

Happening @ Hanover

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

December 24, 2020

A Christmas Eve Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Using songs and carols from The United Methodist Hymnal (UMH)

Opening Hymn/ Prelude: In the Bleak
Midwinter (250 UMH)

The Bidding Prayer

This Christmas Eve, 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 the 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 reverently recall the glad 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 people.

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, that the multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh. And with how, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

The almighty God bless us with divine grace, Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and to fellowship of the citizens above. May the king of angels bring us all. Amen.

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

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

Carol

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus - verse 1
(196 UMH)

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth will obtain blessings.

Carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel - verses 1,2,4,7
(211 UMH)

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2,6-7

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

Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming - verse 1 (216 UMH)

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-4a,6-9 or Micah 5:2-5a

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

Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem - verse 1 (230 UMH)

Fifth Lesson: 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 will never end.

Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming - Verse 2 (216 UMH)

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

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

Carol

The First Noel - verse 1 (245 UMH)

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger.

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly - verse (229 UMH)

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11

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

Carol

We Three Kings (254 UMH)

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Carol

Silent Night, Holy Night - verse 1 (239 UMH)

Holy Communion

Silent Night Holy Night – verses 2-3

(You are encouraged to light a candle at home)

Dismissal with Blessing

Pastor: May 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 you and remain with you always. Amen.

All: We go in Peace and joy; thanks be to God! Amen!



**Wishing you and yours a very blessed
Christmas!**