



FINDING GOD AT THE INTERSECTION OF OUR LIVES



“Lessons & Carols”

December 16, 2023

SATURDAY WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M. (PLEASE SILENCE YOUR ELECTRONIC DEVICES)

We welcome you as you worship with us online today. Please feel free to contact any of our pastoral staff if you have a question, want a visit, or need help:

- <https://glendalecitychurch.org>
- <https://facebook.com/glendalecitychurch>
- email: 610ecalifornia@gmail.com
- phone: 818-244-7241

“A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS”

Prelude

“Christmas Carol Medley”
Monique McGuffin Newman, *harp*

Welcome

Leif Lind

☆Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

No. 132

- (1) 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:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

- (2) Child for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

- (3) Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest:

Call to Worship

Doug Schultz

Leader—O come, all you faithful, rest from your work, come in with joy.

People—We come from every corner of the earth: from pain and privilege, from war and rumors of war, from goodness and grief, from health and the need for healing, we come as we are, to meet the One whose birth promises light and life.

Leader—O come, all you faithful, sing with the choirs of angels!

People—“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!” Yes, Lord, we greet you! We greet you in the faces of those near us in this place of worship. We greet you in the face of the one with whom we need reconciliation. We greet you in the tiny baby, born to bring life to all.

All—O come in adoration, O come in adoration, O come in adoration, Christ is born!

(1) Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

(2) 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, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

(3) 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.

FIRST LESSON—Genesis 3:8-12, 17-19

Gina Poe

*Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation,
creating the need for Jesus' birth, life, and salvation plan*

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me — she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." [The Lord God] said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,' 'Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.'"



(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.

(2) 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.

(3) 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 —
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!



SECOND LESSON—Genesis 22:15-18

Ken Webber

*God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.
Just as Abraham was willing to give his only son, so God offered his only son to our world.*

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, “I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me.”

Congregational Carol**O Come, O Come, Immanuel**

No. 115

(1) O come, O come, Immanuel, and ransom captive Israel—
That mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.

Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

(2) O come, thou wisdom from on high, and order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, and cause us in her ways to go.

(3) O come, desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

**THIRD LESSON—Isaiah 9:2, 6-7**

Kris Wahagheghe

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

☆Congregational Carol**It Came Upon the Midnight Clear**

No. 130

(1) It came upon the 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.

(2) Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

(3) And ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow —
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

FOURTH LESSON—Isaiah 11:1, 2, 5-9

Kathie Glennie

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse, descendant of Abraham, to restore the peace of creation

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord. Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist. The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The infant will play near the cobra's den, and the young child will put its hand into the viper's nest. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Congregational Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

No. 131

(1) Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have 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 beheld it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to them a Savior, when half spent was the night.



FIFTH LESSON—Luke 1:26-35, 38

Allan McDonald

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

(1) Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!
 Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinner reconciled
 Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies
 With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

(2) Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
 Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb
 Veilèd flesh the Godhead see, hail th'incarnate Deity
 Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel

(3) Hail the heav'n-born 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 man no more may die
 Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth



SIXTH LESSON—Luke 2:1-7

Didi Mumford

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world (this was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria). And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

Congregational Carol

Away In a Manger

No. 124

(1) Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

(2) The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
 I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,
 And stay by my side till the morning is nigh.

(3) Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.



SEVENTH LESSON—Luke 2:8-16

Pamela Kermgard

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.” So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

☆Congregational Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High

No. 142

(1) Angels we have heard on high,
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo.

(2) Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

(3) See him in a manger laid,
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.



EIGHTH LESSON—Matthew 2:1-5, 7-11

Myron Counts

Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet [Micah] has written.” Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.” After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

Congregational Carol

We Three Kings of Orient Are

No. 137

(1) We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Refrain: O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

(2) Born a king on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

(3) Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a Deity nigh;
Prayer and praising all men raising, worship him, God on high.

(4) Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and sacrifice;
Alleluia, Alleluia! sounds through the earth and skies.



The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God — children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Congregational Carol**Silent Night**

No. 143

Duquessa McGuffin & Monique Newman, *harps*

Congregation joins in with harp accompaniment, after they have played through one verse

(1) Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright;
'Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

(2) Silent night, holy night, darkness flies, all is light;
Shepherds hear the angels sing, "Alleluia! hail the King!
Christ the Savior is born."

(3) Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born.



Homily

“We Cannot Wait: Rethinking the Advent”

Leif Lind

Offertory

“Pastorale on *Away in a Manger*”

Karl Osterland

Please give as you're able — unless otherwise marked, loose offering goes to local church expense.

☆Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

No. 125

(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 heaven and nature sing.

(2) 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, repeat the sounding joy.

(3) No more let sin and sorrow grow,

Nor thorns infest the ground;

He comes to make his blessings flow

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, and wonders of his love.

Benediction

Leif Lind

Postlude

“We Three Kings”

John H. Hopkins

Duquessa McGuffin & Sadie Newman, *harp duet*

☆ = Please stand where able.

Many thanks to **Sal Malaki** and **Taylor Ruhl** for leading and playing all the Christmas carols today!

The first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was performed over 100 years ago on Christmas Eve at King's College Chapel, Cambridge in 1918, structured on a format developed in 1880. Since 1928 it has been broadcast every year but one — including during World War II when the ancient stained glass (and also heat!) had been removed from the Chapel. The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by many other churches and denominations all over the world.

"FIRST COMING" by Madeleine L'Engle* (1918-2007)

He did not wait till the world was ready,
till men and nations were at peace
He came when the Heavens were unsteady
and prisoners cried out for release.

He did not wait for the perfect time.
He came when the need was deep and great.
He dined with sinners in all their grime,
turned water into wine. He did not wait

till hearts were pure. In joy he came
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.
To a world like ours, of anguished shame
He came, and his Light would not go out.

He came to a world which did not mesh,
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh
the Maker of the stars was born.

We cannot wait till the world is sane
to raise our songs with joyful voice,
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!

**Author of "A Wrinkle in Time"*

"THE SECOND COMING" by W. B. Yeats, Ireland, 1919

Turning and turning in the widening gyre
The falcon cannot hear the falconer;
Things fall apart; the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed, and everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the worst
Are full of passionate intensity.

Surely some revelation is at hand;
Surely the Second Coming is at hand.
The Second Coming! Hardly are those words out
When a vast image out of Spiritus Mundi
Troubles my sight: somewhere in sands of the desert
A shape with lion body and the head of a man,
A gaze blank and pitiless as the sun,
Is moving its slow thighs, while all about it
Reel shadows of the indignant desert birds.
The darkness drops again; but now I know
That twenty centuries of stony sleep
Were vexed to nightmare by a rocking cradle,
And what rough beast, its hour come round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be born?

PREACHING SCHEDULE:

- **Dec 16** Leif Lind, "Lessons & Carols"
- **Dec 23** Greg Nelson

- **Dec 30** Greg Hoenes
- **Jan 6** Greg Nelson

NOTES FOR TODAY: The **children will join us for Lessons & Carols** this morning. Then a **Church Christmas fellowship meal** after the service where all are welcome to enjoy a meal together! Also: Note that **Open Table** will be meeting in the **Café today from 6–9 p.m.** instead of the usual time. All are welcome!

Welcome to the **season of Advent!** This is a time, starting four weeks before Christmas, when most Christian denominations look forward to the coming of the Christ child to Bethlehem as well as the return of Christ at the Second Advent (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Advent>). As Seventh-day Adventists, this is something that we can gladly anticipate! The themes of peace, hope, joy, and love are celebrated through the lighting of the four Advent candles.

Glendale Adventist Academy: On Friday, December 22, 7 p.m., their choir will be singing **Handel's Messiah** in the auditorium. All are welcome to attend!

Glendale Noon Concert, December 20 with a live performance featuring **violinist Nancy Roth and pianist Lorenzo Sánchez**, performing duos by Sami Seif, John Adams, and Fazil Say. All welcome to this free concert!

610 East California Avenue, Glendale, CA 91206 • 818-244-7241 • glendalecitychurch.org

"Revealing Christ, affirming all"