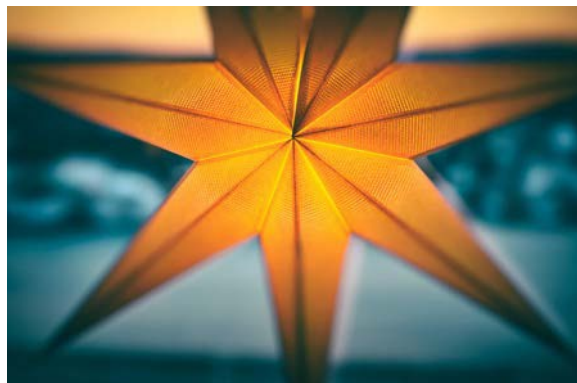


Lessons & Carols



Desert Southwest Annual Conference Sunday December 27, 2020

* A service created by Rev. Melissa Rynders adapted from <http://www.worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2012/06/family-friendly-christmas-eve-service.html> and "Christmas Love Letters from God" by Glenys Nellist) Gathering Song
Special Thank you to Gavin Rittenhouse and Karen Taylor for leading us in the hymns.

Gathering Song	"The First Noel"	Moscow UMC Bell Choir
Welcome	Rev. Khalif Smith, First Mesa UMC	
Special Music	"Not So Silent Night"	by Point of Grace sung by Rebecca Rennick, North Scottsdale UMC
Scripture Reading	Isaiah 9.2,6-7	Nicholle Hansen, First Mesa UMC

Christmas Love Letters from God

"Isaiah's Good News"

Rev. Misty Howick, Spirit Song UMC

(From "Christmas Love Letters from God" by Glenys Nellist)

John 8.12 says, "I am the light of the world."

Dear Church,

*I think you know who that special baby was. It was, Jesus!
Jesus is the one who would grow up to be a King. Jesus is the one who
would bring light into the darkness. As you celebrate his birth this
Christmas, I want you to remember something very important. When you
see all those twinkling lights around you, remember the best light of
all is from Jesus. He is the light of the whole world. Now that really
is good news!*

*With Love,
God*

Lighting the Christ Candle

Light.

Light that comes in the darkness.

Light of the world in our midst.

Light.
within and without,
all around us
shining bright
leading us forward.

Light.
of the world.
The Christ Child
born to be light
born to spread love
born to bring peace.

Light.
May we be the light
of the world.
(Written by Rev. Melissa Rynders)

Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" **UMH #234 v.1-3,6**

Scripture Reading **Luke 1.46-55** **Zoe Smith, First Mesa UMC**

Christmas Love Letters from God

"Mary's Song"

Rev. Eve Williams, Advent UMC

(From "Christmas Love Letters from God" by Glenys Nellist)

Isaiah 58.8 says, "The light of my blessing will shine on you."

Dear Church,

How do you feel when you hear people singing Christmas carols? Does it make you feel happy and warm inside? When I heard Mary singing her song that was how I felt. It made me so happy inside. I knew she had listened to me, and she was ready to do what I asked.

When you listen to me, and you are ready to do what I ask, my wonderful blessings will shine on you too.

With Love,
God

Call to Offering **Rev. Khalif Smith**

Prayer of Thanksgiving **Rev. Khalif Smith**

Scripture Reading **Matthew 1.18-24**
Rev. Stephen Govett, Trinity UMC Phoenix

Christmas Love Letters from God

"Joseph's Dream"

Rev. Efrain Zavala, Prescott UMC

(From "Christmas Love Letters from God" by Glenys Nellist)

Isaiah 41.10 says, "I will make you strong and help you."

Dear Church,

I am so glad Joseph said yes to me. I knew he would be a wonderful husband to Mary and a good role model for Jesus. What a

special job he had! Never be afraid to say yes to me. When you hear those quiet whispers in your heart- whatever I say, whatever I might ask you to do- remember that just like I helped Joseph, I will help you too.

Love,
God

Carol **"Joy to the World"** **UMH #246**

Scripture Reading **Luke 2.1-5** **Rev. Ann Lyter, Scottsdale UMC**

Christmas Love Letters from God
"Bethlehem's Road"

Rev. Mary Dotson, Green Valley Henderson

(From "Christmas Love Letters from God" by Glenys Nellist)

Isaiah 45.2 says, "I will march out ahead of you."

Dear Church,

Who do you think was leading the way on that long road to Bethlehem? Do you think it was Joseph? Or maybe the donkey? Well, guess what- I was in the lead! I went in front of Mary and Joseph to guide them all on the way to Bethlehem. I will lead you in your life too. Wherever you travel, I will go before you.

*With Love,
God*

Special Music **"He Has Come For Us"**
arranged by Jason Ingram, Meredith Andrews
sung by Erin & John Daddona, Sanctuary UMC

Scripture Reading **Luke 2.6-7** **Nicholle Hansen**

Christmas Love Letters from God
"Jesus Joy!"

Rev. Dave Wasson, Dove of the Desert

(From "Christmas Love Letters from God" by Glenys Nellist)

Luke 2.11 says, "A Savior has been born to you."

Dear Church,

Doesn't it make you feel good when you give someone a very special gift? When I gave Jesus, to Mary, it made me feel wonderful! And do you know why? It's because the gift of Jesus wasn't just for her. Jesus was my gift to the whole world, and that includes you. Jesus is your Savior. And he is the very best gift you could ever receive.

*With Love,
God*

Carol **"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"** **UMH #211 v. 1,2,6**

Scripture Reading **Luke 2.8-14** **Keira Pierce, Sanctuary UMC**

Christmas Love Letters from God
"Shepherds Surprise"

Rev. Melissa Rynders, Sanctuary UMC

(From "Christmas Love Letters from God" by Glenys Nellist)

Jeremiah 33.3 says, "I will tell you great things."

Dear Church,

Can you imagine how special those shepherds felt when the angel came to them? They were the first ones to hear about the birth of Jesus. What wonderful news they heard that night! I love to tell people great things. And guess what? You are just as special to me as those shepherds- and I will tell you great things too. Just keep your heart open and listen and share that great news with others.

Love,

God

Special Music

"In the Highest Glory"

Sacramento Country Day School
3rd Grade Singers
Jim & Jean Strathdee

Scripture Reading

Matthew 2.1-11

Rev. Jonathan Arnpriester, Chandler UMC

Christmas Love Letters from God

"Wise Men's Wonder"

Rev. Khalif Smith

(From "Christmas Love Letters from God" by Glenys Nellist)

Jeremiah 29.13 says, "You will find me."

Dear Church,

The wise men had to travel so far to find Jesus. But you don't have to travel anywhere to find him, because Jesus is right there with you. And did you know you can bring gifts to him too? (You just don't have to ride a camel to bring yours!) In fact, every time you pray to him, every time you sing a song to him, every time you help someone else- you are giving a gift to Jesus.

And now, here's one more gift you can give. Open up your heart and share your hope, peace, joy and love with Jesus. He will love it! It will be the best Christmas gift I have ever received. I am so grateful for each of you, the angels among us.

I Love You!

God

Carol

"We Three Kings"

UMH #254 v. 1,2,5

A Christmas Reflection

Rev. Melissa Rynders

Special Music

"Glory(Let There be Peace)

by Matt Maher

sung by Virtual Praise Choir, First UMC Phoenix

Blessing

Rev. Khalif Smith

Rev. Mary Dotson

Rev. Dave Wasson

Rev. Melissa Rynders

Sending Forth

"Joy to the World"

arranged by Michael Bedford, Karen Taylor, organist, First UMC Mesa