

CUP EVANGELICAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

530 Blackhawk Rd. Beaver Falls, PA. 15010

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cupepc.org

“Join us for a drink of Living Water”



December 20, 2020

Festival of Lessons and Carols

I do love Christmas. But at the same time, I sometimes find myself just wanting to get through Christmas Day intact and out the other side, back to normal life. Maybe you're the same. You find Christmas as stressful as you find it joyful. There's the stress of who you'll be with at Christmas, and who you'll disappoint. There's the stress of getting the presents (and batteries). There's the stress of how much food to buy, and when to put it in the oven, and trying to remember whether or not your auntie is still a vegan. And you find yourself thinking, 'If I can just get through Christmas, then things will go back to normal.' But imagine if Christmas could be rescued from the stress or sadness of just getting through Christmas. Imagine if January could be rescued from the disappointment if your joy was in getting to Christmas. Imagine if there was a joy that lasted – that endured through January and that wasn't dented by reality. That would be worth finding, wouldn't it?

The people who experienced that first Christmas and understood its meaning found a joy that did not fade. So can you. Whether you're a get-to-er or get-through-er, if you get the meaning of the first Christmas this Christmas, then you'll get the feeling of joy, and find it's a feeling that lasts.

-- Carl Laferton, from 'Rescuing Christmas'

Welcome

Prelude

'He Is Born'

~French Carol

Lighting of the Fourth Advent Candle

The Cunniff Family

*Praise and Worship

'Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery'

*Opening Carol #145

'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!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Carol #133

'Hark! the Herald Angels Sing'

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King; Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!” Joyful, all ye nations, rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Meditation

Rev. Scott Graham

Pastoral Prayer and Lords 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.”

*Carol #147

'Silent 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.

*Benediction

Postlude

'Carol of the Bells'

~Ukrainian Carol

We're glad you joined us for worship today! Please wait for the ushers to tell you when your row may be excused. We encourage you to spend time conversing with others outside. Please keep your mask on while in the building unless a medical condition prevents it. We invite you to place your financial tithes and offerings in one of the boxes in the back of the sanctuary before or following service. Thank you.

CUP Officers...

Elders: Jud Herter, Dave Pawlos, Cindy Vannoy Melissa Ziegler,

Stacey Rider, Paula Keefer, Brian O' Roark, Judy Bixler

Deacons: John Myers, Chris Shetka, Bethann Dainton, Tammy Popham, Jan Pawlos,

Alexis McCowin, Valerie Borsje, Linda Trimmer, Christie O' Roark

Trustees: Gary Crawford, Pat Hinzman, Russ Ewing, Doug Cline,

Sylvia Myers, Johanna Ford, Tina Keefer, Wade Rider

First Reading - Genesis 3:8-15 Terry & Sue Brandt
God declares the victory of the Messiah over Satan and sin

Carol #125 ‘Joy to the World!’
Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth receive her King; let eve’ry heart prepare Him room,
and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

Second Reading – Genesis 12:1-3 Adam Kahle, Crosscurrent
God promises that through Abraham all nations of the earth will be blessed

*Carol #155 ‘Once in Royal David’s City’
He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and His shelter was a stable,
And His cradle was a stall: With the poor, and mean, and lowly lived on earth, our Savior holy.

Third Reading –Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 James Koroma, Pastor of Fintonia EPC
Isaiah declares the Messiah will reign forever

Carol #160 ‘Lo! How a Rose E’er Blooming’
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.

Fourth Reading – Micah 5:2-5a Abby Kane, SHINE Program
Micah prophesies that the Messiah will be born in Bethlehem

*Carol #141 ‘O Little Town of Bethlehem’
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.

Fifth Reading – Luke 1:26-35, 38 Courtney & Katelyn Vannoy
The angel Gabriel visits the virgin Mary

Carol # 123 ‘O Come, O Come Emmanuel’
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of
God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

Sixth Reading – Luke 2:1-7 Jeff & Linda Hocanson
Luke recounts the birth of Jesus

*Carol #151 ‘Good Christian Men Rejoice’
Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain His everlasting hall:
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Seventh Reading - Luke 2:8-20
The angels share the good news with the shepherds
Fatu Alli Koroma, Edunations Psychosocial Coordinator
Dr. Samuel Sesay, Edunations President

Carol #132 ‘Angels We Have Heard on High’
Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains, and the mountains in reply echo back their
joyous strains. Gloria in exelsis Deo, Gloria in exelsis Deo.

Eighth Reading - Matthew 2:1-12 Pat Premick, EPC Mission, East Asia
The Magi come to worship Jesus

*Carol #163 ‘As with Gladness Men of Old’
As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold; as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward,
Beaming bright, So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be lead to thee.

Ninth Reading - John 1:1-14 Rev. Scott Graham
John reveals the mystery of the Incarnation