



***Christmas Day***

**Order of Worship  
December 25, 2022**

**10:00 AM**

*Online Worship*

*YouTube Channel "Harmony UMCVA"*

**Welcome**

**Prelude**

*Angels From the Realms of Glory*

*The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.*

**\*Carol**

*Joy to the World*

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**\*Opening Prayer (in unison)**

Carolyn Masters

**Help us, O God, to live the joy of Jesus' birth each day of the year. As we gather on this special day of celebration, help us to keep him the focus of our worship. And when we leave today's service, may we continue our worship by keeping him at the center of our lives. Amen.**

**\*Passing the Peace of Christ**

**Children's Time**

Pastor Maggie

**Morning Prayer**

Pastor Debra

**Ministry of Music**

*He Is Born*

Damon Moore

**Prayer for Illumination**

Carolyn Masters

**Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Season it is our delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and to see this thing**

which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Please join me in praying the prayer for illumination.

**Eternal God, as your Word is proclaimed through the scriptures that are read, let us hear with joy the story of your loving purposes brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise. Amen.**

**The First Lesson**

*The Peaceful Kingdom*

Isaiah 11:1-10

**Carolyn Masters**

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 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.

3 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,

4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed 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.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 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.

## **Return of the Remnant of Israel and Judah**

10 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

### **Carol**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

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### **The Second Lesson**

*The Return of the Redeemed to Zion*

Isaiah 35:1-10

#### **Pastor Maggie**

35 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad;  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus 2 it shall blossom abundantly  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.  
They shall see the glory of the Lord,  
the majesty of our God.

3 Strengthen the weak hands  
and make firm the feeble knees.

4 Say to those who are of a fearful heart,  
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,  
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,  
and the ears of the deaf shall be opened;

6 then the lame shall leap like a deer,  
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness  
and streams in the desert;

7 the burning sand shall become a pool  
and the thirsty ground springs of water;  
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp;  
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

8 A highway shall be there,  
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

the unclean shall not travel on it,  
but it shall be for God's people;  
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.  
9 No lion shall be there,  
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;  
they shall not be found there,  
but the redeemed shall walk there.  
10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return  
and come to Zion with singing;  
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;  
they shall obtain joy and gladness,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

**Carol**

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

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**The Third Lesson**

*A New Covenant*

Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Pastor Debra**

**A New Covenant**

<sup>31</sup>The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup>It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. <sup>33</sup>But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup>No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

**Carol**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

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**The Fourth Lesson**

*Gabriel Speaks to Mary*

Luke 1:26-38

**Carolyn Masters**

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth,  
27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's  
name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with  
you." 29 But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this  
might be. 30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with  
God. 31 And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him

Jesus. 32 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. 33 He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 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[c] will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 36 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. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 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.

### **Carol**

*To a Maid Engaged to Joseph*

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### **Worship with our Tithes and Offerings**

Pastor Debra

*Offertory*

*Born Today is the Child Divine*

*Doxology*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below:***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!***

***Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!***

***Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*Offertory Prayer of Dedication*

Pastor Debra

### **The Fifth Lesson**

*The Birth of Jesus from Matthew*

Matthew 1:18-25

#### **Carolyn Masters**

<sup>8</sup> Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. <sup>20</sup> But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup> She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” <sup>22</sup> All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

<sup>23</sup> “Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,  
and they shall name him Emmanuel,”

which means, “God is with us.” <sup>24</sup> When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife <sup>25</sup> but had no marital relations with her until she had given birth to a son, and he named him Jesus.

**Carol**

*What Child Is This*

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**The Sixth Lesson**

*The Visit of the Magi*

Matthew 2:1-12

**Pastor Maggie**

**2** In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi<sup>[a]</sup> from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup> asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east<sup>[b]</sup> and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup> When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, <sup>4</sup> and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah<sup>[c]</sup> was to be born. <sup>5</sup> They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup> ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah,  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd<sup>[d]</sup> my people Israel.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup> Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup> When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east,<sup>[f]</sup> until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup> When they saw that the star had stopped,<sup>[g]</sup> they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup> On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup> And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

**Carol**

*We Three Kings*

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**The Seventh Lesson**

*The Boy Jesus in The Temple*

Luke 2:41-52

**Pastor Debra**

**41** Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of Passover. **42** And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. **43** When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents

were unaware of this. 44 Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. 45 When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 When his parents saw him they were astonished, and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously looking for you." 49 He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 But they did not understand what he said to them. 51 Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was obedient to them, and his mother treasured all these things in her heart.

**Carol**

*Once in Royal David's City*

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**The Eighth Lesson**

*Jesus Visits His Hometown*

Luke 4:14-22

**Carolyn Masters**

<sup>14</sup> Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside. <sup>15</sup> He was teaching in their synagogues, and everyone praised him. <sup>16</sup> He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

<sup>18</sup> "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,  
because he has anointed me  
to proclaim good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners  
and recovery of sight for the blind,  
to set the oppressed free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

<sup>20</sup> Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. <sup>21</sup> He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

<sup>22</sup> All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.

**Carol**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

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**Prayer**

Pastor Debra

**Blessing**

Pastor Debra

May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

***MERRY CHRISTMAS***



## **Joy to the World**

*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.*

*2. Joy to the world, the Savior reigns!  
Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*3. 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.*

*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 of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

## **It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

*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!*

*4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophet seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.*

### **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming,  
As those 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.*

*O Flower, whose fragrance tender  
With sweetness fills the air,  
Dispel in glorious splendor  
The darkness everywhere.  
True man yet very God,  
From sin and death now save us,  
And share our every load.*

### **Angels We Have Heard on High**

*Angels we have heard on high  
sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their joyous strains.*

#### **Refrain:**

***Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!***

*2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
which inspire your heavenly song? (Refrain)*

*3 Come to Bethlehem and see  
Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee,  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)*

*4 See him in a manger laid,  
whom the choirs of angels praise;*

*Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while our hearts in love we raise. (Refrain)*

### **To a Maid Engaged to Joseph**

*To a maid engaged to Joseph, the angel Gabriel came.  
"Fear not," the angel told her, "I come to bring good news,  
good news I come to tell you, good news, I say, good news.*

*2 "For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,  
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest,  
you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest!"*

*3 But Mary was most troubled to hear the angel's word.  
What was the angel saying? It troubled her to hear,  
to hear the angel's message, it troubled her to hear.*

*4 "Fear not, for God is with you, and you shall bear a child.  
His name shall be called Jesus, God's offspring from on high.  
And he shall reign forever, forever reign on high."*

*5 "How shall this be?" said Mary, "I am not yet a wife."  
The angel answered quickly, "The power of the Most High  
will come upon you shortly, your child will be God's child."*

*6 As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.  
"Behold, I am your handmaid," she said unto her God.  
"So be it; I am ready according to your word."*

### **What Child Is This?**

*What child is this who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?*

**Refrain:**  
***This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.***

*2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christians, fear, for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.*

**(Refrain)**

*3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.*

**(Refrain)**

### **We Three Kings**

*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 light,  
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. [Refrain]*

*3 Frankincense to offer have I;  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, voices raising,  
worshiping God on high. [Refrain]*

*4 Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]*

*5 Glorious now behold him arise;  
King and God and sacrifice:  
Alleluia, Alleluia,  
sounds through the earth and skies. [Refrain]*

### **Once in Royal David's City**

*Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed;  
Mary, loving 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, the scorned, the lowly  
lived on earth our Savior holy.*

*3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day, like us he grew;  
he was little, weak, and helpless,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness,  
and he shareth in our gladness.*

*4. 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.*

## **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

*Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King;  
peace on 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 new born King!"*

*2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th' incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new-born King!"*

*3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the new born King!"*