



WHAT  
CHILD IS THIS?

**Oak Grove Church of the Brethren**  
**December 19, 2021**  
**Fourth Sunday of Advent**  
**A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

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Prelude

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

arr. J. Blaha

Welcome and Announcements

Advent

*Christ has come...Christ will come again*

**SCRIPTURE**

**MICAH 5:2-5A**

Anthony McNeil

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Congregation and Choir

*Advent Gathering Song*

Dan Lubbs, solo

James J. Chepponis

**Gently**  
*mp*

Come, come Em - man - u - el.

Come, Em - man - u - el.

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God of timeless grace, your love fills us with expectation. Make us ready for the message that prepares the way,

**that with uprightness of heart and holy joy we may eagerly await the kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.**

Out of the embrace of mercy and righteousness, you have brought forth joy and dignity for your people. Remember now your ancient promise: make straight the paths that lead to you

**and smooth the rough ways, that in our day we might bring forth your compassion for all humanity.**

Give us ears to hear and eyes to watch, that we may know your presence in our midst during this holy season of love, as we anticipate the coming of Jesus Christ.

**We light this candle as a symbol of your great love for us, as we anticipate the coming—and coming again—of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Choir

*O Come, O Come, Immanuel*

15th century

*O come, O come, Immanuel.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

### Morning Prayer (with Lord's Prayer)

**Our Father in heaven, holy is your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## **A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS**

### Instrumentalists

Stephen Wills, organ

Shelly Haas, bells

Kathie Robinson, flute

Phillip King, tuba

Joe Blaha, piano

Sam Phillips, viola

Jon Wilson, trombone

Scripture read is from the *New Revised Standard Version*.

## FIRST LESSON

Our story is of God's good creation being broken and then put back right. The story begins in a garden with the Gardener walking in the cool of the day, only to find the man and woman hiding in shame because of the brokenness they have caused. God's good creation is ruined by sinful humanity; the story of Jesus' coming—and coming again—begins here.

### SCRIPTURE

GENESIS 3:1-13, 22-24 Patricia Ronk, Vicki Turner,  
Betty Wills

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, 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?" 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 from 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 from 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 tricked me, and I ate."

Then the LORD God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever"—therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

**Choir**

*Come, O Redeemer, Come*

Ortego

*1. Father, enthroned on high—Holy, holy!  
Ancient eternal Light—hear our prayer.*

*REFRAIN*

*Come, O Redeemer, come;  
grant us mercy.*

*Come, O Redeemer, come;  
grant us peace.*

*2. Lord, save us from the dark of our striving,  
faithless, troubled hearts weighed down. REFRAIN*

*3. Look now upon our need; Lord, be with us.  
Heal us and make us free from our sin. REFRAIN*

*Text and tune: Fernando Ortega, 1996;*

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## SECOND LESSON

In the fourth century, Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria wrote, “It was unworthy of the goodness of God that creatures made by God should be brought to nothing through the deceit of evil; it was supremely unfitting that the work of God should disappear.” Into the darkness God sent light; the renewal of creation is made possible by the self-same Word who made it in the beginning.

### SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 9:1-2, 6-7

Diane Tyler, Hannah Tyler

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.  
For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

\*Hymn

*Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

# 178



1 Come, thou long - ex - pect - ed Je - sus! born to set thy  
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and

peo - ple free, from our fears and sins re - lease us,  
yet a King, born to reign in us for - ev - er,

let us find our rest in thee. Is - rael's strength and con - so -  
now thy gra - cious king - dom bring. By thine own e - ter - nal

la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art, dear de -  
Spir - it, rule in all our hearts a - lone. By thine

sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

Text: Charles Wesley, *Hymns for the Nativity of Our Lord*, 1744  
 Music: Rowland H. Prichard, ca. 1830, *Cyfaill y Cantorion*, 1844; arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams, *The English Hymnal*, 1906,  
 adapted 1951, *BBC Hymn Book*  
 Arrangement copyright © Oxford University Press, London

### THIRD LESSON

When Jesus renews God's good creation, everything will be made right. The One to be born from the "stump of Jesse" will bring peace, righteousness, equity, and shalom, and "the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord."

#### SCRIPTURE

ISAIAH 11:1-9 Gladis Lehman, Gloria Harmon,  
Julie Ann and Lucy Pullen

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling 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 asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.



**Ensemble (198)**

*Let our gladness have no end*

Bohemian carol

*Let our gladness have no end,  
Alleluia!  
For to earth did Christ descend.  
Alleluia!  
On this day God gave us Christ,  
His Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.*

*See, the loveliest blooming rose,  
Alleluia!  
From the branch of Jesse grows.  
Alleluia!  
On this day God gave us Christ,  
His Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.*

*Into flesh is made the Word,  
Alleluia!  
He, our refuge and our Lord.  
Alleluia!  
On this day God gave us Christ,  
His Son, to save us;  
Christ, his Son, to save us.*

## FOURTH LESSON

The days of the prophet Zephaniah were some of the darkest in the Old Testament. But even in dark days of unfaithfulness and judgment—as the foundations of the world shook and the structures of society were collapsing—Zephaniah proclaims that God is with the people. Hope is on the way!

### SCRIPTURE

ZEPHANIAH 3:14-20

Lynette and Rose Harvey

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;  
shout, O Israel!  
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,  
O daughter Jerusalem!  
The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,  
he has turned away your enemies.  
The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;  
you shall fear disaster no more.  
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:  
Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak.  
The LORD, your God, is in your midst,  
a warrior who gives victory;  
he will rejoice over you with gladness,  
he will renew you in his love;  
he will exult over you with loud singing  
as on a day of festival.  
I will remove disaster from you,  
so that you will not bear reproach for it.  
I will deal with all your oppressors at that time.  
And I will save the lame and gather the outcast,  
and I will change their shame into praise  
and renown in all the earth.  
At that time I will bring you home,  
at the time when I gather you;  
for I will make you renowned and praised  
among all the peoples of the earth,  
when I restore your fortunes  
before your eyes, says the LORD.

**Choir**

*Carols Around (And a round)*

arr. Nygard

*Dona nobis pacem (Grant us peace)*

*The First Noel, the angels did say, was to certain poor shepherds in field as they lay...*

*It came up on a midnight clear, that glorious song of old, of old, from angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold...*

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed...*

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel. Amen.*

## FIFTH LESSON

Into the unlikeliest of places and to the unlikeliest of people, God's message comes: "I am doing great things—is your life available to me?"

### SCRIPTURE

LUKE 1:26-38

Rhonda Marcum,  
Amanda Marcum, Kristin Marcum

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

### Poem

Betty Phillips, Ellen Phillips, Laura Phillips

#### ***The Visitation, by Malcolm Guite***

Here is a meeting made of hidden joys  
Of lightnings cloistered in a narrow place  
From quiet hearts the sudden flame of praise  
And in the womb the quickening kick of grace.  
Two women on the very edge of things  
Unnoticed and unknown to men of power  
But in their flesh the hidden Spirit sings  
And in their lives the buds of blessing flower.

And Mary stands with all we call 'too young',  
Elizabeth with all called 'past their prime'  
They sing today for all the great unsung  
Women who turned eternity to time  
Favoured of heaven, outcast on the earth  
Prophets who bring the best in us to birth.

**Song**

*Be Born in Me* (Mary)

Herms/ Nordeman  
Kate Hoyt, Carol Elmore

*Everything inside me cries for order, everything inside me wants to hide. Is this shadow an angel or warrior? If God is pleased with me, why am I so terrified?*

*Someone tell me I am only dreaming, somehow help me see with heaven's eyes. And before my head agrees, my heart is on its knees. Holy is He. Blessed am I.*

*Refrain: Be born in me. Be born in me. Trembling heart, somehow I believe that You chose me. I'll hold You in the beginning, You will hold me in the end. Every moment in the middle, make my heart your Bethlehem. Be born in me. All this time we've waited for the promise, all this time You waited for my arms. Did you wrap Yourself inside the unexpected so we might know that Love would go that far? (refrain)*

*I am not brave: I'll never be. The only thing my heart can offer is a vacancy. I'm just a girl, nothing more. I am willing, I can Yours. Oh... (refrain)*

## SIXTH LESSON

Mary gives one of the first descriptions of the Kingdom of God in the New Testament: it is of an upside-down kingdom where those at the top—the proud, the rich, and the mighty—come toppling down. Meanwhile, those at the bottom of the pyramid—the poor and the hungry—take a surprising ride to the top. Mary sings words of hope for the lowly and judgment for those who trample the helpless.

### SCRIPTURE

LUKE 1:46-55

Brenda Tatum,  
Renee Tatum, Ashley Tatum

And Mary said,  
“My soul magnifies the Lord,  
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.  
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,  
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

### Choir

*My soul cries out*

Cooney/d’Urfey

*My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the one who waits.*

*You fixed your sight on the servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
So from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?*

Refrain: *My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears,  
For the dawn draws near,  
And the world is about to turn.*

*Though I am small, my God, my all,  
you work great things in me.  
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past  
to the end of the age to be.*

*Your very name puts the proud to shame,  
and those who would for you yearn,  
You will show your might, put the strong to flight,  
for the world is about to turn. (refrain)*

*From the halls of power to the fortress tower,  
not a stone will be left on stone.*

*Let the king beware for your justice tears  
every tyrant from his throne.*

*The hungry poor shall weep no more,  
for the food they can never earn;  
These are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed,  
for the world is about to turn. (refrain)*

*Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:*

*God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forbears heard  
is the promise that holds us bound,  
'Til the spear and rod be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. (refrain)*



## SEVENTH LESSON

This upside-down kingdom does not come roaring onto the world's stage like a conquering army; God starts small. The emperor's decree might make all the world spring into action, but this is no hindrance to the coming of our Savior. Jesus comes anyway, right on schedule.

### SCRIPTURE

LUKE 2:1-7

Alli and Gemma Yingling,  
Teresa Broyles, Carolyn Broyles

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### Choir

*Noel*

*Rice; arr. Nitz*

*Love incarnate, love divine; Star and angels gave the sign  
Bow to babe on bended knee, The Savior of humanity  
Unto us a Child is born, He shall reign forevermore*

*Refrain: Noel, Noel*

*Come and see what God has done*

*Noel, Noel*

*The story of amazing love!*

*The light of the world, given for us*

*Noel*

*Son of God and Son of man, There before the world began*

*Born to suffer, born to save, born to raise us from the grave*

*Christ the everlasting Lord, He shall reign forevermore*

*(refrain)*

## EIGHTH LESSON

Those whose eyes are fixed on the workings of this world are not the ones who receive the message of Jesus' birth; God's upside-down kingdom is announced to people doing some of the "dirty work" of their time. Those whose work is out of sight of polite society and out of mind to the movers and shakers are blessed with an angelic choir proclaiming, "Glory to God!"

### SCRIPTURE

LUKE 2:8-20

Monica and MacKayla McNeil

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth 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 heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

### Song

*What Child is This?*

# 215

with *Child of the Poor* (tenors)

(Child vs 1; What Child vs 1; Child vs 2; What Child vs 2;  
sing both simultaneously on vs 3.)

Em G D Em

1 What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant,

Am B Em G D

lap is sleep - ing, whom an - gels greet with an - them  
 ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear, for sin - ners  
 king, to own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion

Em B Em sus<sup>4</sup> Em Bm G

sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is  
 here the si - lent Word is plead - ing. Nails, spear shall  
 brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the

D Em Am/C B

Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing.  
 pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 song on high; the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

Bm G D Em B Em sus<sup>4</sup> Em

Haste, haste to bring him laud,  
 Hail, hail the Word-made-flesh, the babe, the son of Ma - ry!  
 Joy, joy for Christ is born,

## ***Child of the Poor***

by Scott Soper

*1: Helpless and hungry, lowly he lies,  
Wrapped in the chill of midwinter;  
Comes now among us, born into poverty's embrace, new life for the world.*

*Refrain:*

*Who is this who lives with the lowly,  
sharing their sorrows, knowing their hunger?  
This is Christ, revealed to the world in the eyes of a child,  
a child of the poor.*

*2: Who is this stranger here in our midst,  
Looking for shelter among us?  
Who is the outcast? Who do we see amid the poor,  
the children of God? (refrain)*

*3 Bring all the thirsty, all who seek peace;  
Bring those with mothering to offer.  
Strengthen the feeble, say to the frightened heart:  
"Fear not: here is your God!" (refrain)*

## **FINALE**

So, where do you and I go from here? God came down in flesh to turn the world on its head, to right wrongs, to teach us to love one another, and to set the captives free. Where are you and I turning the world upside down? Are there hungry among us? Let's feed them. Naked? Let's clothe them. Lost, let's point the way to Jesus, the One who came to set us free!

\*Hymn

*Hark! the herald angels sing*

# 201



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Hail, the Sun of right-eous-ness!

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies,  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see, hail th'In - car - nate De - i - ty;  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem."  
 pleased with us in flesh to dwell; Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el!  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley and others, *Hymns and Sacred Poems*, 1739, alt.  
 Music: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; adapted by William H. Cummings, 1855, *Congregational Hymn and Tune Book*, 1857

\*Benediction

\*Sending Song

*Soon and very soon (vs. 1)*

# 611

\*Please stand as you are able.

1 Soon and ver - y soon, we are goin' to see the King,  
2 No more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
3 No more dy - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
4 Soon and ver - y soon, we are goin' to see the King,

soon and ver - y soon, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
soon and ver - y soon, we are goin' to see the King,

soon and ver - y soon, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more cry - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
no more dy - in' there, we are goin' to see the King,  
soon and ver - y soon, we are goin' to see the King,

hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're goin' to see the King!

hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu -

jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

### **Prayers**

Wayne Cook, congestive heart failure  
Dawn Thomas, kidney issues  
Doris Light, in hospice care  
Dan Brogan, home rehab for broken leg  
John King, home rehab for broken leg  
Morton Witt, melanoma  
Hollie Craighead Johnson, breast cancer

### **Worship leader**

12/26- Jane Grisso

### **Nursery workers**

Today- Tanya & Maggie Pizzullo  
12/26- Rena' Brown

