

FOURTH LESSON

CAROL 38 vs. 1, 2 & 4 *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

**It came upon the midnight clear, That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, To touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the Earth, good will to all, From heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, To hear the angels sing.**

**Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world
Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds, The blessed angels sing.**

**For lo, the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.**

CHRISTMAS REFLECTION

SHARING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

(As we sing the carol please pass the light of Christ to those in the pew next to you. It is our Christmas prayer that in the dark streets of our world the light of Christ will shine forth peace, love and Good News.)

CAROL 60 *Silent Night, Holy Night*

**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**

**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."**

**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.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.**

BENEDICTION

Riverside Presbyterian Church

December 24, 2018 Christmas Eve



PRELUDE *Carol of the Bells* arr. Sherman

WELCOME & MOMENT FOR MISSION

* PASSING OF THE PEACE (Responsive)
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE Lou and Martha Heine
CAROL 25 *Away in a Manger* Riverside Ringers

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes, But little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky, And stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay, Close by me forever, and love me, I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.**

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)
Good news! Unspeakable joy!
A great light has burst forth, overcoming the darkness!
A child is born for us—a son has been given!
We shall call him Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God!
Come, let us see what God has brought us! Let us see what the Lord has done!
Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace and goodwill to all!

Refrain

**Go, tell it on the mountain Over the hills and everywhere;
Go, tell it on the mountain That Jesus Christ is born!**

**While shepherds kept their watching O'er their silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens There shone a holy light. (Refrain)**

**The shepherds feared and trembled When lo! Above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus That hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)**

**Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)**

OPENING PRAYER (Responsive)

**God of Peace, thank you for the birth and life of Jesus, and all the blessings of peace,
hope and love he offers us.**

God of Peace, we continue to reject your offerings of peace, but you keep giving them to us! Everywhere we look, we see war, greed, killings, injustice, and catastrophic climate change. Even within us, we cling to violence and the old paradigms of war. It seems we are dead-set on rejecting your life-giving invitations to peace.

**God of Peace, thank you for the birth and life of Jesus, and all the blessings of peace,
hope and love he offers us.**

God of Peace, you keep coming into our lives and offering the gift of peace. You invite us to the vision of "peace on earth." You point out the possibilities of disarmament—in our hearts, our communities, and among nations. You still call us to become, like Jesus.

**God of Peace, thank you for the birth and life of Jesus, and all the blessings of peace,
hope and love he offers us.**

God of Peace, inspire us to lay down our weapons, put away our guns, dismantle our bombs, feed the hungry, care for the poor and sick, liberate the oppressed and welcome your good news.

**God of Peace, thank you for the birth and life of Jesus, and all the blessings of peace,
hope and love he offers us.**

God of Peace, this Christmas, we thank you for the hope you offer in Jesus and his way. Through his example and inspiration, help us to welcome your Christmas gift of "peace on earth" that we might take heart and rejoice once more. Amen

LESSONS AND CAROLS

A telling of the Christmas story inspired by John chapter one and Luke chapter two.

FIRST LESSON

SPECIAL MUSIC *Manger Reflections* arr. Eithun

SECOND LESSON

CAROL 31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies; With the angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!
Late in time behold Him come, Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; Hail the incarnate Deity, Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die, Born to raise us from the of earth,
Born to give thus second birth. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

INVITATION TO OFFER OUR GIFTS

ANTHEM *How Quietly* Raney

SUNG RESPONSE 40 vs. 1 *Joy to the World!*

**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.**

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**God of goodness and kindness, whose peace is from everlasting to everlasting, all that we
have are gifts of your grace. As the heavenly host sang of your glory, accept what we
bring as offerings of praise. With the shepherds we have witnessed the birth of Jesus;
our response is gratitude for the hope of new life we receive in him. Amen**

THIRD LESSON

POEM *Peace on Earth* author Ann Weems