

CAHILL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Pastor: A J Hillin
Organist/Music Director: Lynn Moore
December 21, 2008

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL PRELUDE

* PRAISE HYMN *Angels We Have Heard on High* UMH #220

* WORDS OF WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

(based on Isaiah 6:14, 11:1-3)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

*The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of
wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and
might, the spirit of the knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

He shall not judge by what his eyes see nor decide by what
his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the
poor and with equity he shall decide for the meek of the
earth.

*The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as
the waters cover the sea.*

The Lord will give you a sign when this is to be accomplished.
A virgin shall be with child, and shall bear a son. He will be
called Emmanuel.

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

Shane Norman Family

(Lighting of the first three candles of the Advent wreath)

After the angel came to Mary and told her that she would
conceive the child in her womb and would call him Jesus, Mary
said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me
according to your word." (Luke 1:38, NRSV)
And Mary sings her Song of Praise:

. . . My soul magnifies the Lord . . . he has scattered the proud
. . . He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
. . . He has lifted up the lowly
. . . He has filled the hungry
. . . He has provided for the poor (Luke 1:46-55, NRSV)
We marvel at Mary, the mother of the Messiah, herself a single,
teenage mother, herself poor and powerless. But she
understood that the baby she would call Jesus was sent, not just
to her, but to the world...
. . . To the hungry
. . . To the weak
. . . To the very young and the very old
. . . To those who suffer or are in pain

(Lighting of the fourth candle of the Advent wreath)

We light this fourth candle to remember Mary, the mother of
Jesus. May the light of this candle also remind us that the light of
Jesus shines for everyone.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. Amen.

SHARING GOD'S BLESSINGS

* DOXOLOGY

PRESENTATION OF "SEVEN LESSONS AND CAROLS"

BENEDICTION

Welcome, Visitors.

We are pleased that you have chosen to worship with us this
morning and we hope you will come again.

Merry Christmas!

SEVEN LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2; 6-7

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

O Come O Come Emmanuel (Congregation)

O come, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny
From depths of Hell Thy people save And give them victory o'er
the grave

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Day-Spring, come and cheer. Our spirits by Thine
advent here

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows
put to flight.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, Shall come to thee, O Israel.

SECOND LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4a; 6-9

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem (Congregation)

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

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

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.

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 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.

Breath of Heaven

Cheryl Hillin

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7

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

Happy Birthday, Jesus

Haley, Jasmine, Carson, Ella

FIFTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16

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

The First Noel (Congregation)

The First Noel, the Angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the East beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, Born is the King of Israel!

Away In A Manger

Jack Morton

SIXTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11

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

We Three Kings

(Congregation)

We three kings of Orient are, Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, Following yonder star

O Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to thy Perfect Light

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown Him
again
King forever, ceasing never, Over us all to rein

O Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light

Frankincense to offer have I, Incense owns a Deity nigh
Pray'r and praising, all men raising, Worship Him, God most high

O Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light

Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume Breathes of life of gathering
gloom
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, Sealed in the stone-cold
tomb

O Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect light

Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice
Alleluia, Alleluia, Earth to heav'n replies

O Star of wonder, star of night, Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding, Guide us to Thy perfect
light

SEVENTH LESSON John 1:1-14

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Mary, Did You Know

Roger and Lynn Moore

COME ON, RING THOSE BELLS (Congregation join on Chorus)

Everybody likes to take a holiday,
Everybody likes to take a rest
Spending time together with the family,
Sharing lots of love and happiness.

**Come on, ring those bells, Light the Christmas tree,
Jesus is the king, Born for you and me.
Come on, ring those bells, Everybody say,
Jesus, we remember this your birthday.**

Celebrations come because of something good.
Celebrations we love to recall
Mary had a baby boy in Bethlehem
The greatest celebration of all.

**Come on, ring those bells, Light the Christmas tree,
Jesus is the King, Born for you and me.
Come on, ring those bells, Everybody say,
Jesus, we remember This your birthday.**

**Come on, ring those bells, Light the Christmas tree,
Jesus is the King, Born for you and me.
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