

A Service of Lessons and Carols
Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship, Christmas Eve 2017

GREETING

OPENING SENTENCES

Bruce Prewer

The impossible is about to happen in a stable.
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
**Those who lived in a land of deep darkness,
on them has the light shined!**

This is the evening when creation stood still and held its breath,
for God was doing the most unbelievable, dangerous thing.
**This is the evening when God embraced humanity
from the inside, as one of us, from birth to death.**

In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
full of grace and truth.
Amen!**

OPENING HYMN: *Come, thou long-expected Jesus*

blue, 178

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation
Art: "Abraham's Oak," Henry Ossawa Tanner (1859-1937)

CAROL: *O come, O come, Immanuel (vss 1 & 2)*

blue, 172

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

God promises that through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed
(same art)

CAROL: *O come, O come, Emmanuel (vss 3 & 4)*

blue, 172

CHILDREN'S STORY

Jennifer Schrock

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah
Art: "Gateway, Tangier"

CAROL: *Comfort, comfort, O my people*

blue, 176

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation
Art: "The Good Shepherd"

CAROL: *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

blue, 211

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35, 38

An angel appears to Mary to announce she will bear a holy child

Art: "The Annunciation"

CAROL: *The angel Gabriel*

blue, 180

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7

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

Art: "Flight into Egypt"

CAROL: *O little town of Bethlehem*

blue, 191

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16

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

Art: "Angels Appearing to the Shepherds"

CAROL: *The first Noel, the angel did say*

blue, 199

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

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

Art: "The Three Wise Men"

CAROL: *What Child is this*

blue, 215

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

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

Art: "Christ and His Mother Studying Scripture"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our God who art in heaven:

hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CANDLE LIGHTING

CLOSING HYMN: *Joy to the world*

blue, 318

Art: "The Saviour"

CHARGE AND BLESSING (AND OFFERING AS YOU EXIT)

Worship Leaders: Joanne Gallardo and Dan Schrock

Song Leader: Greg Smucker

AV Operator: Phil Bauman

Ushers: Elijah, Priscillah, Lillian, and Sarina Metekai