

The 86th Annual Choir Candlelight Service  
Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church

December 27, 2020; 9:30 a.m.  
Amy Truhe, Pastor  
Dr. Mark Lucas, Director  
Dr. Steven C. Gustafson, Organ and Piano

Prelude	From Heav'n Above, to Earth I Come	Johann Pachelbel
Opening Hymn	Once in Royal David's City	Arr. Willcocks
Bidding Prayer		Pastor Amy Truhe

### Lessons and Carols

**First Reading Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19** Jeanne Ahlers, Reader  
*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise  
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

**Carol "When Adam fell, the human race"** J.S. Bach  
Dr. Steven C. Gustafson, Organ

**Second Reading Genesis 22: 15-18** Cindy Daniels, Reader

**Carol "Ding Dong, Merrily on High"** Arr. Willcocks  
Sharon and Kirsten Bruce

**Third Reading Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7** Betty Russin, Reader  
*The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior*

**Carol "Prepare the Way, O Zion"** Arr. John Carter  
Tom Nelson, Piano

**Fourth Reading Isaiah 11: 1-4, 6-9** Gavin and Sharon Doughty, Readers  
*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

**Carol "O Day of Peace"** C. Hubert H. Parry  
Bill and Carol Gusenius

**Fifth Reading Luke 1: 26-35, 38** Bryce Loder, Reader  
*The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary*

**Carol "Magnificat"** Randall Thompson  
Jeanne Lucas

**Sixth Reading Luke 2: 1, 3-7** Keith Ferguson, Reader  
*St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus*

**Carol "Sweet Little Jesus Boy"** Robert Macgimsey  
Amy Truhe

**Seventh Reading Luke 2: 8-16** David Carlson, Reader  
*The shepherds go to the manger.*

**Carol "A Savior from on High"** Stephen Paulus  
Bethany College Chamber Choir

**Eighth Reading Matthew 2: 1-11** The Hefner Family, Readers  
*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus*

**Carol "In the Bleak Midwinter"** Traditional  
Becky Anderson

**Ninth Reading John 1: 1-14** Larry and Rebecca Van der Wege, Readers  
*St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation*

**Carol "Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree"** Elizabeth Poston  
Bethany College Choir

Please join us in singing, "Silent Night"

Silent Night, Holy Night, All is Calm, All is Bright  
Round yon Virgin Mother and Child, Holy Infant so Tender and Mild  
Sleep in Heavenly Peace, Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Silent Night, Holy Night, Shepherds Quake at the Sight  
Glories Stream from Heaven Afar, Heavenly Hosts Sing Alleluia  
Christ our Saviour is Born, Christ our Saviour is Born.

Silent Night, Holy Night, Son of God, Loves Pure Light  
Radiant Beams from Your Holy Face, With the Dawn of Redeeming Grace  
Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth, Jesus, Lord at Thy Birth

**Postlude**      **“O Come All Ye Faithful”**      **played by Dr. Steven C. Gustafson**

#### **SPECIAL THANKS**

**Pastor Amy Truhe, Dr. Steve Gustafson, Ida Rencher, Kirsten Bruce, and all those who read,  
sang, or otherwise took part in the program.**

**OFFERING** - *Today's offering is being taken virtually, at [www.melclindsborg.org/giving](http://www.melclindsborg.org/giving) and helps to fund the Music Program at Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church. Just visit the link and, when prompted, designate, “Music.” Thank you for your support.*

**“When Adam Fell, the Human Race”** demonstrates Bach’s attention to preaching through the medium of music. The listener experiences tone painting where the composer strives to paint an aural picture. Dr. Albert Schweitzer speaks of the descending skips of the 7<sup>th</sup> in the pedal as Bach’s attempt to portray the fall of Adam. The joy motive consisting of a longer and two shorter notes was probably suggested by the words “thanks to God who spares the rod.”

When Adam fell, the human race  
Was doomed to condemnation;  
Bereft were we of innocence,  
Sin’s poison wrought destruction,  
But thanks to God,  
Who spares the rod,

From death have we been taken.  
The serpent Eve  
Didst once deceive  
Beholds his power shaken.