

*A FESTIVAL OF
LESSONS AND CAROLS*

First Presbyterian Church
LaGrange, Georgia
Advent, 2010

PRELUDE MUSIC

**THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN*

Hymnal #41

O Come, All Ye Faithful

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

THE BIDDING PRAYER

THE FIRST LESSON:

Genesis 3:8-15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the offspring of woman shall strike the serpent's head.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of thee in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself."

¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?"

¹² The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent beguiled me, and I ate."

¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all cattle,
and above all wild animals;
upon your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your seed and her seed;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel."

CHORAL ANTHEM

THE SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that by his offspring, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven,

¹⁶ and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD, because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son,

¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore. And your descendants shall possess the gate of their enemies,

¹⁸ and by your descendants shall all the nations of the earth bless themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

VOCAL SOLO

SPECIAL MUSIC

THE THIRD LESSON:

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

² The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

⁶ For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;
and the government will be upon his shoulder,
and his name will be called
"Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
upon the throne of David, and over his kingdom,
to establish it, and to uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time forth and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CONGREGATIONAL HYMN

THE FOURTH LESSON:

Micah 5:2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem.

² But you, O Bethlehem Eph'rathah,
who are little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in travail has brought forth;
then the rest of his brethren shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of
the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth.

**CAROL*

Hymnal #44

O Little Town of Bethlehem

THE FIFTH LESSON:

Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from
God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was
Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name
was Mary.

²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one,
the Lord is with you!"

²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and
considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might
be.

³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for
you have found favor with God.

³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear
a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David,
³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever;
and of his kingdom there will be no end."
³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?"
³⁵ And 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 will be called holy,
the Son of God.

VOCAL SOLO

THE SIXTH LESSON:

Matthew 1:18-22

Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way.
When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph,
before they came together she was found to be with
child of the Holy Spirit;
¹⁹ and her husband Joseph, being a just man and
unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her
quietly.
²⁰ But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the
Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son
of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that
which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit;
²¹ she will bear a son, and you shall call his name
Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."
²² All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had spoken
by the prophet:
²³ "Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and his name shall be called Emmanuel"

(which means, God with us).

²⁴ When Joseph woke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took his wife,

²⁵ but knew her not until she had borne a son; and he called his name Jesus.

VOCAL SOLO

OFFERING

OFFERTORY MUSIC

THE SEVENTH LESSON:

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to the manger.

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.

² This was the first enrollment, when Quirin'i-us was governor of Syria.

³ And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David,

⁵ to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

⁶ And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered.

⁷ And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were

filled with fear.

¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;

¹¹ for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom he is pleased!"

¹⁵ When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."

¹⁶ And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

**CAROL*

Hymnal #23

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

THE EIGHTH LESSON:

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea In the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying,

² "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East, and have come to worship him."

³ When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him;

⁴ and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born.

⁵ They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it is

written by the prophet:

⁶ `And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler who will govern my
people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and
ascertained from them what time the star appeared;

⁸ and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and
search diligently for the child, and when you have found
him bring me word, that I too may come and worship
him."

⁹ When they had heard the king they went their way;
and lo, the star which they had seen in the East went
before them, till it came to rest over the place where the
child was.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly
with great joy;

¹¹ and going into the house they saw the child with Mary
his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him.
Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts,
gold and frankincense and myrrh.

¹² And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod,
they departed to their own country by another way.

CHOIR ANTHEM

THE NINTH LESSON:

John 1:1-14

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with
God, and the Word was God.

² He was in the beginning with God;

³ all things were made through him, and without him
was not anything made that was made.

⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men.

⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has
not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him.

⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

⁹ The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not.

¹¹ He came to his own home, and his own people received him not.

¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God;

¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

**CAROL*

**CHRISTMAS COLLECT*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you

Lord Jesus, Child of Bethlehem, who in love made humankind, create in us love so pure and perfect that whosoever our heart loves may be after thy will, in thy name, and for thy sake. Amen.

**CAROL*

"Silent Night! Holy Night!"

Silent night! holy night!
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child!
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.

Silent night! holy night!
Son of God, love's pure Light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.

Silent night! holy night!
Wondrous Star, lend thy light!
With the angels let us sing,
Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savoir is born,
Christ the Savoir is born.

**DISMISSAL*

May the One who by his incarnation gathered
into one things earthly and heavenly, fill
you with the sweetness of inward peace and
goodwill; and the blessing of God, the love
of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy
Spirit remain with you always.

Go forth in peace and joy.

Thanks be to God! Alleluia!