



WEST SIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

1008 SW Fourth Street | Topeka, KS 66606
Phone: (785) 233-4241 | office@wsbctopeka.org
www.wsbctopeka.org

CHRISTMAS EVE LESSONS & CAROLS

December 24, 2017

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

The Preludes

Sleepers, Wake

Greensleeves

Coventry Carol

Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring

Marjorie O'Konski, Organist; Janet Nyfeler, Pianist

Organ/Piano Duets

J.S. Bach

Ethel Smith

David Hegarty

arr. E. Power Biggs

The Welcome and Announcements

The Bidding and the Lord's Prayer – 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and glory, forever. Amen

THE SERVICE OF THE WORD OF THE LORD

GOD CREATES LIGHT

The First Candle

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.

And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light.

God saw that the light was good, and he separated the light from the darkness. God called the light "day," and the darkness he called "night." And there was evening, and there was morning—the first day.

Genesis 1:1-5 – The New International Version (NIV)

*A Carol

"Once in Royal David's City"

Hymn 183

GOD'S REVELATION - GOD IS LIGHT The Second Candle

When Solomon finished the dedication prayer for the Temple, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices, and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. The

priests could not enter the temple of the Lord because the glory of the Lord filled it. When all the Israelites saw the fire coming down and the glory of the Lord above the temple, they knelt on the pavement with their faces to the ground, and they worshiped and gave thanks to the Lord, saying:

“God is good; his love endures forever.”

Then the king and all the people offered sacrifices before the Lord. The priests took their positions, as did the Levites with the Lord’s musical instruments, which King David had made for praising the Lord and which were used when he gave thanks, saying,

“His love endures forever.”

Opposite the Levites, the priests blew their trumpets, and all the Israelites were standing.

2 Chronicles 7:1-6 - The New International Version (NIV)

Carol “On Christmas Night All Christians Sing” Hymn 222

GOD PROMISES TO SEND A LIGHT The Third Candle

The prophet Isaiah told the people of God in exile: “Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for those who were in distress. In the past God humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the future God will honor Galilee of the nations, by the Way of the Sea, beyond the Jordan – saying: ‘The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

You have enlarged the nation and increased their joy; they rejoice before you as people rejoice at the harvest, as warriors rejoice when dividing the plunder.

For as in the day of Midian’s defeat, you have shattered the yoke that burdens them, the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor. Every warrior’s boot used in battle and every garment rolled in blood will be destined for burning, will be fuel for the fire.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.

Isaiah 9:1-7 – The New International Version (NIV)

A Carol “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Hymn 182

GOD'S LIGHT TO THE NATIONS The Fourth Candle

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed: “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord rises upon you.

See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon us and his glory appears over us.

Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. The sun will no more be your light by day, nor will the brightness of the moon shine on you, for the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your God will be your glory. Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light, and your days of sorrow will end.

Isaiah 60:1-3, 19-20 – The New International Version (NIV)

A Carol “O Little Town of Bethlehem” Hymn 180

***JESUS COMES AS THE LIGHT The Christ Candle**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning.

Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.

In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him.

Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God;

Children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us.

We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 1:1-5, 9-14; 8:12 – The New International Version (NIV)

**THE MESSAGE: "The Light that Needs No Other Light"
The Rev. Dr. Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister**

PEOPLE PREFER DARKNESS

This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.

Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed.

But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

John 3:19-21 – The New International Version (NIV)

A Carol "Away in a Manger" Hymn 203

CHRIST DESCENDS INTO DARKNESS

The Apostle Paul wrote, "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

Rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death - even death on a cross!

Therefore, God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Philippians 2:5-11 – The New International Version (NIV)

A Carol

“What Child Is This”

Hymn 184

GOD SHINES HIS LIGHT UPON US

The Apostle Paul wrote, “The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.

For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God’s glory displayed in the face of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:4-6 – The New International Version (NIV)

A Carol

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

Hymn 188

A Carol

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hymn 189

THE SERVICE OF THE TABLE OF THE LORD

Invitation to the Lord’s Supper – The Lord’s Table is open to any person who has accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and been baptized. Membership in our church is not required to partake of the elements. Please hold each element until everyone is served, then we will feast together.

†Servers Prepare for the Table of the Lord

***A Carol**

“I Wonder as I Wander”

Hymn 225

The Lord’s Supper:

The Breaking of the Bread

The Passing of the Cup

The Collection & Dedication Prayer

A Christmas Offering

Offertory Piano Duet

***Carol Medley* by Frank Milholland**

Jan Mauck and Marjorie O’Konski

RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

†Candlelight Ceremony – Ushers will help light the small, individual candles distributed to worshipers before the service. A flame will be passed person-to-person as we sing. Please keep lighted candles upright, and tip the unlighted candles to transfer the flames.

GOD'S LIGHT IN THE WORLD

Jesus said to his followers, "You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

"In the same way," our Master Teacher and Messiah told us, "let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:14-16 – The New International Version (NIV)

A Carol "We Light a Thousand Candles"

GOD'S ETERNAL LIGHT IN THE HEAVENS

The Apostle John wrote, "Then I saw 'a new heaven and a new earth,' for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

"Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.

I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple.

The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it.

Revelation 21:1-3, 22-24 – The New International Version

***A Carol "Silent Night" Hymn 186**

***Closing Prayer & Spoken Benediction**

***Postlude "Postlude on 'Joy to the World'"**
by Matthew McConnell

Merry Christmas



ANNOUNCEMENTS

END-OF-THE-YEAR GIFT – Please consider giving an End-of-the-Year gift online, by mail, or in person. West Side Baptist Church is tax exempt under the section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and all donations are tax deductible as provided by law. All donations for 2017 must be received before December 31 to be included in your statement of giving.

POINSETTIAS – Thank you to the individuals and families who shared a poinsettia which graced the Sanctuary during the Advent/Christmas season. Families are encouraged to take their poinsettias home after tonight's service.

THANK YOU – The LORD has blessed us with a wonderful Church family! Thank you for the gracious gifts of food, cookies, desserts, meats, candy, puzzles, flowers/centerpieces, restaurant and store gift cards, cards and monetary surprises. We thank the Lord every time we remember you in our prayers. God bless you on the birthday of Jesus our Messiah!

Ivan, Rexanne, Jessa, Macy, and David Greuter

UGLY CHRISTMAS SWEATER OR TIE SUNDAY – Let's have some fun the Sunday after Christmas! Wear an ugly Christmas sweater, a horrid tie, or an outrageous Christmas outfit, or your favorite "worst" team jersey, on Sunday, December 31.



MISSION: The vision of West Side Baptist Church shall be that we commit ourselves to continual personal growth, reaching out to win and nurture others in the love of Jesus Christ

West Side Baptist Church
An American Baptist Church USA
www.abc-usa.org