

Sharon Presbyterian Church

LESSONS AND CAROLS | 10:30 AM | DECEMBER 21, 2025 | FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Celebrating Christ's gift of salvation, our grateful worship of God guides the three-fold mission of Sharon Presbyterian Church:

Invite All Seekers, Teach the Gospel, and Serve Human Need.

Welcome to our guests today! Please sign the Friendship Pad when it is passed down the pew.

Children of all ages are always welcome in worship. Infants through 4-year-olds are welcome in the nursery from 8:15am to 11:45am. Children's worship activity bags are in the back of the sanctuary.

The Advent Wreath is a visual reminder of the journey through Advent as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. The blue candles represent hope, peace, and love. The pink candle, lit on the third Sunday of Advent, represents joy. The white center candle is lit on Christmas Eve and represents Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Prelude | ***Realms of Glory*** | *arr. Compton* | Spirit Ringers

Welcome and Life of the Church

+ Call to Worship | Isaiah 11:1-2;6

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

**The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.**

+ Hymn No. 140 | ***Once in Royal David's City***

Lighting the Advent Candle | **Love** | Ivars and Daryl Jaunakais

Advent Chorus | ***A Child Will Come*** | *Patterson*

**A child will come to lead us.
The Savior will soon be here.
A child will come to lead us;
Keep watch for the time is near.**

Children's Sermon

Children's Worship: After the Children's Sermon, young children ages 3 through 7 are invited to a special worship time in the Barbara Ward Building, where parents and guardians can meet them after worship.

First Lesson | Isaiah 61:1-4 | Charlie Furr

Isaiah announces the birth of a king to God's people.

+ Carol | ***O Come, All Ye Faithful*** | *arr. Hopson*

**¹ O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!**

Refrain:

***O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!***

**² Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing!
[Refrain]**

**³ Sing, choirs of angels;
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God,
all glory in the highest!
[Refrain]**

Second Lesson | Luke 1:26-38 | Melanie Hudson

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will give birth to the Son of God.

Anthem | **Noel Intrada** | Parker & Sterling | Chancel Choir

Third Lesson | Luke 2:1-7 | Jonathan Kromer

The birth of Jesus.

Homily | Rev. Julie Walkup Bird

Anthem | **The First Noel** | arr. Forrest | Chancel Choir

Fourth Lesson | Luke 2:8-20 | Lauren Wall

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world.

+ Carol | **Angels We Have Heard on High** | arr. Hopson

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Fifth Lesson | Matthew 2:1-11 | John West

The wise men follow a star to find the newborn king.

+ Carol | **We Three Kings of Orient Are** | arr. Courtney | Charlie Lang and Matthew Winslow, soloists

Choir: We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse a far,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

All: **O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Soloist: Born a King on Bethlehem's plain; gold I bring to crown him again.
King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.

All: **O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Soloist: Frankincense to offer have I; incense owns a deity nigh;
Prayer and praising, gladly raising, worshiping God on high.

All: **O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

Choir: Glorious now, behold him arise; King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia, Alleluia, sounds through the earth and skies.

All: **O, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.**

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office.

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Offertory | **All Is Calm, All Is Bright** | arr. Peter Blair | String Orchestra

Sixth Lesson | John 1:1-14 | Carmen Adams

John tells the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Anthem | **Ring Out** | Garrett, Carlton, Forrest | Chancel Choir & Spirit Ringers

Prayer of Thanksgiving

+ Carol | **Joy to the World**

¹**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.

²**He rules the world with truth and grace,**

and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness

and wonders of his love,

and wonders of his love,

and wonders, wonders of his love.

+ Benediction

+ Postlude | **Postlude on "Veni, Emmanuel"** | Powell | R. Lance Burnette

+ All who are able may stand

Please see an usher for hearing aids, large print Bibles, and hymnals.

CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP

5:00 PM | FAMILY NATIVITY SERVICE

8:00 PM | CANDLELIGHT & COMMUNION SERVICE

Today's Worship Leaders: Rev. Julie Walkup Bird, *Senior Pastor*; Rev. Ron E. Nelson, *Associate Pastor*; Todd Barnhill, *Director of Music*; R. Lance Burnette, *Associate Director of Music and Organist*; Jackson Owens, *AV Technician*.

Today's Guest Musicians: *Violin I* - Julia Chandler, Sameeya Vasan, Annabel Lee; *Violin II* - Katie Carpenter, Evelyn Tjahjadi; *Viola* - Amanda Turner, Sophie Zhang; *Cello* - Jill Fung, Addie Turner, Lydia Bird; *Percussion* - Doug Rowe, Luke Smith; *Clarinet* - Dennis Anderson.

Guest musicians today have been made possible through the Esther Brown Fund. Esther was a lifelong member of the choir and friend of the music ministry. Please consider donating to the fund today. Without the support of this and other funds, programs like today's Lessons & Carols would not be possible! (Please write "Esther Brown Fund" in the Memo line of a check).

Remember in Prayer: Jean Harvey, Sherry Meacham, Marion Moir, Bill Moorefield, Ginny Long, Ken Sumner, David Wilson, Nancy Davis, Lance Burnette, Chris Price, Our Homebound Members, James Johnson (Dave Johnson's son); Ed Kelly (Charles Alley's brother-in-law), Liz and Ward McKeithen (Ashley Nelson's parents), Lee Manning (Jo Ann Manning's son), Puriyninchik and Our Peru Mission Partners, and Mark Adams and Miriam Maldonado Escobar (Frontera de Cristo, US-Mexico Border). *The prayer list is reset on the first Sunday of each month. To submit or resubmit a prayer request, please contact Rev. Nelson at ron@sharonpcusa.org. By request, prayer concerns may remain private and will not appear in the published list.*