

Lessons and Carols
Fellowship Presbyterian Church
Sunday, December 14, 2025

Rev. Martin H. Martin, Pastor; Rev. Andrew Newman, Assistant Pastor
Mr. Steve Lawton, Director of Music
Accompanists: Mrs. Cathy Lawton, Piano; Mrs. Sheryl Farquhar, Organ

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations; and they will repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations. Strangers will stand and pasture your flocks, and foreigners will be your farmers and your vinedressers. But you will be called the priests of the LORD; you will be spoken of as ministers of our God. You will eat the wealth of nations, and in their riches you will boast. Instead of your shame you will have a double portion, and instead of humiliation they will shout for joy over their portion. Therefore they will possess a double portion in their land, everlasting joy will be theirs. For I, the LORD, love justice, I hate robbery in the burnt offering; and I will faithfully give them their recompense and make an everlasting covenant with them. Then their offspring will be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples. All who see them will recognize them because they are the offspring whom the LORD has blessed.

I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, my soul will exult in my God; for He has clothed me with garments of salvation, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes the things sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. ~Isaiah 61:1-11

Prelude

Pastorale, from Corelli's Christmas Concerto;
From Heaven Above to Earth I Come; Away in a Manger; All Is Well
Xiaoli Saliny, Violin I; Robin Els, Violin II; Anna Joiner, Viola; Christine Lance, Cello;
Lynn Tate, Flute; Brad Gregory, Oboe; Gary Robinson, Percussion

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Marty Martin

Call to Worship

Isaiah 2:2-4

Now it will come about that in the last days the mountain of the house of the LORD will be established as the chief of the mountains, and will be raised above the hills; and all the nations will stream to it. And many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that He may teach us concerning His ways and that we may walk in His paths." For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

Prayer of Adoration and Invocation

§ **Carol** *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* No. 196

First Lesson *A Child Is Born* Pastor Andrew Newman
Isaiah 7:10-14; 9:2, 6-7; 40:5

Carol *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Choir

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.

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 to us a Savior, when half-spent was the night.

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be, He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

Second Lesson *Gabriel Visits Mary* Mr. Craig Bouvier
Luke 1:26-38

§ **Carol** *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel* No. 194

Third Lesson *Mary Visits Elizabeth* Mr. Tim Taylor
Luke 1:39-45

Carol *Thou Who Wast Rich beyond All Splendor* Choir

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor; thrones for a manger did surrender, sapphire-paved courts for stable floor. Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor, all for love's sake becamest poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man; stooping so low, but sinners raising, heavenward by Thine eternal plan. Thou who art God beyond all praising, all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship Thee. Emmanuel, within us dwelling, make us what Thou wouldst have us be. Thou who art love beyond all telling, Savior and King, we worship Thee.

Fourth Lesson *Magnificat* Mr. John Kuhfuss
Luke 1:46-56

§ **Carol** *Hark! the Herald Angels Sing* No. 203

Fifth Lesson *The Angel Visits Joseph* Mr. Greg Horsky
Matthew 1:18-25

§ **Carol** *O Little Town of Bethlehem* No. 201

Sixth Lesson *Jesus' Birth in Bethlehem* Pastor Peter Spink
Luke 2:1-7

Carol *In Bethlehem* Choir

Though the road was long, the time drew near, Heaven's King on earth would soon appear. Yet, no bed prepared, no waiting crown, just a stable near the edge of town. Here the Child was born so far from home to those humble travelers all alone. So they whispered low their soft amen, on that lonely night in Bethlehem.

Come behold the shepherds, oft unseen, chosen first to look though rough, unclean. 'Tis the Christ! Now peace on earth begins; He will save His people from their sins. See our Mighty God has done great things! Hear the angel hosts His glories sing and repeat the sounding joy again on that holy night in Bethlehem.

You are worthy, Jesus, Lord of all, stooping down to grace that cattle stall. You did not recoil to meet us there, all our weakness, shame and grief to share. So bring down the mighty from their seat; gently lift the humble to their feet, that we all would at your manger bend to behold that sight in Bethlehem.

Seventh Lesson *The Shepherds* Mr. Jeff Wayne, Sr.
Luke 2:8-20

Carol *Sussex Carol* Choir

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring, news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad; when from our sin He set us free, all for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before His grace then life and health come in its place. Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night, "Glory to God in highest heaven, now and for evermore," Amen!

Eighth Lesson *Benedictus* Mr. Philip Triplett
Luke 1:57-80

§ **Carol** *Silent Night! Holy Night!* No. 210

Homily *Gloria* Pastor Martin
Luke 2:1-14

¹Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth. ²This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city. ⁴Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, ⁵in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child. ⁶While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

⁸In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly frightened. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; ¹¹for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Prayers of Confession, Thanksgiving and Supplication

§ **Carol** *Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come* No. 195

§ **Benediction**

§ *The congregation will please stand.*

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*Fellowship
Presbyterian Church*



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December 14, 2025

6:00pm



Please join us following the service
for a Christmas Reception.