, the scorned the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.”

DECEMBER 10, 2023 11:00 A. M.
WESLEY MONUMENTAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

The Reverend Dr. Benton C. Martin, Senior Pastor

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 10, 2023 11:00 A. M.

The Second Sunday of Advent

GATHERING and ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rev. Dr. Ben Martin

Welcome to Worship. Thank you for joining us.

If needed, the nursery for infants to three years old is located on the first floor.

Hearing-assistance devices are available in the narthex; an usher will be happy to help you with them.

Please fill out the attendance register found in the pew, silence your cell phones, and refrain from flash photography during the Service.

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

Master Brantley Parker

VOLUNTARY

Peace

Mr. Kyle Seeger

*In this hour we pray that the heavenly Father may grant us glimpses of His beauty,
and make us worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore;
and that, rejoicing in the nativity, we may learn to serve Thee with gladness.*

* PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 250 Once in Royal David's City IRBY

Stanza 1: Miss Haley Hess, soloist

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed;
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ, her little child.

Stanza 2: All

**He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
and His shelter was a stable, and His cradle was a stall.
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.**

Stanza 3: All

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us He grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us He knew;
and He feeleth for our sadness, and He shareth in our gladness.**

Stanza 4: All

**And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.**

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Mr. and Mrs. Lee and Jeff Green,
Miss Ellen and Master Dean Muenckler

**All: “His name is wonderful, His name is wonderful,
His name is wonderful, Jesus my Lord.
He is the mighty King, Master of everything.
His name is wonderful, Jesus, my Lord.”**

BIDDING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

The Rev. Dr. Nelle Bordeaux

FIRST LESSON

Miss Hannah MacGregor

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

Jesus Christ The Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit, and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne’er can tell,
The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see ‘Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I’m weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

- Unknown, 18th century

SECOND LESSON

Mr. Harris Glidewell

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his
seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed. (Genesis 22)*

And the Glory of the Lord (from *Messiah*)

George Frideric Handel

And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together;
for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it.

- Isaiah 40:5

*Children ages three through third grade may leave through doors at the front of the Sanctuary
for Children’s Worship on the second floor.*

THIRD LESSON

Mr. Daniel Wilkinson

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah. (Isaiah 9)*For Unto Us (from *Messiah*)

George Frideric Handel

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
 and the government shall be upon His shoulder;
 and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
 the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

- Isaiah 9:6

FOURTH LESSON

Mrs. Sarah Beth Thompson

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem. (Micah 5)

* HYMN

O Little Town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN

**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 street shineth The everlasting light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in Thee tonight.**

**O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth.
 And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth;
 For Christ is born of Mary; And, gathered all above,
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.**

**How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is giv'n!
 So God imparts to human hearts The blessings of His heav'n.
 No ear may hear His coming; But in this world of sin,
 Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray,
 cast out our sin and enter in, Be born in us today.
 We hear the Christmas angels The great glad tidings tell;
 O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

The Rev. Carolyn H. Cubbedge

OFFERTORY ANTHEM**O Thou That Tellest**

George Frideric Handel

O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high mountain.
 O thou that tellest good tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy voice with strength;
 lift it up, be not afraid; say unto the cities of Judah, Behold your God!
 O thou that tellest good tidings to Zion,
 arise, shine for thy Light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee.

- Isaiah 60:2-3

Claire Watts, mezzo-soprano

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERING

*Please give attendance sheets to the acolytes as a symbolic offering of our presence in Worship.
To tithe, text wesleymumc to 77977 or place your offering in the offering plate.
Online giving is also available on our website.*

FIFTH LESSON

Mrs. Whitney Butler

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary. (Luke 1)

Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesu.
Sancta Maria,
Ora pro nobis, nobis peccatoribus,
Nun et in hora mortis nostrae.
Amen.

J. S. Bach/Charles Gounod

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou amongst women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

- 4th Century Liturgy of St. James

SIXTH LESSON

The Honorable Robert Pirkle

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus. (Luke 2)

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella!
Bring a torch, to Bethlehem run!
Tell the village of Christ in a manger,
Cradled in love and bathed in glory,
Ah, ah, beautiful is His mother!
Ah, ah, beautiful is her Son!
Ah, beautiful holy fam'ly!
Ah, beautiful here begun.

arr. Mack Wilberg

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella
Bring a torch, the journey is long
Bring a drum and a timbrel for dancing!
Bring a drum and a lyre for a song!
Bring a kettle for cooking and feasting!
Bring a kettle to feed the great throng!
Bring your voices, ye children of promise!
Bring your voices, come hurry and run!

Come, awaken, ye folk of the village!
Come, awaken from slumber and see
All is bright as a sapphire gleaming
Under the herald star of heaven!
Run, run, follow it to the stable!
Run, run follow it fearlessly!
Run, follow the newborn shepherd!
Run, run, follow Him faithfully!

Tell the world that Jesus our Savior,
Quickly will come again in glory,
Ah, ah, beautiful is the Christ child!
Ah, ah, beautiful is God's Son!
Ah, beautiful day of Christmas!
Ah, ah, beautiful day to come!

Bow before Him, ye mothers and children!
Bow before Him, ye shepherds and kings!
Hay of gold is the crown of His coming,
Swaddling clothes, His robe of glory.
Hush, hush, Joseph beholds the baby!
Hush, hush, angels begin to sing!
Peace, peace, cattle are softly lowing!
Peace, peace, heaven is caroling!
Ah, ah, Mary is sweetly sleeping!
Ah, ah, wise men their treasures bring!

Hasten onward, good folk of the manger!
Hasten onward, to ev'rywhere run!
Lift the flame of Jeanette, Isabella!
Lift the flame by those maidens begun!
Share the light of His love with the lowly!
Share the light of salvation to come!
Sing His tidings to all of the nations!
Sing His tidings in every tongue!
Wake the world now sleeping in darkness!
Wake the world awaiting the Son!

Bring a torch! Here, Jeanette! Isabelle! Bring a torch! Go! Hurry to Bethlehem run!

- 17th Century French carol

SEVENTH LESSON

Ms. Camille O'Neill

The shepherds go to the manger. (Luke 2)

Fum, Fum, Fum!
Fum, fum, fum!

arr. Derric Johnson

On December five and twenty, fum, fum, fum.
We have songs and carols plenty, fum, fum, fum.
And good tidings we will bring as our carols we will sing
to the son of God so holy in a manger mean and lowly.

Long ago in Bethlehem, sing fum, fum, fum.
Blessed was that day for them, sing fum, fum, fum.
Mid sheep and oxen mild Mary bore a little child.
In a manger mean and lowly cradled Jesus Savior holy.

Brightly shone the star that night, sing fum, fum, fum.
All the shepherds gave their light, sing fum, fum, fum.
Lo, an angel did appear, told the Shepherds not to fear.
For they brought to them great tidings of great joy to men abiding.

Joyful all ye nations rise, sing fum, fum, fum.
Join the triumph of the skies, sing fum, fum, fum.
Hallelujah now we sing praises to the newborn King.
Fum, fum, fum. Fum!

- 16th century Catalonia carol

EIGHTH LESSON

Mr. William H. Lovett

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus. (Matthew 2)

Go Where I Send Thee!

arr. André Thomas

Children go where I send thee! Children how shall I send thee?
I'm gonna send thee one by one. One for the little bitty baby.
He was born in Bethlehem.

Two was for Paul and Silas. Three for the Hebrew children.
He was born in Bethlehem.

Four came knockin' at the door. Somebody's knockin' at the door.
Four was the four that came knockin' at the door.
O, sinner, why don't you answer? Somebody's knockin' at your door.

I shall send thee five by five. Five for the gospel preachers.
I shall send thee six by six. Six was the six that couldn't be fixed.
Seven went up to Heaven. Eight was the eight that stood at the gate.
Nine was the nine that got left behind.
Ten by ten 'cause ten was the ten commandments.

He was born! Children go where I send thee!
He was born in Bethelhem!

Skip Watts, baritone

- Traditional Spiritual

* **NINTH LESSON**

The Rev. Dr. Ben Martin

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. (John 1)

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled.
When the star in the sky is gone.
When the kings and princes are home.
When the shepherds are back with their flock.
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among brothers,
to make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman (1973)

* **HYMN NO. 240**

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

**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."**

**Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold Him come, offspring of a Virgin's womb:
veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."**

**Hail the heav'nborn 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 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."**

* **BENEDICTION**

The Rev. Dr. Ben Martin

VOLUNTARY

Adeste, Fidelis

Garth Edmundson

* *Please stand as you are able.*

MUSICIANS

Wesley Chancel Choir
Wesley Youth Choir
Mrs. Sheila Watts, Youth Choir Assistant
Mr. Skip Watts, Youth Choir Assistant
Ms. Julia Flowers, Music Assistant
Miss Haley Hess, chorister
Mr. Kyle Seeger, handpan
Dr. Sinisa Ciric, violinist
Dr. Monica Dekle, Director of Music and Organist



Cover painting: *Adoration of the Shepherds* by Francesco Fontebasso, c. 1750

Each week during the school year, we have about
130 children attending Eli's Place Preschool,
160 children attending Children's Choir and Joyful Noise Choir,
and 65 youth and adult singers rehearsing.

We are renovating the Education Building used to teach these children, youth, and adults.

Any donations you make to the Capstone Capital Campaign will directly influence the education,
both spiritually and musically, of many children.

What a wonderful legacy to leave to the next generation!

If you have not already made a donation or pledge,
please pray about your participation in this wonderful undertaking at
Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church.



*The flowers by the altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sally M'Liss Williams,
who in her walk of faith forever inspired all who knew her.*

*The roses worn by the ushers today are given in loving memory of Bob Farrow
by his children and grandchildren.*

Joyful Noise Choir Christmas Celebration
Sunday, December 10. 5:00 P. M.

Elementary Children's Nativity Pageant
Wednesday, December 13. 6:15 P. M.