

## Serving Today

Ushers: Jane and John Wittenberg  
Hospitality Hosts: Eleanor Durno and Kathi Hustedt  
Acolyte: Bradford Boney  
Cross Bearer: Larry Hannah

**THANK YOU** to everyone who participated in today's Festival of Lessons and Carols!

*Philip Eyrich, Director of Blended Worship Music*

*Joy Williams, Ross Witschonke, and Nancy Garraghan, Soloists*

*Lemon Bay High School Brass Ensemble:*

*Julia Lehman, trumpet; Jordin Copen, trumpet; Mackinsey Dowd, horn;  
Sara Bauer, trombone; Ayva Ward, tuba*

Please join us for a reception following the Festival in Fellowship Hall



## Christmas Eve Services

Family Worship Service - 5:00pm

Join us for an original presentation by our children and youth of  
"The Grinch Greets the Babe" with sing-along carols for the entire congregation.

Candlelight and Holy Communion Services - 7:00pm and 9:00pm

Both services will feature pre-service music for prayer, a processional, familiar carols, special music, readings, and Holy Communion. The service will conclude with candle lighting from the Christ Candle, the singing of "Silent Night" and quietness. All ages are welcome!

*Invite your family and friends to be a part of these meaningful times of worship  
as we honor the Christ Child who is Emmanuel, God With Us.*



## A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

DECEMBER 12, 2021 at 10:00 AM



325 W Third St, P O Box 524, Boca Grande, FL 33921  
(941) 964-2479    www.bglighthouseumc.com    info@bglighthouseumc.com

**I**n 1880 E. W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Truro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on hymns, carols, and scriptural passages from the Bible. The service was adapted by King's College, Cambridge, and has been used on Christmas Eve ever since.

Many adaptations of the service have been formed over the decades. The service used this morning has been edited for United Methodist congregations and is found in the United Methodist Book of Worship. The strength of the service derives from the scripture lessons. Dean Milner-White of Kings College pointed out: “the main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God seen through the windows and the words of the Bible.”

This morning, we join together in this holy place and go in heart and mind into the story of God's incarnation and salvation. Furthermore, let us find ourselves in the story, wrapped in God's love.

**Y**ou bore for me the one who came to bless  
And bear for all make the broken whole.  
You heard his call, and in your open ‘yes’

You spoke aloud for every living soul.  
Oh, Gracious Lady, child of your own child,  
Whose mother-love still calls the child in me,  
Call me again, for I am lost and wild  
Waves surround me now. On this dark sea  
Shine as a star and call me to the shore.  
Open the door that all my sins would close  
And hold me in your garden. Let me share  
The prayer that folds the petals of the Rose.  
Enfold me too in Love's last mystery  
And bring me to the one you bore for me.



THEOTOKOS  
MALCOM GUTE

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## GOING FORTH

Carol: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

UMH 240

1. 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 th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
2. Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th’incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays His glory, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us a second birth.

*Refrain*

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King!”

## POSTLUDE

*Feliz Navidad*

Jose Feliciano, arr. Thomas Graf

## COLLECT

**E**ternal 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

**M**ay the Christ 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 Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon and remain with you always. **Amen.**

*Go forth in peace and joy.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!*

## PRELUDE

*Cradle Song from Lyric Pieces, Op. 68*  
Edvard Grieg, arr. Lucy Ann Warriner

*I Wonder as I Wander*  
traditional Appalachian melody, arr. Douglas E. Wagner

*Bethlehem Lullaby*  
traditional Polish carol, arr. Rick Parks

*See, Amid the Winter's Snow*  
John Moss, John F. Wade, arr. Lloyd Larson

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

- Reader One: We light this candle as a symbol of our Joy in the Lord.  
Let us rejoice with joy that Christ is our salvation. The Lord is near.
- Reader Two: Surely God is our salvation; we will trust, and will not be afraid.  
the Lord God is our strength and our might;  
God has become our salvation.
- All: Come, Lord Jesus, Come!



# PROCESSIONAL HYMN

## NINTH LESSON: *Matthew Williams*

John 1: 1-14

*John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.*

### Once in Royal David's City

UMH 250

1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed;  
Mary, loving mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.
2. 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, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior  
holy.
3. Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day, like us he grew;  
he was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above  
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

In the beginning was the Word, and 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.

The word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

### CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful (Stanzas 1,3,6)

UMH 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;
3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory  
Given. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

#### *Refrain*

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

## EIGHTH LESSON: *Joan Senior*

### Matthew 2: 1-11

*The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.*

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 to 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.

The word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**Instrumental: In the Bleak Midwinter** - Gustav Holst, arr. Kenneth Aberling  
*Brass Ensemble*

### CAROL: The First Noel

UMH 245

1. The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields where they keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
2. They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far; and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
3. And by the light of that same star three Wise Men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
4. This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest; and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
5. Then entered in those Wise Men three, full reverently upon the knee, and offered there, in his presence, their gold and myrrh and frankincense.

#### *Refrain*

Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel

## THE BIDDING PRAYER

**B**ELOVED IN CHRIST, this Advent season it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, the multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself taught us.

**O**UR FATHER, WHO ART IN HEAVEN, hallowed by thy name, thy Kingdom come, they 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, the power and the glory forever. **Amen.**

**T**HE ALMIGHTY GOD bless us with divine grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

# BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Through the Sacrament of Baptism we are initiated into Christ's holy church. We are incorporated into God's mighty acts of salvation and given new birth through water and the Spirit. All this is God's gift, offered to us without price.

We present the following child for baptism: Callum Robert Fudge.

## RENUNCIATION OF SIN AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

*The pastor addresses parents or other sponsors:*

On behalf of the whole church, I ask you: Do you renounce the spiritual forces of wickedness, reject the evil powers of this world, and repent of your sin?

**I do.**

Do you accept the freedom and power God gives you to resist evil, injustice, and oppression in whatever forms they present themselves?

**I do.**

Do you confess Jesus Christ as our Savior, put your whole trust in his grace, and promise to serve him as your Lord, in union with the church which Christ has opened to people of all ages, nations, and races?

**I do.**

Will you nurture this child in Christ's holy church, that by your teaching and example he may be guided to accept God's grace for himself, to profess his faith openly, and to lead a Christian life?

**We will.**

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Do you, as Christ's body, the church, reaffirm both your rejection of sin and your commitment to Christ?

**We do.**

Will you nurture one another in the Christian faith and life and include this child now before you in your care?

**With God's help we will proclaim the good news and live according to the example of Christ. We will surround him with a community of love and forgiveness, that he may grow in his service to others. We will pray for him, that he may be a true disciple who walks in the way that leads to life.**

*The pastor addresses all:*

Let us join together in professing the Christian faith as contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

## SEVENTH LESSON: *Colvin McCrady*

**Luke 2: 8-16**

*The shepherds go to see the savior of the world, lying in a manger.*

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.

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

**SOLO: Gesu Bambino** - Pietro A. Yon  
*Soloist, Nancy Garraghan*

## CAROL: Angels We Have Heard on High

UMH 238

1. Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains  
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the new-born King.
4. See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

*Refrain*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis De-o!

## **SIXTH LESSON:** *Candy Rost*

**Luke 1: 1-7**

*Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.*

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.

The word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

### **CAROL:** *Away in a Manger*

UMH 217

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.
3. Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

### **SOLO:** *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

*Soloist, Ross Witschonke*

## **BAPTISMAL COVENANT (cont.)**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, is seated at the right hand of the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.**

### **THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, to bless this gift of water and he who receives it, to wash away his sin and clothe him in righteousness throughout his life, that, dying and being raised with Christ, he may share in his final victory.

### **BAPTISM WITH LAYING ON OF HANDS**

Callum Robert Fudge, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The Holy Spirit work within you, that being born through water and the Spirit you may be a faithful disciple of Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Now it is our joy to welcome our new brother in Christ.

### **COMMENDATION AND WELCOME**

*The pastor addresses the congregation:*

Members of the household of God, I commend this person to your love and care. Do all in your power to increase his faith, confirm his hope, and perfect him in love.

*The congregation responds:*

**We give thanks for all that God has already given you and we welcome you in Christian love. As members together with you in the body of Christ and in this congregation of the United Methodist Church, we renew our covenant faithfully to participate in the ministries of the church by our prayers, our presence, our gifts, our service and our witness, that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ.**

*The pastor addresses those baptized:*

The God of all grace, who has called us to eternal glory in Christ, establish you and strengthen you by the power of the Holy Spirit, that you may live in grace and peace.



# CAROL

## Of the Father's Love Begotten UMC 184

1. Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he  
of the things that are, that have been  
and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.
2. O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing,  
powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore.
3. Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be:  
honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore. Amen.

## FIFTH LESSON: *Linden Hustedt*

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.*

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.

The word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

## CAROL: To A Maid Engaged to Joseph

UMH 215

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.
2. "For you are highly favored by God the Lord of all,  
who even now is with you. You are on earth most blest.  
you are most blest, most blessed, God chose you, you are blest."
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.
6. As Mary heard the angel, she wondered at his words.  
"Behold, I am your hand-maid," she said unto her God.  
"So be it; I am ready according to your word."

SOLO: **Winter Snow**—Audrey Assad  
*Soloist, Joy Williams*



## **FOURTH LESSON:** *Marilyn Witt*

**Isaiah 11: 1-4a, 6-9**

*The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.*

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 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.

The word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

### **CAROL:** **Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**

UMH 216

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.  
Of Jesse's lineage coming, as those of old have sung.  
It came, a flower-et bright, a -mid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.
2. Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we be-hold it, the Virgin Mother kind.  
To show God's love a-right, she bore to us a savior,  
when half spent was the night.
3. O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,  
dispel in glorious splendor, the darkness everywhere.  
True man yet very God, from sin and death now save us,  
and share our every load.

## **FIRST LESSON:** *David Senior*

**Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19**

*God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you? He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the vice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, "You shall not eat of it," cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground; for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

### **CAROL:** **Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

UMH 196

1. 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.
2. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king.  
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: *Jane Cooke*

Genesis 22: 15-18

*God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.*

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And our offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

The word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**CAROL:** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (stanzas 1,2,3,7)      UMH 211

1. 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.
2. O come, thou Wisdom from on high, and order all things far and nigh;  
to us the path of knowledge show and cause us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
3. O come, O come, great Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law in cloud and majesty and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
7. O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind.  
From dust thou brought us forth to life; deliver us from earthly strife.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

## THIRD LESSON: *Ed Paxton*

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

*The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in the darkness.*

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.

The word of the Lord  
Thanks be to God.

**CAROL:** Tell Out, My Soul      UMH 200

1. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord!  
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;  
tender to me the promise of God's word;  
in God my Savior shall my heart rejoice.
2. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's name!  
Make known God's might, who wondrous deeds has done;  
God's mercy sure, from age to age the same;  
God's holy name, the Lord, the mighty One.
3. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of God's might!  
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;  
proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,  
the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.
4. Tell out, my soul, the glories of God's word!  
Firm is the promise and God's mercy sure.  
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord  
to children's children and forever more!