Lessons and Carols
December 29, 2024
10:15 AM

PRELUDE In dulci jubilo - J.S. Bach

WELCOME

DIALOGUE
Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.
By day and night he shines for all to see.
Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty
that the world may see the justice and richness of God.
God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,
so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.
Jesus is the light of the world.
Jesus is the light of our lives.
Sing to God a new song!
A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.

GATHERING SONG ELW 269 Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ, her little child.

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 meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be

with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.
Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts.
Amen.

Congregation is seated.

FIRST READING: Genesis 3:8-19

At the conclusion of the reading:
The Word of God.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL ELW 510 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Word of God, come down on earth,
living rain from heav'n descending;
touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love unending.
Word almighty, we revere you;
Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

Word eternal, throned on high,
Word that brought to life creation,
Word that came from heav'n to die,
crucified for our salvation,
saving Word, the world restoring,
speak to us, your love outpouring.

Word that speaks God's tender love,
one with God beyond all telling,
Word that sends us from above
God the Spirit, with us dwelling,
Word of truth, to all truth lead us;
Word of life, with one bread feed us.

SECOND READING**:** Isaiah 11:1-9

At the conclusion of the reading:
The Word of God.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL ELW 272 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung,
it came, a flow'r so bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.

Isaiah had 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 us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.

O Savior, child of Mary,
who felt our human woe;
O Savior, king of glory,
who dost our weakness know:
bring us at length, we pray,
to the bright courts of heaven
and into endless day.

THIRD READING: *A Reflection on Mary*
by Dietrich Bonhoeffer

CAROL ELW 296 What Child Is This

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here

the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through,
the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh,
the babe, the son of Mary!

FOURTH READING: "When the World was Dark"
From *Cloth for the Cradle*

CAROL ELW 292 Love Has Come

FIFTH READING: *God in in the Manger*
by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (a letter to his fiancé in 1943)

CAROL ELW 294 In the Bleak Midwinter

SIXTH READING: *Shipwrecked at the Stable*
by Brennan Manning

CAROL ELW 287 Let All Together Praise Our God

Let all together praise our God
before the highest throne;
today God opens heav'n again
and sends the only Son,
and sends the only Son.

From God's right hand the Son descends,
is born an infant small,
and lies in poverty, his bed
a manger in a stall,
a manger in a stall.

O tender Child, you veil in flesh
the splendor of your might;
a servant's garb now wraps the one
who clothed the sky with light,
who clothed the sky with light.

Unlock the door again today
that leads to paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God let praises rise,

to God let praises rise!

SEVENTH READING**:** John 1:1–14

At the conclusion of the reading:
The Word of God.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL ELW 715 Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

APOSTLES' CREED

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING A Cradle Carol - Dan Forrest
Kevin Schanely, tenor

OFFERTORY ELW What Child Is This?

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
the virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy, for Christ is born,
the babe, the son of Mary!

RESPONSIVE PRAYER
Let us pray.
It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
Your Word, Jesus, is truth.
to gather in wonder with the shepherds.
In his light, draw all to the manger
to worship and offer our gifts with the wise ones.
In his light, draw all to the manger
to sing for joy with the angels.
In the brightness of his life
cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty,
and hunger in the world.
It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.

THE LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one in the Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:
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 and ever. Amen.

BLESSING
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Praise God, all creatures here below!
You are the shepherds telling the story.
We tell it in the streets and across the land.
You are the wise ones worshiping with thanksgiving.
We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.
You are the angels announcing peace.
We live with joy and go now in peace.
May Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Christ is with you!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE Christmas Voluntary – William Billings, arr. Jon Spong

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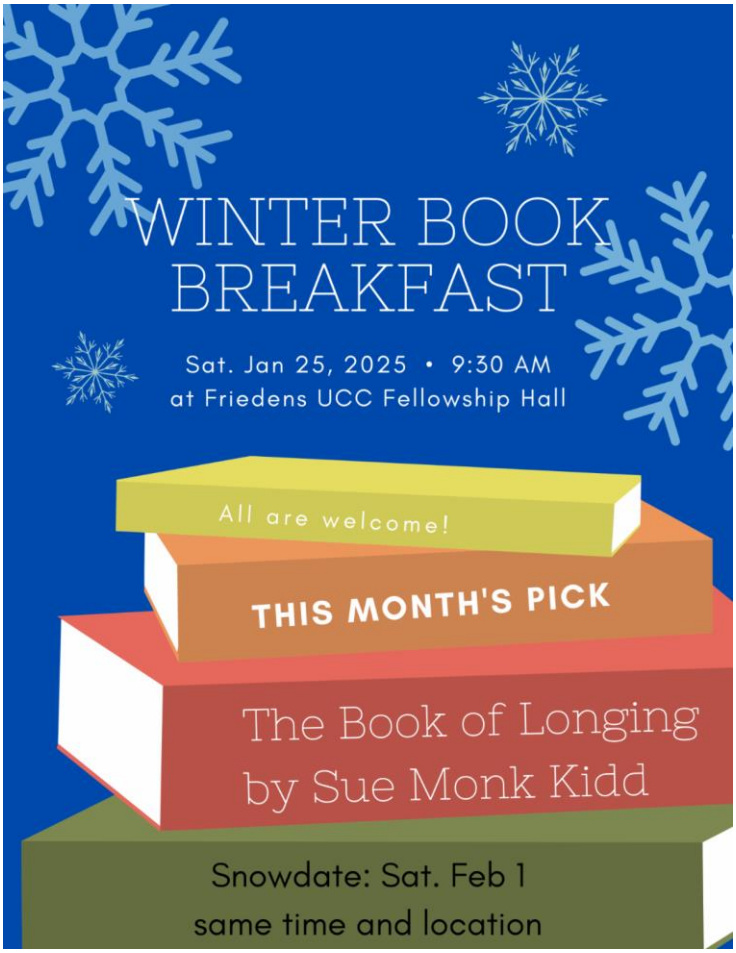
PRAYER LIST
Please continue to keep the following people connected to our congregation in your prayers: Bob Moran, Leonard & Martha Gibeon, David Mounts, Ruthie Jadick, Jill Iris, Ed Schanely, Steve Keyser, Andrew Breuninger, Marie Wolfe, Joe Tursi, Brooks Maurer, the Stauffer family, Diane Quinn, Tiffany Reber, Bill Hutt, Renee Fells and Rebecca Jellen.

Mark Your Calendar

Wed-Thurs, January 1&2	Church Office Closed
Sunday, January 5	8AM Worship 10:15AM Worship

Community Meal is on Monday, January 6th from 3-7:30pm at Pennsburg UCC. The menu will include Pork, Sauerkraut, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Dinner Roll, Pumpkin Pie, Iced Tea, Lemonade and Water. Donations of ingredients or help serving will be greatly appreciated. Sign up at: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4EAEAC23A1F9C16-54060874-community?useFullSite=true#/

Confirmation & Mentors Bowling Sunday, January 5th from 12-2 PM at Earl Bowling