



MILFORD UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 25, 2022 | Christmas Day | 10:00 AM

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Jennifer Lovallo, Pastor

Jeffrey Fornoff, Music Director

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Sing a new song to God, who has done marvelous things.

God has spoken to us through a Child. Let us all worship at the manger.

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

God has given us a song to sing. Let our voices soar with good tidings.

*PRAYER OF CENTERING

Amazing God, once more you have sought us out and brought us to the manger. You have interrupted our routines to penetrate our dreariness with your good news. You have gathered this unlikely assortment of people to become a transforming community of faith, a holy people. Set your vision before us now and awaken our feet to follow your path to unlikely places where saving grace is revealed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN "Angels from the Realms of Glory" UMH 220

THE BIDDING PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER UMH 895

BLESSING

*CAROL "Angels We Have Heard on High" UMH 238

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19
God announces in the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

CAROL "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" UMH 196

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18
God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

CAROL "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" (verses 1-2) UMH 211++

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness

CAROL "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" (verses 1-2) UMH 216++

FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5:2-5a

*The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor, and peace for all of God's creation***CAROL** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" UMH 230**FIFTH LESSON**

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son, whose kingdom shall never end.***CAROL** "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing" UMH 240++**SIXTH LESSON**

Luke 2:1-7

*Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.***CAROL** "Star-Child" (verses 1, 5) TFWS 2095++**SEVENTH LESSON**

Luke 2:8-16

*The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.***CAROL** "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" UMH 251**EIGHTH LESSON**

Matthew 2:1-11

*The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.***CAROL** "We Three Kings" (verses 1, 4) UMH 254**NINTH LESSON**

John 1:1-14

CAROL** "O Come, All Ye Faithful" UMH 234++PASSING THE PEACE*****CHRISTMAS OFFERING & DOXOLOGY** UMH 94++*"Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow"****CHRISTMAS PRAYER***Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.****DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

May the Christ who by his Incarnation gathered into One all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Go forth in peace and joy.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**POSTLUDE***Key to abbreviations:**OT: Old Testament; NT: New Testament**UMH: The United Methodist Hymnal TFWS: The Faith We Sing**++ Indicates Someone's Favorite Hymn*

Merry Christmas

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