

*CENTRAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
STAUNTON, VA*

*2012 Christmas Eve Service      Festival of Lessons & Carols*

Music While We Gather:

“It Came Upon a Midnight Clear” -arr. Mary Gifford ..... Sherry von Oeyen

“Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head” -arr. Cathy Moglebust ..... Central Ringers

Flute ..... Madalyn Marshall

“The First Nowell” -arr. David Lasky ..... Sherry von Oeyen

Words of Welcome

\*Processional Carol: 234 (Verses 1,2,3,5) ..... “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

\*Lighting of the Candles

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.**

Jesus Christ, the son of Mary, the son of God is born this night.

**God's word has been made flesh among us.**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness - on them a light has shined.**

You, O Lord, have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given,  
and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

**His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

He is also called Emmanuel, for in him God is with us.

..... (As the Candles are lit all sing).....

We honor Messiah with Christ candle's flame our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.

O Come all you faithful, rejoice in this night, as God comes among us, the Christian's  
true light.

(Sung to the tune of “Away in the Manger”)

*\*Please stand as able*

\*Opening Prayer

**Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance  
of Your one true light. May that light illuminate our hearts  
and shine in our words and deeds. May the hope, the peace,  
the joy, and the love represented by the birth in Bethlehem this night  
fill our lives and become part of all that we say and do.  
May we share the divine life of Your son Jesus Christ,  
even as He humbled himself to share our humanity. Amen.**

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 (MSG) ..... Caroline Jones

God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve’s punishment for their  
rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.

Carol: 211 (verses 1,4,7) ..... “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18 (MSG)..... David Reed

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth  
shall obtain the blessing.

Carol: 248 ..... “On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 (NRSV) ..... Sybille Jobin

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

Carol: “Hush! Hear the Word of the Lord”-arr. Larson ..... Chancel Choir

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 (NRSV) ..... Ellen DeLong

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

Carol: “Masters in This Hall” -arr. W.H. Brown ..... Chancel Choir

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1: 26-35, 38 (MSG) ..... Jeff DeLong

The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God’s  
promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

Carol: 215 ..... “To a Maid Engaged to Jesus”

(v. 1- all. v.2- men, v.3- women, v.4 -men, v.5-women, v. 6-all)

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7 (NRSV)..... Josh Gutshall

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

Carol:240 .....”Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

V. 1 - Janet Nuckoles (to honor her son)

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16 (NRSV)..... Anita Jackson

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the World, lying in a manger.

Carol 238 .....”Angels We Have Heard on High”

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2: 1-11 (MSG) ..... Kay Linnane

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

Carol: “Rejoice and Be Merry” -arr. Ingram ..... Handbell Choir

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 (NRSV) ..... Pastor Steve

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Carol: “Prince of Peace” -arr. Ingram ..... Handbell Choir

(For Unto us a Child is Born- from Handel’s Messiah and O Come All Ye Faithful)

Offertory: Carol of the Children - arr. Rutter ..... Chancel Choir Women

Invitation

Communion ..... Pg. 17

Lighting of the Candles

\*Carol: See Insert- “Silent Night” ..... Gene Blackmer, guitar

\*Blessing

\*Carol: 246 ..... ”Joy to the World”

\*Postlude: ..... ”Hark the Herald Angels Sing”

-arr. David Cherwein