

what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol "Angels We Have Heard on High" Red Book Hymn 289

Text: French carol; tr. H.F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864/Music: French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes, 1887-1958

The Sixth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-11

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Carol "The First Noel" Red Book Hymn 300

Text: English Traditional/Music: English traditional; arr. John Stainer, 1840-1901

Seventh Lesson

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Red Book Hymn 283

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711-1786; tr. Fredrick Oakeley, 1802-1880, sts. 1,3-4; tr. Unknown, st. 2/Music: attr. John Francis Wade

The Prayers of the People - Sung Response: "God Is So Good"

Text: traditional / GOD IS SO GOOD, traditional

THE SENDING

The Benediction

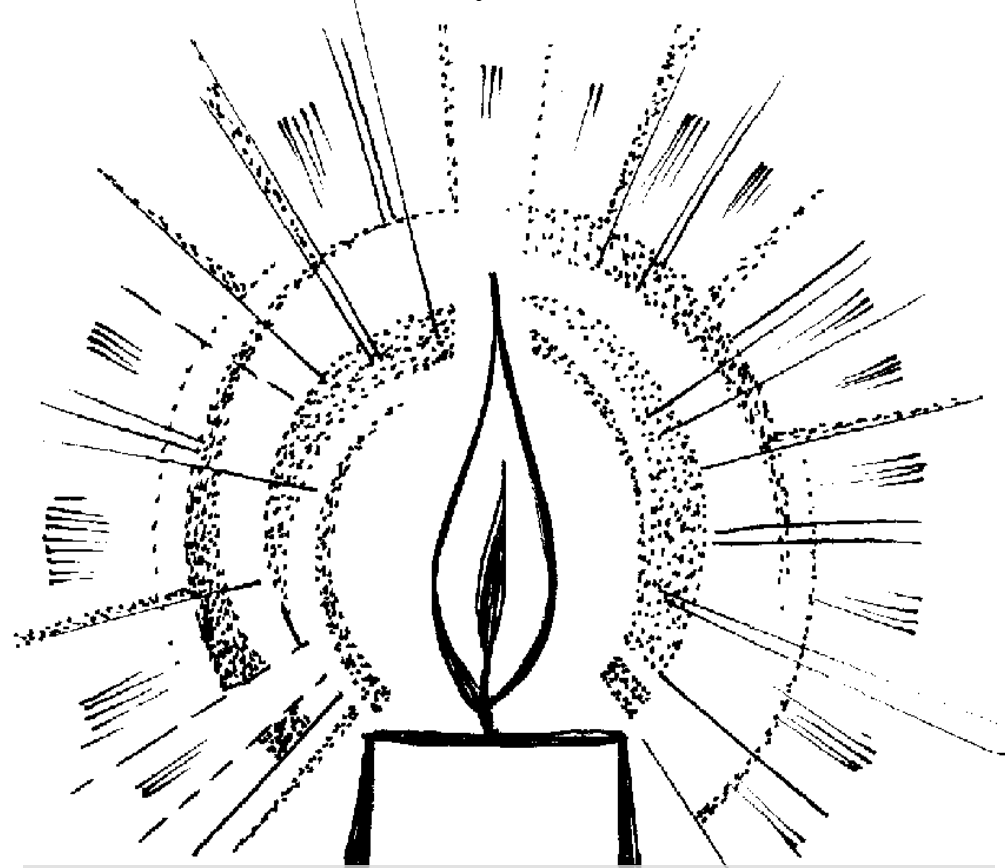
Sending Song "Go, Tell It on the Mountain" Red Book Hymn 290

Text: African American Spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1871-1925, stanzas, alt./Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

Peace Lutheran Church

Celebrating Christmas: A Service of Lessons & Carols

December 28, 2025
First Sunday of Christmas



To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the
Messiah, the Lord!

Luke 2:11

Peace Lutheran Church

The Church that Welcomes and Serves

2106 South Cushman Avenue, Tacoma, WA 98405, www.peacelutherantacoma.org
(253) 383-1317 Church Office, (253) 383-0702 Peace Community Center

Welcome to worship at Peace! Please see the Peace Lutheran Church website www.peacelutherantacoma.org or Facebook page (Facebook Peace Lutheran Tacoma) or YouTube channel (contact church office for link) for online worship videos.

+ We worship in person at 8:30 and 11 am and live-stream 11 am worship on the church Facebook page. Today we offer only a 10 am worship service of lessons and carols without Holy Communion. Blessed Christmas!

+ If you would like to make an offering to the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church, please give in person Sundays in the Offering Box, or send your financial contribution to Peace Lutheran Church (address above), donate through the Giving link on the church website, or call the church office to set up electronic giving.

+ If you have questions or concerns you would like to discuss with Pastor John or if you have prayer concerns, please email him at pastorjohn@peacetacoma.org or call him at 253-383-1317 ext. 101.

THE GATHERING

Welcome

Opening Songs

“What a Mighty God We Serve”

Text: traditional / Music: traditional

Burgundy Book Hymn 295

“Jesus, What a Wonderful Child”

Burgundy Book Hymn 51

Text: African American traditional, alt. Music: WONDERFUL CHILD, African American traditional: arr. Jeffrey Radford, b. 1953 © 1992 Pilgrim Press, from the New Century Hymnal

Sharing God's Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **People: And also with you.**

Opening Prayer

THE WORD

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Carol

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Red Book Hymn 282

Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810-1876/ Music: Richard S. Willis, 1819-1900

The Second Lesson

Micah 5:2-5a

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace.

Carol

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Red Book Hymn 279

The Third Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

Carol

“Joy to the World”

Red Book Hymn 267

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748/Music: English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

The Fourth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel’, which means, ‘God is with us.’ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded; he took her as his wife but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Carol

“Away in a Manger”

Red Book Hymn 277

Text: North American, 19th cent./Music: James R. Murray, 1841-1905

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 2:8-20

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known