

Lessons and Carols December 18, 202 Fourth Sunday of Hdvent

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lo, How a Rose, E'er Blooming Hark! The Herald Angels Sing Joshua Evanovich

ADESTE FIDELES

Lighting of the Advent Candle/Call to Worship

Allison and JD Whalen (9:00 am) John and Kim Leighton, Charles, Sanders and Will, and Sissy Dickerson (11:15 am)

- Leader: Isaiah spoke to a people called chosen, to a tribe called Israel, with a light of hope.
- People: Gabriel came to a town called Nazareth, to a girl called Mary, with a light of joy.
- Leader: Mary went to a place called Bethlehem, to a stable called a nursery, with a light of love.
- People: As we light our fourth Advent candle, we rejoice with Mary, for Love has flesh.All Come now, O Child of Mary. Come now, O Prince of Love.

*Carol of Adoration #133 (Children exit for Children's Church)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

- O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant; O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem! Come, and behold him, born the King of angels! Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!
- 3. Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above! Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *(to refrain)*
- 4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (to refrain)

*Prayer of Adoration

Rev. Dr. Douglass Key

(Congregation, please remain seated during the reading of the Lessons.)

First Lesson: The Good News of Deliverance—Isaiah 61:1-3

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those how mourn in Zion—to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

*THOSE WHO ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

Carol (congregation and choir)

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling/Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

- 1. Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heaven to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling; all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion; pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart. (Interlude)
- 2. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free; from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee. Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art; dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.
- Born thy people to deliver, born ad child and yet a king; 3. born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring. By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone; by thine all sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.

Second Lesson: The Birth of Jesus-Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinuis was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and the family of David. He went to registered with Mary, to whom, he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Carol

Jesus Child

John Rutter

Have you heard the story that they're telling 'bout Bethlehem, Have you heard the story of the Jesus Child? How he came from heaven and was born in a manger bed? Mary was his virgin mother pure and mild. Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters, Worship the Jesus Child and praise his mother mild. Glory to God on high the angel hosts above are singing Listen to the story of the Jesus Child. Have you heard the story of the poor humble shepherd men, Sitting on a hillside with their flock at night? Suddenly the angel tells them: "Hurry to Bethlehem; go and find the Jesus child, the world's new light." Jesus child, lying at Bethlehem, sleeping safe at Mary's knee, Save my soul and bring me to paradise, Let me join the angels singing glory to thee. Have you heard the story of the kings from the orient, Following the star that's shining over his head? Offering their precious gifts of gold, myrrh and frankincense, Kneeling with the ox and ass before his bed? Brothers, let us celebrate the birth of the Jesus child, Sisters, come and welcome him, the newborn King; Praise the Lord who sent him down from heaven at Christmas time; Young and old and rich and poor, his praises sing. Sing alleluia, brothers, sing alleluia, sisters, Worship the Jesus Child and praise his mother mild. Glory to God on high the angel hosts above are singing,

Listen to the story of the Jesus Child.

Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Nicholas P. Demuynck Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Third Lesson: The Shepherds and the Angels—Luke 2:8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord, This will be a sign for you: You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of

the heavenly host, praising god and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol #121 (congregation-remain seated)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

- 1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light; t he hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
- 2. For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth, and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
- 4. O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

Fourth Lesson: The Ministry of Reconciliation-2 Corinthians 5:18-21

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Carol (choir)

A Child, My Choice

Richard Nance Let folly praise that fancy loves, I praise and love that wondrous Child Whose heart no thought, whose tongue no word, whose hand no deed defiled. I praise Him most, I love Him best, all praise and love is His; While Him I love, in Him I live, and cannot live amiss. Love's sweetest mark, laud's highest theme, man's desired light, To love Him life, to leave Him death, to live in Him delight. He mine by gift, I His by debt, thus each to other due; First friend He was, best friend He is, all times will try Him true. Though young, yet wise; though small, yet strong, though man, yet God He is: As wise, He knows; as strong He can as God, He loves to bless. His knowledge rules, His strength defends, His love doth cherish all: His birth our joy, His life our light, His death our end of thrall. Alas! He weeps, He sighs, He moans, yet do His holy angels sing; Out of His tears, His sighs and throbs, doth but a joyful spring. Almighty Babe, whose tender arms can force all foes to fly, Correct my faults, protect my life, direct when I die!

Robert Southwell (1561-1595)

Scripture Focus Matthew 1:18-25

Sermon

"Wonder What the Neighbors Said?"

Offertory

Tidings of Comfort and Joy (9:00 am) Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella (11:15 am)

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Dr. Bradley D. Smith

Joshua Evanovich

Jason Burbage

Fifth Lesson: A Living Hope—1 Peter 1:3-9

Blessed be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith -being more precious than gold that through perishable, is tested by fire -may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him. You love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Carol (choir)

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child

Jesus, oh, what a Wonderful Child. Jesus, so holy, meek and mild. New life, new hope, new joy He brings. Listen to the angels sing: "Glory to the newborn King!" He was herald'd by the angels, yes, born in a lowly manger. God chose the virgin Mary as His mother, and Joseph as His earthly father. Three wise men trav'lin from afar, they guided by that shinin' star to see King Jesus where He lay in a manger full of hay. Some traveled north, some traveled south to see this wonderful Child. Some traveled east, some traveled west to see this wonderful Child.

*Affirmation of Faith—from Colossians 1:15-20

Rev. Dr. Carol J. Byrd Jesus Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible. All things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn of the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. Amen

*Carol of Dedication #134 (congregation)

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Rollo Dillworth

- 1. 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 earth, 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.
- He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness 4. and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Benediction

Postlude

Sussex Carol

arr. Joshua Evanovich

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL MUSICIANS WHO PARTICIPATED THIS MORNING, ESPECIALLY ORCHESTRA MEMBERS Worth Lewallen, Shr-han Wu, Catherine Galan, Jessica Rafferty, Drew Preston, Brianna Harris, Cierra Asmond, Sarah Steeves, Dusan Vukajlovic, Heidi Carey, Sarah Evanovich, Brent Wilson, Spencer Jensen, Emily Creedle, Rebecca Nagel, Jared Moore, Kevin O'Brien, Maria Nyikos, Katie Brook



In honor of my safety net, Liz Agee - Sam In memory of our mothers, Lillian Myers and Carolyn Agee In memory of Dr. and Mrs. William R Craig, and Mr. and Mrs. Edmund C. Aldridge In loving memory of Furman and Evelyn Gerrard by Joe and Carol Anderson. In loving memory of Joe and Clarissa Anderson by Joe and Carol Anderson. In honor of our grandchildren, Foster, Clarke, Evelyn, Ivy, Yates and Wren Anderson by Joe and Carol Anderson In loving memory of Lanny and Sidney Palmer, Ann Benson and David Bankston In loving honor of Connie and Donald Gray, Ann Benson and David Bankston In loving memory of Dorothy & Al Bankston-Ann Benson and David Bankston In loving memory of Wilfred Palmer-Ann Benson and David Bankston In loving memory of Roy, Sarah and Steve Bates - Brian & Ginger Bates In loving memory of Florence Fowler and in honor of Lewis Fowler-Ginger and Brian Bates In Thanksgiving for our Pastors (present and past) and Eastminster staff by Lynn & Neal Beard. In loving memory of Charles (Bud) & Mary Padgett by Lynn & Neal Beard and grandchildren Grace (Jordan) Epler, Katharine Padgett-Beard, & Mary Martha Beard In honor of Jim & Eleanor Beard by Neal & Lynn Beard, and grandchildren Grace (Jordan) Epler, Katharine Padgett-Beard, & Mary Martha Beard In honor of our daughters Grace (Jordan) Epler, Katharine Padgett-Beard & Mary Martha Beard by Lynn & Neal Beard Given by Audrey Brown in honor of and in grateful appreciation to the Chancel Choir In honor of our parents (and grandparents to Champs & Jack) Cindy & Green, DesChamps and Sandra & Ronnie Burley In loving memory of my husband, C.J. Cambre, and my parents, Bert and Ruth Watson, by Jan Cambre In honor of my mother, Rebecca Salley Castles, and in memory of my father, Daniel Lyles Castles, my brother, Daniel Lyles Castles, Jr, my sister, Thyra Elizabeth Castles, and my grandparents, Thyra & Ernest Castles, and Ruth & Harvin Salley In honor of Liz, Clay, Campbell, Charlie, and Sazy Sharpe In honor of Sarah, Mike, Walter, Salley, and Teddy Rama In honor of May May with all our love, May, Luke and Alec Chaplin In loving memory of Dr. Jack Smith with all our love, May, Luke and Alec Chaplin In honor of Pop and JuJu with all our love, May, Luke and Alec Chaplin Given in honor of their grandparents, Ken & Kathy Hoover, and Mark & Susan Chappell by Mary Gardner & Katherine Chappell. In memory of Rosa Kinard and Mary Claire Shannon In memory of Steve Horton and Benny Craven In loving memory of our mother and father and grandparents, Augusta and King Dixon, from Gus, Kim, Drew & Robert Dixon In loving memory of our mother and father and grandparents, Annette and Jake King, from Gus, Kim, Drew & Robert Dixon In honor of our children: Daniel Ellzey (Ervn), Taylor Babcock (Drew), Larkin Ellzey, and Caroline Jones (Trey) In honor of our grandchildren: Jane & Mills Babcock, Abner, Barmore and Campbell Jones, Daniel and Jimmy Ellzey In loving memory of Simpson's Godfathers - George Sease Betsill and Edwin Houseal Betsill In loving memory of Simpson's uncle -- Simpson Jones Zimmerman, Jr. In honor of our beautiful grandchildren, Katherine Kennedy Strickland, Margaret Jane Strickland, & Sara Christie Strickland, love, Kaki and Pops In honor of our wonderful children and their spouses - Katherine and Henry Strickland, Hunter and Hagood Hemphill, Zim Fant and fiancé Jessica Roberts, and Hal Fant., love, Mom and Dad In loving memory of our parents -- Jane and Hal Williams, and Christie and Jimmie Fant from Kathy and Simpson Fant In loving memory of Simpson's Godfathers - George Sease Betsill and Edwin Houseal Betsill, from Kathy and Simpson Fant In loving memory of Jane's parents, Frank & Dorothy McFaddin, given by Bill and Jane Francis In loving memory of Bill's parents, Marion & Jane Francis, given by Bill and Jane Francis In loving memory of Jane's siblings, Frank McFaddin, Jr., Jack McFaddin and Lorraine M. Walker, given by Bill and Jane Francis In honor of our Mother and Mother-in-law Millie McConkey with much love, Gary and Candy Galliher In loving memory of Virginia Griffin and Charles Spires, Sr. - Lindsey, Charlie, Gray and Lish Griffin To the glory of God and in loving memory of Phyllis and Joe Williams by their family To the glory of God and in loving memory of Bill Halligan by his family In loving memory of Mary and Lloyd Hendricks and Martha and Jimmy Spangler For my beautiful sister Sarah Jones. We miss you-With love Lauren, John, Mary Wesley, Penelope and Emma In honor of Jane and Bill Francis, from Nelle Holcombe In honor of Lizzie and Jamie Durden, from Nelle Holcombe

In honor of Robin Gorman for her dedication and inspiration to our small group, by her small group members In loving memory of Anne's father, Dr. Robert E. Smith, Jr., our beloved "Poppa". In memory of Mr. W. James Kitchens, Sr., Mrs. Glenda G. Rockafellow and Mr. Richard H. Rockafellow In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Cameron by Connie and Mac Leppard In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Edward M. Leppard by Connie and Mac Leppard In loving memory of Bill Littlejohn, from Elaine and Leigh Ann Littlejohn In honor of Sara Lovingood's 90th birthday, and in memory of Paul Lovingood, by their children. In loving memory of Betsy Sommerkamp by Paula, Brian, and Alex Magargle In loving memory of Judy L. Love by Paula, Brian, and Alex Magargle In loving memory of Virginia McCracken given by Ginny, Berry, Eden and Kelsey Mattox In honor of Lane Chappell given with love from Eden Mattox and family In honor of the dedicated teachers and staff of Eastminster Day School given with love from Kelsey Mattox and family In honor and appreciation for Brian and Marya Marsh given with love by Berry and Ginny Mattox To the glory of God and in honor of my husband John B McArthur. To the glory of God and in loving memory of Sue McCutcheon by her family In memory of Lulie E. Felder and in honor of the marriage of Cecilia and Ben on December 10. In honor of Alison McGowan and her tireless dedication. To the glory of God and in loving memory of Daryl McKee from his family, Meredith, Terri, Randy, Brad and Jon In loving memory of Helen, Claude and Ginny McMillan In loving memory of Josephine, Gus, and Nancy Postal To the glory of God and in appreciation of the teaching skills of Boo Griffin, from her small group In memory of our parents, Mac and Josephine McWilliams, and Phil and Legare Bates, from Bill and Sally McWilliams In honor and thanksgiving for our precious grandchildren, Mac, Walker, James, Phillips Jr., Reagan, and Molly from Mimi and Doc To the glory of God, in loving memory of Mike Meadows Hal and Pam Lane may the peace of Christ surround you-Fred and Betsy Miller Ellen Moore, may the love of Christ surround you-Fred and Betsy Miller Joe and Carol Anderson, we wish you joy in this Christmas season.-Fred and Betsy Miller In loving memory of our parents Mr. Mrs. James Caldwell Hall, Jr., and Mr. & Mrs. Mark L. Moseley, Sr., by Marsha and Bruce Moseley In memory of our precious grandson William "Beau" Snell, given by Deane & Susan Pennington Given in loving memory of Juda Williams Reinhardt, wonderful wife, mother, grandmother and friend, by her family. In loving memory of Tony, who I miss so much-Joyce Rogers In loving memory of Roy and Ann Sawyer given by Val and Betsy Sawyer In loving memory of my amazing parents, John and Jane Dunbar You will always be in the hearts of those who loved you fiercely! Betsy Dunbar Sawyer In honor of Brad and Nancy Smith, from Doug and Lyn Schultz In honor of Tripp and Sally Schultz, from Doug and Lyn In honor of Lyn Schultz, our angel Lala, love, Molly, Scott, Tripp & Sally To the glory of God and in honor of the Brian Marsh family-Nancy and Boyd Scott In memory of Clinky and Cordes Seabrook by Anne and March Seabrook and family In memory of Allison Trotter Nation by Anne and March Seabrook and family In memory of Donald Richardson III by Anne and March Seabrook and family In honor of my four precious grandchildren-Campbell, Charlie, Sazy and Cal Sharpe, given by Cece In loving memory of Dwight Smith In loving memory of our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Jacob F. Strait and Mr. & Mrs. Eutace B. Studstill In loving memory of Joseph F. Sullivan given by Greg, Sandy, Sarah and Smith Sullivan In loving memory of Elizabeth S. Littlejohn (Bibba) and Elsie S. Cribb given by Sandy, Greg, Sarah and Smith Sullivan In honor of Phyllis Staton by our family In honor of our fall 2022 Alpha Group, the Staton family In honor of Eastminster-its staff and members, the Staton family In honor of our children and grandchildren, the Staton family In member of Jane Boyce Carroll and a life well lived in service to God and others In honor of our GahGah from Margaret Anne, Mariah, Hagood, and Robert Sims Tighe In loving memory of Pop Pop from Margaret Anne, Mariah, Hagood, and Robert Sims Tighe In memory, with much love to our daughter Kacy Clark Winterhalter from John and Kathy In loving memory of Marie and Oliver Wolfe (Jack's mom and dad), by Kathy and Jack Wolfe In loving memory of Kathy's mother, Charlotte Cassels whom we miss very much, and in honor of Kathy's father, Bill Cassels.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There is a Congregational Meeting Today in the Sanctuary, at the conclusion of 11:15 am worship, for two purposes: 1) to act on the Rev. Brian Marsh's request for dissolution of his call and 2) to act on the Officer Nominating Committee's recommendation that Jeff Thordahl be elected as an Elder for the class of 2025 to fill an unexpired term.

The Living Nativity is tonight at 5 pm, 6 pm, & 7 pm (Courtyard): Our annual petting zoo makes these three shows lively and fun each year. Contact Croskeys Royall (croyall@eastminterpres.org) if you'd like to help.

Grief Share Group Meets tonight at 6 pm (Room 357 - Education Building): This Congregational Care and Concern group will meet to give support and comfort for all who are grieving the loss of a loved one during the holidays. Dr. Ben Sloan will lead our discussions.

Mall to Manger Challenge Cards Are Available in our Welcome Centers: Pick up cards and give as gifts this year. Donations go to Meals on Wheels. Please write "M2M" on the memo line of your check.

Transitions Christmas Day Lunch: We are meeting at Transitions after our worship service (10 am) to serve our friends. Donations of pasta salad, mandarin oranges (December only) and pound cake, along with homemade cookies and hygiene bags are being collected at the church. You may also donate a turkey or a ham, or make a monetary donation. Contact Alison McGowan (alisonmcgowan11@gmail.com) if you would like to help.

Pledge Status Report as of December 12, 2022

Thank you to those who have pledged. If you have not yet done so, please give us an estimate of your giving to support Christ's work through Eastminster in 2023.

188 Pledges Increased 95 Pledges With No Change

40 Pledges Decreased

44 New Pledges

For a total of 367 pledges totaling \$3,145,260 114 pledges were made for 2022, but not yet for 2023

Dear Eastminster Church Family,

We are so glad you are worshiping with us today, and what a gift that our God has come to the world in the flesh in Jesus the Christ! Join us for our coming services (listed below) so that, filled with awe and wonder, each and every one of us may live lives of gratitude and generosity, reaching out to others as our Savior has first reached out to us.

In Christ,

Brad

Brad

Christmas Worship Services



<u>Christmas Eve</u>

5:00 pm: Children's Service (Childcare provided for infants – 2K)
7:00 pm: Family Candlelight Service (Childcare provided for infants—5K)
9:00 pm: Candlelight Communion Service
<u>Christmas Day</u>
10:00 am in the Sanctuary (No Sunday School) Serve with us at Transitions at 11:30 am.

Dr. Douglass D. Key, Senior Associate Pastor Dr. Carol J. Byrd, Parish Associate Joshua Evanovich, Organist Katie Herndon, EDS Director Blythe Lewis, Communications Director Alex Rogers, Facilities Manager

MINISTERS—ALL OF US! STAFF

Dr. Bradley D. Smith, Pastor

Rev. Brian J. Marsh, Associate Pastor Rev. Nicholas P. Demuynck, Associate Pastor Bethany Parker, Middle School Youth Director Anna Mills Cox, Sr. Communications Officer Caroline Bennett, Small Groups & Librarian. Emmet Hough, Christian Life Center Director Rev. W. Croskeys Royall, Associate Pastor Dr J. Ben Sloan, Interim Parish Associate Fredna Lee, Director of Music Ministry Bill Collins, Business Manager Christy Rippy, Treasurer Christina Siokos, Member Involvement Coord