

A Christmas Festival of Lessons & Carols

THE ARRIVAL OF THE KING



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*A Christmas Festival
of Lessons & Carols*

33rd Annual Celebration

December 11, 2022

presented by

First Evan Worship Choir,
Orchestra, Soloists, and Readers

Carol

“O Come, All Ye Faithful”

(all, standing)

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O, come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels.**

*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.**

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
With joy we embrace Thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?**

**Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning!
Jesus to Thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.**

(please be seated)

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Taylor Park, Executive Pastor

FIRST LESSON

The Fall

Genesis 3:8–15, 17–19

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. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." 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." 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. 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."

And to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

(all, standing)

**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.

***Men: 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.***

***Women: O come, Desire of nations,
Bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
Fill all the world with heaven's peace.***

(please be seated)

SECOND LESSON

The Promised Branch

Isaiah 11:1–3a, 4a, 6–9

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from His roots shall bear fruit. 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. And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

“Carol of Joy”

Green leaves all fallen, withered and dry;
Brief sunset fading, dim winter sky;
Lengthening shadows, dark closing in;
Then through the stillness, carols begin.
O fallen world, to you is the song!
Death holds you fast, and night tarries long.
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy;
Sweet to your ears a carol of joy!

Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow;
Cold, barren hillside shrouded in snow.
Deep empty valley, veiled by the night:
Hear angel music, hopeful and bright.
O fearful world, to you is the song!
Peace with your God and pardon for wrong.
Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound,
A carol of joy: a Savior is found!

Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes!
Thrill to the chorus filling the skies.
Look up, sad-hearted! Witness God's love;
Join in the carol swelling above!
O friendless world, to you is the song!

All heaven's joy to you may belong!
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn:
O fallen world, O fearful world, O friendless world,
Now unto you a Savior is born!

THIRD LESSON

The Promised Son

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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.

For unto 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. 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.

“O Savior of Our Fallen Race”

Olivia Grace Sistrunk, soloist

O Savior of our fallen race, O Brightness of the Father's face,
O Son who shared the Father's might before the world knew day or night,
O Jesus, very Light of Light, our constant star in sin's deep night:
Now hear the prayers Your people pray throughout the world this holy day.

Remind us, Lord, of life and grace, how once to save our fallen race
You put our human vesture on and came to us as Mary's Son.
Today, as year by year its light brings to our world a promise bright,
One precious truth outshines the sun: salvation comes from You alone.

For from the Father's throne You came, His banished children to reclaim;
And earth and sea and sky revere the love of Him who sent You here.
And we are jubilant today, for You have washed our guilt away.
Oh hear the glad new song we sing on this, the birth of Christ our King!

O Savior of our fallen race, the world will see Your radiant face
For You who came to us before will come again and all restore.
Let songs of praise Your name adorn, O Christ, Redeemer, virgin-born
Whom with the Father we adore and Holy Spirit evermore.

Alleluia! Amen.

FOURTH LESSON

The Birth Foretold

Luke 1:26–27, 30–35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus. 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, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" 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." 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.

“The Coming Joy (Mary's Song)”

Mae Sistrunk, soloist

My soul doth magnify the Lord. How can I keep from singing?
I will praise forevermore Love's music in me ringing.

Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!

My soul doth magnify the Lord for God has shown me favor.
Soon I'll greet the happy morn when I shall hold the Savior.

Gentle Mary, chosen one, hear this salutation:
You shall bear God's holy One; He will rule the nations.
Call His name Emmanuel, God to earth descending;
Promised King of Israel, bringing joy unending.

My soul doth magnify the Lord; His grace is in me living.
I will praise forevermore; I'll serve Him with thanksgiving.

FIFTH LESSON

The Birth

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 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, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

“Come and Worship”

(all, standing)

**It came upon a midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.**

**Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on the 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.”**

**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!**

Choir: Born is the King, born is the King of Israel!

**All: The first Noel the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel!**

Choir: Born is the King, born is the King of Israel. He is born!

(please be seated)

SIXTH LESSON

The Angels

Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. 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. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"

"There Were Shepherds"

Timothy Marsh, soloist

There were shepherds abiding in the field,
Keeping watch over their flocks by night.
And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them,
And the glory of the Lord shone round about them,
And they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them,
Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
Which shall be to all people.
For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior,
Which is Christ the Lord.
And suddenly there was with the angel
A multitude of the heavenly host,
Praising God and saying,

"Glory to God"

Glory to God in the highest,
And peace on earth, good will toward men.

SEVENTH LESSON

The Shepherds

Luke 2:15–19

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." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

"What a Glorious Night"

Ephie Johnson, soloist

The shepherds came to see the baby, stood by His mother's side.
Here laid the Savior inside a manger.
Oh what a glorious night, oh what a glorious night.

*I hear the angels singing, "Hallelujah!
Let the earth receive her King!"
I know that Love has come. Sing it out,
Jesus Christ is born! Jesus Christ is born!*

The shepherds wondered, they couldn't hide it
Told everyone in sight.
All were amazed when
They heard how God came down on the glorious night.
God came down on this glorious night.

Glorious, glorious, what a glorious night.
Glorious, glorious, what a glorious night.

All is calm now, all is quiet.
A star shining in the sky.
Below in Bethlehem, the King is sleeping.
Oh what a glorious night, oh what a glorious night.

EIGHTH LESSON

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1–12

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, 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.” When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

“‘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.’”

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. 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.” 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. 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. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

“We Three Kings”

Orchestra

Daniel Gilbert, Violin

NINTH LESSON

The Good News

1 John 4:9-10

In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

“Hallelujah, Christ is Born”

Felicity Hall, soloist

In a tiny town in the dark of night
From a rundown stable came a baby's cry.
He was wrapped in rags and His parents were poor
But the baby in the manger was Christ the Lord.

Ragged shepherds were watching their sheep that night
When the angel chorus filled the sky with light,
“Good news, great joy to this broken land,
For the baby in the manger is Christ the Lamb.”

*Hallelujah, Christ is born.
Hallelujah, the Savior of the world.
This is the One we've waited for,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, Christ is born.*

See the wise men journey from those countries far
Over deserts and mountains, following that star.
And they gave Him their gifts and bowed on their knees
For the baby in the manger is Christ the King.

Come and bow in wonder and prepare Him room.
Come sing for joy over God's good news.
Go tell it on the mountain and in countries far
That the baby in the manger is the King of our hearts.

MESSAGE

Seven First Impressions

Rev. Jim Fleming, Interim Senior Pastor

“Love Came Down”

In a moment, everything changed.
On a silent night came the promised Child.
In a stable, so humble and poor,
Unto us was born the Savior of the world.

*Love came down, hope was found, a star lit the sky.
The angels cried, “Glory.”
Light broke through the darkest night,
Hope is alive, hope is alive.
‘Cause love came down. Love came down.*

In a moment, peace broke out.
Now the Prince is here, there’s no need to fear.
In a manger eternity rests.
Unto us was born the Savior of the world.
Unto us was born the Savior of the world.

Love has come for you. Love has come for me.
All the earth will sing, “Emmanuel!”
Love has come for you. Love has come for me.
All the earth will sing, “Emmanuel!”

Love came down, hope was found, a star lit the sky.
The angels cried, “Glory.”

“Joy to the World”

(all, standing)

**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.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:
Let men their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**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.**

**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.**

Choir:

And wonders, wonders of His love!

BENEDICTION

First Evan Worship Choir

Dr. Ken Boer, Pastor of Worship

Judy Baird	Tina Heindel	Patricia Newman
Michelle Bechchar	Chip Hill	Steven Riggs
Katelynn Bernardini	Lorinda Hill	Chris Scholik
Teresa Blanton	Bernie Householder	Phil Shidler
Carter Boer	Eileen Hughes	Leigh Sistrunk
Alan Bowden	Lori Ingram	Mae Sistrunk
Sara Butler	David Jacobson	Olivia Grace Sistrunk
Sara Coates	Harrison Knox	Phil Sistrunk
Linda Cook	Kathryn LaVire	Annette Stevenson
Twyla Dixon	Clarice Main	Christie Taylor
Lauren Duffy	John Main	Greg Thompson
April Fichthorn	Ron Man	Terry Thompson
Beverly Garrison	Timothy Marsh	Sharon White
Charlie Hammond	Peggy Massey	Sue Wicher
Felicity Hall	Mark McKenzie	Allie Williams
Nancy Hart	John McWhorter	Kat Williams
Natalie Hahn	Debra Meadows	Sara Wright
Luke Hawtrey	Daniel Newman	

Orchestra

Members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and friends
Mary Ann Carpenter, Contractor

Instrumentalists from First Evan

Violin	Daniel Gilbert, Lori Gilbert, Amelia Boer
Flute	Lori Ingram
French Horn	Doris Shifflette
Bass	Betsy Man
Piano	Jamie Scholik
Organ	Trent England
Percussion	Ron Man
Acoustic Guitar	Mark Stelling
Bass Guitar	Jeremy Conner
Electric Guitar	Brandon Herrington

Readers

Lesson 9:00 a.m.

1. Arthur Sok (Cambodia)
2. Patrícia Newman (Brazil)
3. Annie Vo (Vietnam)
4. Aaron Wu (China)
5. Anies Kunda (South Sudan)
6. Ricky Varela (Argentina)
7. Vivian Danis (Netherlands)
8. Francie Leslie (Brazil)
9. Samir (North Africa)

10:45 a.m.

Keegan Fowler
Emilee Herrington
Sam Wilcox
Ellen Love
Eliza Carpenter
Buddy Jones
Linda Reyle
Curt Bicknell
Joshua Riggs

Special Thanks

Worship Ministry Assistants

Katelynn Bernardini and Paige Poloni

Soloists

Ephie Johnson, Felicity Hall, Olivia Grace Sistrunk,
Timothy Marsh, Mae Sistrunk

Production

Ryan Wiley, Luke Hall, and A/V Volunteers

Program Design

Stephanie Johnson

Church Decorations

Chelsea Walker and Women's Ministry Team,
First Evan Maintenance Team and Staff

"O Come All Ye Faithful" by Frederick Oakeley and John F. Wade. "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by John Mason Neale and Henry Sloane Coffin, arr. Mark Edwards © 2010, 2021 Celebrating Grace Music. "Carol of Joy" by Eileen Berry and Dan Forrest © 2007 Beckenhorst Press. "O Savior of Our Fallen Race" by Keith and Kristyn Getty, arr. J.A.C. Redford © 2011 Getty Music Publishing. "The Coming Joy (Mary's Song)" by Joseph M. Martin © 2009 Shawnee Press. "Come and Worship" arr. Bob Krogstad © 1989 Word Music. "There Were Shepherds" and "Glory to God" by G. F. Handel (1741). "What a Glorious Night" by Ben McDonald, Casey Brown, David Frey, and Jonathan Smith, arr. Erik Foster and Dan Galbraith © 2013 Dayspring Music, Not Just Another Song Publishing, Sony/ATV Timber Publishing, Jingram Music Publishing, Sony/ATV Cross Keys Publishing, Pencil Prophet Publishing, and Run Run Milo. "We Three Kings" by John Henry Hopkins Jr., arr. Matt Riley and Erika Blanco © 2015 Matthew William Riley. "Hallelujah, Christ is Born" by Caroline Cobb © 2020 Sing the Story Music and Integrity Music, orch. Ron Man. "Love Came Down" by Hank Bentley and Lindsey Sweat, arr. Luke Gambill, Orch. Cliff Duren © 2018 Essential Tunes, Every Square Inch, and Capitol CMG Amplifier. "Joy to the World" by Isaac Watts and Lowell Mason, arr. Mack Wilberg © 2001 Oxford University Press. CCLI #47316

Seasonal Calendar

Today

International Brunch

10:20 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, December 14

FEC Kids “Emmanuel: A Christmas Experience”

(Live Nativity Celebration of Jesus' Birth)

6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall and Outside

Sunday, December 18

Regular Schedule

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

Friday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

with Children's Nativity

5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

Family Service – No Childcare

Sunday, December 25

Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., Fellowship Hall

No Sunday School

Family Service – No Childcare

Sunday, January 1

Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

No Sunday School

Family Service – No Childcare

Church Offices Closed

December 23–26 and January 1–2

For year-end giving, the Finance Office will be open

Saturday, December 31 until 3:00 p.m.

**Offering chests are located at all the main entrances,
or you may give through our app or online:**

www.firstevan.org/giving