

Ascension Lutheran Church

Festival of Lessons and Carols December 26, 2021

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

[P] Pastor [C] Congregation [A] Assisting Minister
*Congregation stands

We will sing the first three verses of each carol.

We come to this service with joy and anticipation to hear the message of the angels and to again return in heart and mind to Bethlehem to experience the loving kindness of our God in the form of a baby lying in a manger. In our worship, the Word of God as well as music old and new will draw us again to the heart of the Christmas message--a message filled with eternal hope and joy.

THE HISTORY OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The service of Lessons and Carols dates back to 1918 when the first such service was held at Kings College in Cambridge, England. The origin, however, actually goes back to 1880 when a service of carols and related scriptures was developed by the Bishop of Truro Cathedral (England) for Christmas Eve. Over the years the basic format has been adapted and utilized by churches around the world over and over again.

CHRISTMAS PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCES

[P] The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

[C] The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

[P] Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

[C] We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

[P] For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

[C] In him was life, and the life was the light of humanity.

OPENING HYMN #289 "Angels We Have Heard on High"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

[A] Let us pray.

[C] Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE #283 **“O Come, All Ye Faithful”**

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Adam and Eve disobey God’s command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.

HYMN #275 **“Angels from the Realm of Glory”**

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.

HYMN #282 **“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”**

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

HYMN #257 **“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”**

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

HYMN #272 **“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

HYMN #279

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

HYMN #277

“Away in a Manger”

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

HYMN #276

“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.

HYMN #290

“Go Tell It on the Mountain”

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.

HYMN #281

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

[A] Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Silence for Reflection

[A] You come to us in gatherings of your church across the globe. Unite us with those who celebrate your birth even when they are weighed down by grief, loss, poverty, hunger, or injustice. Merciful God,

[C] receive our prayer.

[A] You come to us in the diverse splendor of the universe. Grant us the humility to trust our place in the network of creation, that we live in service to you and the natural world. Merciful God,
[C] receive our prayer.

[A] You come to us through relationships of many kinds: families, friendships, communities, and nations. Guide us in these relationships, that we recognize the Christ child in one another and show your love to those most vulnerable. Merciful God,
[C] receive our prayer.

[A] You come to us through people whom the world forgets. Poor shepherds and an imprisoned Paul announced your good news. Send your Spirit to all who are imprisoned, struggling with addiction, unwell, or in any need this day. We pray especially for those we name aloud now or silently in our hearts...

Kathy Backof (Donna Lilly's dear friend), **Martha** Beam (Eleanor Hendrick's friend), **Daniel** Botts (Ladley and Jane Burn's grandson), **Cody** Bryant (Bob Bryant's grandson), **Kathy** Callahan (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mike** Callahan (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Chuck** Cook (Fred and Nancy DeBell's cousin), **Edna** Cooper (Bill Bridges' Aunt), **Phil** Costello (Donna Lilly's friend), **Sonya** Cress (Jenny White's friend), **Drew** Curtner (Bob Bryant's grandson), **The Davenport Family** (Dave and Priscilla Williams' friends), **Charles and Mary** Degree (Karen Long's friends), **Saher** Degree (Gail Sherman's friend), **Tim** Farmer (Pastor Christina and Jamie's friend), **Ashton** Fields (Carol Berger's friend), **Avan** Fields (Carol Berger's friend), **Carol Ann** Forgas (Bill Bridges' friend), **Mike** Greene (Gail Sherman's friend), **Rev. Carl** Greenawald (DeBell's friends), **Wayne** Hector (Jim Wilson's friend), **Joe** Hutchinson (William Coyne's friend), **Debbie** Irvin (Bill Bridges' friend), **Patti** Jenkins (Priscilla Williams' friend), **Kay** Johnson (Eleanor Hendrick's cousin), **Steve** Jolly (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mark** Kent (Majorie Olsen's son), **Rachel** Kidwell (Dave William's niece), **Bob and Mary Cook** Koontz (Dale Guffey's parents), **Jim** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Matt** Lilly (Dick and Donna Lilly's son), **Roberto** Lopez (William Coyne's friend), **Sonya and Gerald** Lovelace (Bill Bridges' friend), **Brenda** Lowery (Gail Sherman's friend), **Eva** McCombs (Sandra Waldrop's mother), **Janice** McGoven (Eleanor Hendricks' sister), **Sheri Dawn** Mack (Relative of Karen Hubbard), **Ed** Marler (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Gay** Helms Melton (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Mary Bell** Moore (Lacy's neighbor and the Hubbard's and Johnson's granddaughter), **Pat** Mullen (Johanna

Gillespie's friend), **Wanda** Mullinax (Edith Kelly's niece), **Teresa** Olsen (Marjorie Olsen's daughter-in-law), **Jeanne** Patterson (Karen Long's cousin), **Bob** Patzer (Carol Berger's brother-in-law), **Linda** Patzer (Carol Berger's sister), **Gerard** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's brother), **Margaret** Peruzzi (Carol Berger's mother), **Liz and Ron** Dal Poggetto (Judy Bridges' friends), **John** Reid (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Beth** Rhyne (Ladley and Jane Burn's friend), **Sue** Rippy (Donna and Dick Lilly's neighbor), **Fred** Ryan (Fred and Nancy DeBell's cousin in law), **Evan** Sealey (Eleanor Hendrick's friend), **Candace** Siddlow (Courtney Richard's mother), **Floyd** Tate, Jr. (John Lilly's friend), **Jean and Jim** Tesseneer (Bill Bridges friend), **Beth** Thomas (Carol Berger's daughter), **David** Tucker (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **David** Waldrop (Sandra Waldrop's husband), **Edith** Walker (Allen and Lisa Philbeck's friend's mother), **Freda Walker** (Ludy Wilkie's friend), **Molly and Darryl** Waterstraat (Karen Hubbard's friends), **Alfie** Welch (Renee Buchanan's brother), **Christopher** Willever (David Williams' grandson), **Mary Ann** Woolley (Sandra Waldrop's aunt).

Members: **Dean** Davis, **Lin** Washburn, **Dot** Paul, **Bob** Bryant, **William** Coyne, **Jim** Wilson, **Bobbie** Johnson, **Gerald** Washburn, **Ann** Sipe, **Marjorie** Olsen and **Scott** Stone.

In Undergraduate College: **Emma** Auch, **Brooke** Buchanan, **Samantha** Hoffman, **Jacob** Stone, **Catherine** Lilly, **Matthew** Lilly.

[A] Merciful God,
[C] receive our prayer.

[A] You come to us in acts of justice and forgiveness. Open our hearts to forgive one another, without permitting injustice. Supply us with the wisdom to be clothed with love, binding all things together in perfect harmony. Merciful God,
[C] receive our prayer.

[A] You come to us through those who have died yet live with you forever (*especially*). We give thanks for Stephen, deacon and martyr, who gave his life to tell the story of your love. Merciful God,
[C] receive our prayer.

[A] Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
[C] Amen.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST (We are not “passing” the peace in any physical way. Online you are invited to share a greeting of peace in the comments.)

[P] Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and his name is Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be with you all.

[C] **And also with you.**

OFFERING

*Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the GivePlus app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.*

*Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate.2. Click the registration link and enter your payment information.3. Receive a verification text as well as an email receipt. For future giving, simply send a text to the same number with the amount you wish to give, and your donation will process automatically.*

*Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.*

Please stand.

***OFFERING HYMN #884** **“Doxology”**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav’nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

***OFFERING PRAYER**

[A] Good and loving God,
we rejoice in the birth of Jesus,
who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace.
As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.
With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

[C] **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

[P] Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

[C] **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.

BLESSING

[P] May Christ, who by his incarnation has filled us with grace and truth, give you peace this Christmas and always. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

[C] **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN #267 "Joy to the World!"

DISMISSAL

[P] Christ is born! Go tell it on the mountain and everywhere.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Holy Communion When you are worshipping at home, you are encouraged to set up a temporary altar called a tabernacle at home. Find a small table or bench, place on it a nice plate and a cup or goblet. Find a slice or loaf of bread and use either wine or grape juice in the cup. When the time comes for communion, lift the bread and wine with the pastor, giving thanks to God for the gift of communion that offers us forgiveness, community, and new life in Christ.

In person Bible study, led by Pastor Christina, is meeting in the classroom across from the office on Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. We are using Augsburg Fortress quarterly materials.

Prayer Concerns: With the New Year, we will renew the prayer list that is included in worship each week. Names of members will carry over. **Please submit names of friends or family who have given you permission to name them.** Prayer requests will be lifted up by name **for three weeks.** Requests can be extended by contacting the church office at 704-487-5679 or by email at ascensionsecof@bellsouth.net or by filling out the form again. Thank you.

Please continue your tithes and offerings. Make a one time or recurring gift using **the website** or **the Vanco Mobile app** on iPhone or Android. You can give using ACH (bank account), Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express.

Or **text 844-906-2283** and enter the amount you wish to donate. Then click the registration link and enter your payment information. You will receive a verification text as well as an email receipt.

Or **mail your regular tithe or offering** to PO Box 266, Shelby, NC 28151.

A LOOK AHEAD

December 27-28 – Church offices are closed

Thursday, December 30

9:00 p.m. Thursday Night Prayer (Facebook & Zoom)

Sunday, January 2 — Second Sunday of Christmas

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
and Installation of Congregation Council

Sunday, January 9 — Baptism of Our Lord

9:30 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion
(also on Facebook and Zoom)

Assisting Today – Lessons and Carols

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor
Organist: Cathy Hubbard
Assisting Minister: Sandra Waldrop
Ushers: Max Smolzer and Jake Smolzer

Assisting January 2, 2022

Presiding Minister: The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor
Organist: Steve White
Assisting Minister: Rose Cook
Ushers: Ludy Wilkie and Daryl Cook

Ascension Lutheran Church

PO Box 266 Shelby, NC 28151

Ascensionlutheranshelby.com

Facebook.com/ascensionlutheranshelbync

704-487-5679

The Rev. Christina Auch, Pastor704-472-7783

Debby Chaffin, Secretary

Steve White and Cathy Hubbard, Organists

Rose Cook, Financial Secretary

Ludy Wilkie, Council President704-487-4269

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