

**Fifth Lesson**

**Luke 2:8-14**

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

**Carol**            “Angels We Have Heard on High” (verses 1-3)            UMH #238

**Sixth Lesson**

**John 1:1-14**

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

**Carol**            “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (stanzas 1 & 3)            UMH #240

Reception of New Members

Benediction

Postlude                    “Go Tell It On The Mountain”                    Band

**Please turn cell phones off, and keep masks on at all times, while maintaining a safe distance from other worshipers.**

**Blue Christmas Service today at 3PM in the sanctuary.**

**Christmas Eve Service on Friday, Dec. 24th at 5PM in the sanctuary.**

**We will gather for worship on Sunday, Dec. 26th at 11AM.**

**We celebrate the baptism today of Thomas Bradham Palma, son of Thomas and Sarah Palma.**

# Triune Mercy Center

Greenville, South Carolina

**December 19, 2021**

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

***First Coming***

*He did not wait till the world was ready,  
till men and nations were at peace.  
He came when the Heavens were unsteady,  
and prisoners cried out for release.  
He did not wait for the perfect time.  
He came when the need was deep and great.  
He dined with sinners in all their grime,  
turned water into wine. He did not wait  
till hearts were pure. In joy he came  
to a tarnished world of sin and doubt.  
To a world like ours, of anguished shame  
he came, and his Light would not go out.  
He came to a world which did not mesh,  
to heal its tangles, shield its scorn.  
In the mystery of the Word made Flesh  
the Maker of the stars was born.  
We cannot wait till the world is sane  
to raise our songs with joyful voice,  
for to share our grief, to touch our pain,  
He came with Love: Rejoice! Rejoice!*

Madeleine L’Engle, from *The Ordering of Love: The New and Collected Poems of Madeleine L’Engle*

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

Worship – 11:00 am  
[www.triunemercy.org](http://www.triunemercy.org)

Pastor: Jennifer Fouse Sheorn  
Music Director/Piano: Andy Welchel  
Sound: Andrew McDade  
Organ: David Hanna  
Carolers: Bronwyn White, David Raulston, Andy Welchel

Interim Associate Pastor: Jeff Brown  
Live-streaming: Tyler Robinson  
Bass: Sam Kruer  
Drums: Ike Maddox

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**ORDER OF WORSHIP**  
**December 19, 2021**  
**4th Sunday of Advent/Lessons and Carols**

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Prelude "Awake! A Voice is Calling Us" (J. S. Bach) Andy Welchel

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

**Prayer of Confession (in Unison)** Frank Campigotto

**Forgiving God, we have messed up in so many ways: we have attempted to disguise ourselves in fake piety, we have done something good only to make ourselves feel better, denied our blessedness, we have failed to exercise the compassion that Jesus embodied. Forgive us. Help us work for the justice you intend and make us messengers of the peace you bring. And as we wait for**

**you, turn our apathy into acts of love and service. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Leader:** Friends, hear the good news of the gospel; in the name of the Christ child, Emmanuel, our sins are forgiven! Alleluia and amen.

Celebration of Baptism

Moment of Silence/Prayers of the People Jeff Brown

Offering "Someday at Christmas" (Stevie Wonder) Lila Smith

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** "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" (stanza 1) UMH #218

**Second Lesson** **Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 and 35:1-6**

*The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah. The desert will blossom, God's people will return with joy.*

**Carol** "Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming" (stanzas 1 & 2) UMH #217

**Third Lesson** **Luke 1:26-38**

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

**Meditation** "Breath of Heaven (Amy Grant/Chris Eaton) Lila Smith

**Fourth Lesson** **Matthew 1:18-25**

*The birth of Jesus the Messiah*

**Carol** "Away in a Manger" (stanzas 1 & 3) UMH #217