



## CHATTANOOGA VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Vision:** To see lives transformed through following Jesus

**Mission:** Making disciples through worship, fellowship & service

**Values:** Worship, word, compassion & community

### **Seven Lessons & Carols Celebrating Christ's Birth December 23, 2023 at 5:30 pm**

#### ***Prelude***

Welcome, Introduction & Prayer | Pastor Dennis Louis & Pastor Roger Collins

#### **\*Call to Celebrate: Psalm 98:1-4**

Oh sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The Lord has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!

#### **The Lighting of the Christ Candle | Rev. Collins Family**

#### **\*Galatians 4:4-5**

#### **\*God's Greetings**

Rejoice, O Daughter of Zion, your warfare is accomplished and your iniquity is pardoned!

*\* Please stand as you are able.*

### **\*Opening Carol: Joy To The World the Lord Is Come | 195**

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let men their songs employ; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

### **First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-12**

#### **Carol: Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence | 193**

1. Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly-minded, for with blessing in his hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand.

2. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood; Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood, he will give to all the faithful his own self for heav'nly food.

3. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the pow'rs of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away.

4. At his feet the six-winged seraph; cherubim, with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Lord Most High!"

### **Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18**

### **Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem | 201**

1. 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.

2. For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

*(Song continued on the next page.)*

3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

4. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in; be born to us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.

### **Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7**

#### **\*Carol: All My Heart This Night Rejoices | 217 (Stanzas 1-4)**

1. All my heart this night rejoices, As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices; "Christ is born," their choirs are singing, till the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.

2. Forth today the Conqueror goeth, who the foe, sin and woe, death and hell, overthroweth. God is man, man to deliver; His dear Son now is one with our blood forever.

3. Shall we still dread God's displeasure, who, to save, freely gave his most cherished Treasure? To redeem us, he hath given his own Son from the throne of his might in heaven.

4. He becomes the Lamb that taketh sin away and for aye full atonement maketh. For our life his own he tenders; and our race, by his grace, meet for glory renders.

### **Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-9**

**\*Carol: All My Heart This Night Rejoices | 217 (Stanzas 5-7)**

5. Hark! a voice from yonder manger, soft and sweet, doth entreat: "Flee from woe and danger. Brethren, from all ills that grieve you, you are freed; all you need I will surely give you."

6. Come, then, banish all your sadness, one and all, great and small; come with songs of gladness. Love him who with love is glowing; hail the star, near and far light and joy bestowing.

7. Dearest Lord, thee will I cherish. Though my breath fail in death, yet I shall not perish, but with thee abide forever there on high, in that joy which can vanish never.

**Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38**

**\*Carol: Good Christian Men Rejoice | 207**

1. Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today. Earth and Heav'n before Him bow, and He is in the manger now. Christ is born today, Christ is born today.

2. Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss, Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened the heavenly door, and man is blessed evermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice. Now ye need not fear the grave: 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! For Christ is born today!

**Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-16**

## **Carol: Angels We Have Heard On High | 214**

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains, and the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? Say what may the tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## **Seventh Lesson: John 1:1-14**

### **Homily | Rev. Dennis Louis**

#### **\*Carol: Lo' How A Rose E'er Blooming | 221**

1. Lo, how a rose ever blooming from tender stem hath sprung, of Jesse's lineage coming, as men of old have sung. It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter, when half-spent was the night.
2. 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-spent was the night.
- 3 The shepherds heard the story, proclaimed by angels bright, how Christ, the Lord of glory, was born on earth this night. To Bethlehem, they sped and in the manger found him, as angel heralds said.
4. This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God; from sin and death he saves us and lightens every load.
5. 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 to the endless day.

## **Sacrament of Communion**

### **Closing Prayer**

**\*Concluding Carol: Silent Night | 210**

1. 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.
2. 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!
3. 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.
4. Silent night! Holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light; with the angels let us sing,  
alleluias to our King; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

**\*Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:14**

All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the  
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all... *so that all the people will say...*

**ALL: Amen. Our Lord is faithful. Praise the Lord!**

***Postlude***