



First United Methodist Church of Gilbert

Serving, Giving, Welcoming, Growing in the likeness of Christ

December 24, 2020

CHRISTMAS EVE—LESSONS AND CAROLS

Streamed live at gilbertumc.org/resources/sermons/
Attendance Card at gilbertumc.org/attendance-card-prayer-request/

331 S. Cooper Rd. Gilbert, AZ 85233 • 480-892-9166
gilbertumc.org | facebook.com/FUMCofGilbert

Welcome!

Pre-service Music: “Away in a Manger” *Jeff Hendrickson | Midori Hall and Pam Turner*

Ringing of the Bell

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Prelude “O Holy Night”

Welcome and Greeting Pastor Rick | Pastor Diamond | Carpenter Family

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Carpenter Family

Leader: Unexpectedly, the time came! The child was born!

People: The Savior of the world is here!

Leader: Unexpectedly, the angels told the shepherds of
the newborn Savior;

People: The Savior of the world is here!

Leader: Unexpectedly, the shepherds went and found the child,
lying in a manger.

People: The Savior of the world is here!

[Lighting of the Candles]

Leader: We wait for Christ to come again. We wait for Christ to
enter our world and our lives in a new way.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!

Anthem

“Joy to the World”

#246

UM Hymnal #246 WORDS: Isaac Watts MUSIC: G. F. Handel, arr. Lowell Mason

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 world, 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.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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

Opening Prayer

Loving God, moved by the coming of Christ to our lives, we seek to be your people. Help us to live in faithful covenant with you and with one another. Let the peace of Christ guide us, and let Christ's message in all its richness live in our hearts, that we may praise you without ceasing. Amen.

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS THE CHRIST

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Carol

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” vs. 1, 2

#216

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a flower bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half-gone was the night.

2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to men a Savior
When half-gone was the night.

Second Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the
earth;

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the
asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on
the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy
mountain; for the earth will be full of the
knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover
the sea.

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;
the 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!

Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-35,38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 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 ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" 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 holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

1. To a maid engaged to Joseph,
the angel Gabriel came.
"Fear not," the angel told her,
"I come to bring good news,
good news I come to tell you,
good news, I say, good news.

3. But Mary was most troubled
to hear the angel's word.
What was the angel saying?
It troubled her to hear,
to hear the angel's message,
it troubled her to hear.

4. "Fear not, for God is with you,
and you shall bear a child.
His name shall be called Jesus,
God's offspring from on high.
And he shall reign forever,
forever reign on high."

6. As Mary heard the angel,
she wondered at his words.
"Behold, I am your handmaid,"
she said unto her God.
"So be it; I am ready
according to your word."

Fourth Lesson

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 Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be 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

“The First Noel” vs. 1

#245

1. The first Noel the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds
in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Fifth Lesson

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.

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

“In the Bleak Midwinter” vs. 1, 2, 4

#221

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2. Our God, heaven cannot hold him,
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

4. 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.

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of
Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

1. We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

5. Glorious now behold him arise;
King and God and sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia,
sounds through the earth and skies.

O star of wonder, star of light,
star with royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.

Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" vs. 1, 2, 3

#234

1. 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;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

2. True God of true God,
Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

3. True God of true God,
Light from Light Eternal,
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Homily

Pastor Rick Casebolt

The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.

Offering

Offertory "I Heard the Bells on Christmas" *CCLI# 5466490*

Offering Prayer

With these gifts, O God, bring light to your people and love to the earth.
With our lives, shine light into the deepest shadows and help us to share your
love where it is needed most. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

Candle Lighting and Passing of the Light “Silent Night” *UM Hymnal #239*

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 Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born!

Benediction and Christmas Blessing | Postlude “Silent Night” (Reprise)

Join us ONLINE this Sunday
for a special service from the
Desert Southwest Conference

Lessons and Carols

Thank you for viewing services today!


If you have any questions or comments please contact us at connection@gilbertumc.org

CLERGY: Pastor Rick Casebolt and Pastor Diamond Pate

MUSIC DIRECTOR: Randy Van Der Pol ORGANIST: Jeffrey Hendrickson

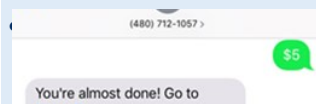
WANT TO GIVE TO FIRST GILBERT?

Smart Phone App

- Download the UMCgo app 
- Locate "First United Methodist Church of Gilbert"
- Create an account
- Enter your giving details

Text-To-Give

- Text 480-712-1057 with the amount you wish to give
- Use \$ sign before the amount



Online

- Visit bit.ly/gilbertgiving
- Log in or create an account
- Make a one-time offering or
- Setup a recurring offering