

LESSONS
— & —
CAROLS

“Wexford Carol”

INTRODUCTION & WELCOME

Let us praise our Lord Jesus Christ.

Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

At Christmas, Jesus came as a baby.

Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

He came to be like us because he loves us.

Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

He came to save us from our sin.

Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

He died, rose from the dead, and lives in heaven.

He will come again because he loves us.

Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

We praise Jesus, who is coming to make all things new.

Alleluia! Jesus is coming!

THE FIRST LESSON

The Goodness of Creation

GENESIS 1:27–31

“Creator of the Stars of Night” †

THE SECOND LESSON

Man Breaks the Harmony of Creation
and God Promises Redemption

GENESIS 3:8–15; ZEPHANIAH 3:16–20

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” †

THE THIRD LESSON

The Prophet Foretells of the
Savior and the Promise of Peace

ISAIAH 9:2, 6–7

“Midwinter Lament”

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” †

† indicates standing

THE FOURTH LESSON

The Birth of Jesus Foretold

LUKE 1:26-38

“Gabriel’s Message”
“Magnificat”

THE FIFTH LESSON

The Birth of Jesus

LUKE 2:1-7

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

THE SIXTH LESSON

The Shepherds Go to the Manger

LUKE 2:8-16

“Angels We Have Heard on High” †

THE SEVENTH LESSON

The Wise Men Led by the Star

MATTHEW 2:1-11

“What Child Is This?”

THE EIGHTH LESSON

God With Us Restoring Harmony

JOHN 1:1-4, 9, 14

“God With Us” †

“Soon and Very Soon” †

THE NINTH LESSON

Creation Fully Restored

REVELATION 21:1-5

“Joy to the World” †

CLOSING & BENEDICTION

WELCOME

Rush, decorate, shop, buy. These are words we associate with the Christmas holiday, but at Third Church, we tell time differently.

Our focus on the frenetic pace of the season comes to a halt as we take the weeks before Christmas, the Advent season, to prepare our hearts to welcome Jesus.

The "ad" in Advent means "toward." Advent reminds us that God came toward us through Jesus, and as we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, we are also invited to move toward him in relationship. We begin Advent by suspending hurry and taking time for stillness and reflection. We want to bask in the beauty and truth of our Savior coming to Earth, taking on skin and flesh and bone, to be with us and to be one of us. We want to hear the prophecies that told of the coming Messiah, and we want to be reminded that one day he will return and the whole Earth will worship him!

Each year, Third Church begins Advent with our annual service of Lessons & Carols.

Lessons & Carols tells God's beautiful story of creation, fall, redemption, and re-creation through the reading of Scripture and the singing of traditional and modern carols. We use a variety of instruments and musical styles to prepare our hearts to celebrate the first coming of Jesus and to anticipate that day when he will come again.

We urge you to take this hour to slow down, to listen to Scripture that speaks of God's power at work in the world, to sing the story of Jesus, and to prepare your heart to welcome our Savior. You will not only listen to the story, but participate in it as well.