

# *Southminster Presbyterian Church*



*Fourth Sunday of Advent*  
*A Service of Lessons and Carols*

**December 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Throughout the worship service today, our vocal ensemble will be singing selections of the cantata, “Have You Heard?” This is a Celtic Christmas Celebration by Joel Raney.**

*We are thankful for our talented Director of Music, Ruth Whatley,  
for leading the vocal ensemble in the music for this service.*

**PREPARATION**

*Please either set out one candle that you can light  
or, if you have an Advent wreath,  
you can light the fourth Advent candle during that part of the service.*

**Prelude**

*Jim Pera*

**Welcome, Announcements, Joys and Concerns**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

**Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love**

*Jason Schenck and Kate Scarpero*

**Anthem**

**Christmas Day in the Morning**  
*“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen,” “I Saw Three Ships,”  
“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice,” “Morning Has Broken”*

## Prayer of Anticipation

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

Holy God, we journey with you to Bethlehem's stable, ears attuned to the song of angels, eyes alert for Bethlehem's star. This Advent, as we remember Mary and Joseph, we give thanks for their faithfulness, courage, and obedience, stepping out into the unknown in the strength of your Spirit. We pray that their example might be the pattern of our lives. When your gentle whisper breaks through the clamor of this world and into our small corner, help us to listen and respond to your call. God of hope and new beginnings, fill us with expectation, as we celebrate the greatest gift of all; your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen

## Passing of the Peace

**One:** The peace of Christ be with you.

**All:** *And also with you.*

## First Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

*Ben Locke*

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

## Anthem

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

## Second Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38

*Victorine Alobwede*

*The angel Gabriel visits Mary.*

## Carol # 129

"Lo, How a Rose"

*verses 1 and 2*

## Third Lesson

Luke 2:1-7

*Jane Barlow*

*Luke tells of the birth of Christ.*

## Anthem

"Have You Heard?"

*"Away in a Manger," "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child," "Angels We Have Heard on High"*

## Fourth Lesson

Luke 2:8-18

*Rev. Dr. Nancy Birdsong*

*The angels visit the shepherds, and the shepherds go to the manger.*

## Carol # 119

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

*verses 1 and 2*

## Children's Time

*Josh Sweeney*

## Anthem

"Celtic Christmas Lullaby"

## Fifth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

*Bob Murphy*

*The magi are led by the star to Jesus.*

## Anthem

"Come and Adore Him"

*"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*



*John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of humanity, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Anthem**

“O Holy Night”  
*Tune of "Londonderry Air"*

**Presentation of Offerings**

*Rev. Laura Nile Tuell*

**Presentation Hymn #150**

“As With Gladness Men of Old”

*verse 3*

**As they offered gifts most rare,  
at Thy manger rude and bare;  
so may we with holy joy,  
pure, and free from sin's alloy,  
all our costliest treasures bring,  
Christ to Thee, our heaven-ly King.**

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy R. Birdsong*

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; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

**Carol # 145**

“What Child is This?”

**Benediction**

*Rev. Dr. Nancy R. Birdsong*

**Anthem**

“Wexford Carol”  
*“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen” and “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”*

**Postlude**



*Flowers for this Sunday's service were given to the glory of God  
by Don Barlow in memory of "Corky."*