

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-6

The desert will blossom, God's people will return with joy.

Carol

“Away In A Manger” (James R. Murray)

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

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

Meditation

“Mary Did You Know” (Mark Lowry)

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

The birth of Jesus the Messiah

Carol

“What Child is This?” (William Chatterton Dix)

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:8-14

Angels appear to the shepherds and announce the birth of the Messiah.

Carol

“Early On One Christmas Morning” (Bruce Cockburn)

Eighth Lesson

John 1:1-14

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

Carol

“Jesus, What A Wonderful Child” (Traditional)

Carol

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (stanzas 1 & 3) AAH #214

Benediction

Postlude

“In Dulci Jubilo” (Traditional)

Please silence your cell phones.

As always, we'd love for you to join us for lunch in the Fellowship Hall immediately following today's worship service. All are welcome.

On next Sunday, Dec. 24th, please join us at 10AM for brunch and an informal worship service in the Dining Hall. The Christmas Eve Candlelight and Communion Service will be in the sanctuary at 5PM.

Triune Mercy Center

Greenville, South Carolina

December 17, 2023



You are God's child, and you are welcome in this place.

222 Rutherford St.
Greenville, SC 29609
864-233-8020

Worship – 11:00 am
www.triunemercy.org

Pastor: Jennifer Fouse Sheorn
Parish Associate: Elaine Nocks
Music Director/Guitar: Charles Hedgepath
Sound: Niles McCall
Percussion: Jason Owens & Ike Maddox
Violin: Andy Carlson
Associate Pastor: Amanda Taylor
Organ/Piano: Andy Welchel
Live-streaming: Kreg Kimmons
Vocals: Choir & Soloist
Bass: Sam Kruer
Hammered Dulcimer: Benjamin Barker

ORDER OF WORSHIP
December 17, 2023
3rd Sunday of Advent/Lessons & Carols

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Not in mighty places of power, but in little Bethlehem, in a room out back:

The Messiah is coming.

Not born in nobility and wealth, but of Mary and Joseph, who pondered and planed wood:

The Messiah is coming.

Not announced by prophets, priests, and kings, but by two women, who were the first to know:

The Messiah is coming.

Nothing will be impossible for God, but when and where we least expect it, look among the straw and the stars:

The Messiah is coming.

Let us worship God!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

5th verse of *In The Bleak Midwinter*

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man I would do my part.
Yet, what I can I give him, give my heart.*

Prayer of Confession (in Unison)

God of Joy,

Instead of having prophetic vision, we trade justice for convenience.

Instead of choosing and embodying joy, we let it slip away.

We barely notice the beauty around us.

Forgive us, O God, and teach us the ways of those who rejoice in You, the God of our salvation. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: In Jesus Christ, the Lord had done great things for us! Even if we have gone out in tears, God brings us home shouting for joy. Thanks be to God: we are forgiven! Amen.

Moment of Silence/Prayers of the People

Offering "Someday At Christmas" (Stevie Wonder)

Doxology

UMH #95

First Lesson

Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 3:8-15

God equally creates man and woman in God's image. Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.

Carol

"While We Are Waiting, Come"

AAH #190

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to Abraham that through him all the nations of the earth will be blessed.

Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

AAH #199

Third Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all God's creation.

Carol

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" (Ralph Vaughan Williams)