

A  
SERVICE OF SEVEN  
ADVENT  
LESSONS AND CAROLS



December 13, 2014  
4 p.m.



## About this Service

Welcome to the Spencerville Seventh-day Adventist Church and thank you for joining us this afternoon for this Advent Service of Seven Lessons and Carols. In the Christian church calendar, Advent takes place over the four weeks before the celebration of Christmas on December 25. The season is a time for reflection, and even introspection as we imagine what it was like to wait for the fulfillment of the prophecy of a coming Savior. It was once a penitential season, similar to Lent, as believers sought to make themselves ready for the gift of salvation. This meaning has largely been lost in modern times as we skip the quiet reflection and jump directly to the sparkle of Christmas. We are not good at waiting.

It's easy to imagine that believers throughout the millennia would have shared some of our impatience at waiting for the Advent of a Savior. Imagine what it would have been like to wait, as an Israelite enslaved to the Babylonians or Egyptians, as generation after generation passed with no deliverance. Holding onto the hope of Advent would not have been easy. Yet, with the encouragement of the prophets, hope remained as a glimmer of light shining through the darkness. Our circumstances are different, living as we do in relative prosperity and freedom compared to the rest of the world, but our challenge remains the same: to hold onto hope, to see and to share the light and truth that shine from above.

This Seventh-day Adventist Church is part of a denomination that has such a compelling connection to Advent that it became part of its name. In 1833, William Miller, a farmer and Baptist lay preacher living in Northern New York, began to share publically his belief that the second Advent of Jesus Christ would occur sometime in the year 1843. He came to this belief after a study of the prophecies of Daniel. It took some time but by 1840, his message of the imminent return of Christ had become a movement that bore his name. The Millerite movement swept the country, publishing and distributing millions of tracts to declare the good news. Further discussion and careful study of the Bible prophecies resulted in the setting of a firm date for the second coming, October 22, 1844. Many Millerites, so convinced of the teachings, sold their possessions and waited on hillsides on the eve of October 22, firm in their belief that they would be transported to heaven.

*Cover illustration:*

*The Lamb of God as it appeared to St. John in the Book of Revelations.  
From a woodcut by Albrecht Dürer*

When the prediction didn't come true, many Millerites gave up their belief in a literal second advent. But, out of this "Great Dissapointment", as this event came to be known, a new movement emerged as former Millerites continued their study of the Bible and held onto a belief in a literal second Advent. By 1860, the fledgling movement adopted the name "Seventh-day Adventists." Distinguished by a belief in the sanctity of a seventh-day Sabbath, the Bible as the word of God and a belief in the literal second coming of Christ, the Seventh-day Adventist movement today has grown to approximately 16 million members, spread throughout the world.

In 1934, Reverend Eric Milner-White, who in 1919 created the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols that has become so beloved and imitated throughout the Christian world, created "A procession of Advent Carols." He wrote that the purpose of the service was "not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it...to express the desire of all nations and ages." The service we celebrate this afternoon has roots in that tradition, but with the added dimension of a focus on the second Advent, as pointed to by the first. A portion of the Welcome and Closing Blessing, read at the opening and closing of the service, comes from the pen of Ellen White, an influential writer and founder of the Adventist movement. In these way, this service is unique to our denomination and perhaps could be rightly called an *Advent<sup>ist</sup> Service of Lessons and Carols*.

It is our desire that, through the reading of Scripture, the hearing and singing of melodies ancient and new, and the corporate experience of worship and fellowship in this place, you will feel renewed strength and hope, and experience the warmth of the light of Christ in this place. If you are here for the first time, we hope it will not be the last. We invite you to return next Saturday morning at 8:30 or 11 as we celebrate Christmas in this place.

PRELUDE

Break Forth, O Beauteous Morning Light  
Christians, Awake!

J.S. Bach  
arr. Robert J. Powell

*Verses 1 through 4 will be sung by the choir in procession.  
Following verse 4, please stand and join in singing the final verse.*

PROCESSIONAL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel  
15th-c. French melody  
arr. David Willcocks

1. O come, O come, Immanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.  
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Immanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!*
2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who orderest all things mightily:  
to us the path of knowledge show;  
and teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*
3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might,  
who to thy tribes in Sinai's height  
in ancient times didst give the law  
in cloud and majesty and awe. *Refrain*
4. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer  
our spirits by thine advent here;  
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight. *Refrain*

O come, De-sire of na - tions, bind all peo-ples in one heart and mind; bid  
en vy, strife and, dis - cord cease; fill the whole world with hea - ven's peace.  
Re-joice! Re-joice! Em - ma - nu-el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.

## WELCOME

“As the message of Christ’s first advent announced the kingdom of His grace, so the message of His second advent announces the kingdom of His glory. And the second message, like the first, is based on the prophecies. The Saviour’s coming was foretold in Eden. When Adam and Eve first heard the promise, they looked for its speedy fulfillment. They joyfully welcomed their first-born son, hoping that he might be the Deliverer. But the fulfillment of the promise tarried. Those who first received it died without the sight. From the days of Enoch the promise was repeated through patriarchs and prophets, keeping alive the hope of His appearing, and yet He came not. The prophecy of Daniel revealed the time of His advent, but not all rightly interpreted the message. Century after century passed away; the voices of the prophets ceased. The hand of the oppressor was heavy upon Israel, and many were ready to exclaim, “The days are prolonged, and every vision faileth.” Ezekiel 12:22.” (E.G. White, Desire of Ages)

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear in Holy Scripture how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all peoples and all things into the glory of God’s eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves, for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God, in the words that Christ himself taught us.

**Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; in earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive them that trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil;  
for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

May the Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

# FIRST LESSON

READER: Kim Osorio-Thomas, 2nd grade, home school

*Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden*

Genesis 3: 1-15

Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?" So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate." And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." So the Lord God said to the serpent:

"Because you have done this, You are cursed more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you shall go, And you shall eat dust All the days of your life. And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel."

**Thanks be to God.**

# CAROL

## Of the Father's Heart Begotten

'Piae Cantiones  
arr. David Willcocks

Of the Father's heart begotten,  
Ere the world from chaos rose,  
He is Alpha: from that fountain  
All that is and hath been flows;  
He is Omega, of all things  
Yet to come the mystic Close,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

By his word was all created;  
He commanded and 'twas done;  
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,  
Universe of three in one,  
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,  
All that breathes beneath the sun,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises;  
Angels and Archangels, sing!  
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,  
Let your joyous anthems ring,  
Ev'ry tongue his name confessing,  
Countless voices answering,  
*Evermore and evermore.*

## SECOND LESSON

READER: Christian Princler, 8th grade, McLean School of Maryland

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One.*

Isaiah 11:1-10

There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord. His delight is in the fear of the Lord, And He shall



not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears; But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist. "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, The leopard shall lie down with the young goat, The calf and the young lion and the fatling together; And a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; Their young ones shall lie down together; And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play by the cobra's hole, And the weaned child shall put his hand in the viper's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all My holy mountain, For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord As the waters cover the sea. "And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious."

### **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

There Shall a Star Come Out of Jacob


Felix Mendelssohn

There shall a Star from Jacob come forth,  
And a Sceptre from Israel rise up,  
And dash in pieces princes and nations.

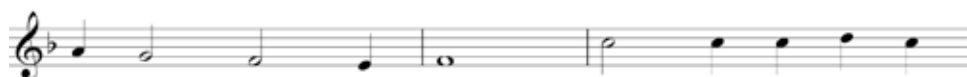
As bright the star of morning gleams,  
So Jesus sheddeth glorious beams  
Of light and consolation!  
Thy Word, O LORD, radiance darting,  
Truth imparting, gives salvation;  
Thine be praise and adoration!

*Please stand and join in singing*


CONGREGATIONAL CAROL Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming      Es Ist Ein' Ros'  
Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599  
arr. Michael Praetorius, 1609



1. Lo!      how a Rose e'er bloom - ing      from  
2. I -      sai - ah 'twas fore - told      it,      the  
3. This      flower, whose fra - grance      ten - der      with



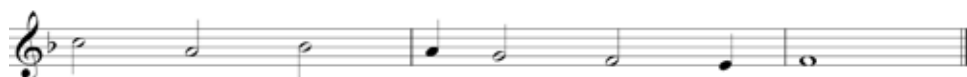
ten - der stem hath sprung,      of Jes - se's li - neage  
Rose I have in mind;      with Ma - ry we be -  
sweet-ness fills the air,      dis - pels with glo - rious



co - ming, as saints of old have sung.  
hold it, the vir - gin mo - ther kind.  
splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where.



It came, a flower - et bright,      a - mid the cold of  
To show God's love a - right      she bore to us a  
True man, yet ve - ry God,      from sin and death he



win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
Sa - vior, when half - spent was the night.  
saves us and ligh - tens ev - ery load.

## THIRD LESSON

READER: Amanda Arthur, dietician, Liesure World

*A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts.*

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

O come, divine Messiah!

16th-c. French carol  
arr. Howard Helvey

## FOURTH LESSON

READER: German Rodriguez, attorney, medical malpractice, State of Maryland

*The prophet Isaiah announces the renewal both of the land  
and of God’s people on the coming day of redemption.*

Isaiah 35: 1-6

The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them; and the desert shall rejoice, and blossom as the rose. It shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice even with joy and singing: the glory of Lebanon shall be given unto it, the excellency of Carmel and Sharon, they shall see the glory of the Lord, and the excellency of our God. Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and

save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

**Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

O Thou The Central Orb

Charles Wood

O Thou, the central orb of righteous love,  
Pure beam of the most High, eternal Light  
Of this our wintry world, Thy radiance bright  
Awakes new joy in faith, hope soars above.

Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine,  
Gilding our darksome heaven with rays Divine.

Thy saints with holy lustre round Thee move,  
As stars about thy throne, set in the height  
Of God's ordaining counsel, as Thy sight  
Gives measured grace to each, Thy power to prove.

Let Thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin,  
Our nature all shall feel eternal day  
In fellowship with thee, transforming day  
To souls erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

FIFTH LESSON

READER: Janet Mwebi, librarian, University of Maryland, College Park

*Paul foretells the resurrection of the righteous.*

1 Corinthians 15: 51-58

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where is your sting?"

O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand and join in singing*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL    When Jesus Comes in Glory

Aurelia  
Samuel S. Wesley



1. When Je - sus comes in glo - ry, As Lord and King of kings,
2. His voice like rush - ing wa - ters Will reach with might - y sound
3. And we who are be - liev - ing And His ap - pear - ing love,
4. O has - ten Thine ap - pear - ing, Thou bright and Morn - ing Star!



O what a won - drous sto - ry The bless - ed Bi - ble brings:  
In - to the deep - est quar - ters Of all cre - a - tion round;  
Shall know we are re - ceiv - ing His glo - ry from a - bove;  
Lord, may we soon be hear - ing The trum - pet sound a - far;



His face will shine like sun - light, His head be white as snow,  
And at this won - drous greet - ing The dead in Christ shall rise,  
His res - ur - rec - tion pow - er Will raise us to the place  
Thy peo - ple all are yearn - ing To be Thy rap - tured bride,



His eyes like flam - ing fire - light, His feet like brass a - glow.  
Their Lord and Sav - ior meet - ing in glo - ry in the skies.  
Where we that won - drous hour \_\_\_\_\_ Shall see Him face to face.  
And at Thine own re - turn - ing Be caught up to Thy side.

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sin,  
who loved us all, and shed his blood that we might saved be.  
Sing holy, holy to our Lord the Lord almighty God  
Who was and is, and is to come.  
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein  
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below  
For Christ is coming soon.  
E'en so Lord Jesus quickly come and night shall be no more  
They need no light, no lamp, nor sun  
For Christ will be their all!

## SIXTH LESSON

READER: Claude Richli, minister, associate publisher of *Adventist Review* and  
*Adventist World* magazines

*John unfolds the mystery of the Incarnation*

John 1: 1-18

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 were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. John bore witness of Him and cried out, saying,

“This was He of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me is preferred before me, for He was before me.’” And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.

**Thanks be to God.**

CAROL

Veiled in darkness

Glenn L. Rudolph

Veiled in darkness Judah lay,  
Waiting for the promised day,  
While across the shadowy night  
Streamed a flood of glorious light,  
Heav’nly voices chanting then,  
‘Peace on earth, goodwill to men’.

Still the earth in darkness lies,  
Up from death’s dark vale arise  
Voices of a world in grief,  
Prayers of men who seek relief;  
Now our darkness pierce again,  
‘Peace on earth, goodwill to men’.

Light of light, we humbly pray,  
Shine upon Thy world today;  
Break the gloom of our dark night,  
Fill our souls with love and light,  
Send thy blessed word again,  
‘Peace on earth, goodwill to men’.

## SEVENTH LESSON

READER: Anne Willsey, pastor's wife, grandmother

*John describes the second advent and the coming of the new Jerusalem*

Revelation 21: 1-7

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

### **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand and join in singing*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Joy to the World

Antioch

Handel's Messiah

arr. Lowell Mason



1. Joy to the world, the Lord shall come! Let earth re-ceive her King;
2. Joy to the world! the Sav-iour reigns; Let men their songs em-ploy;
3. No more let sins and sor-rows grow, Nor thorns in-fest the ground;
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the na-tions prove



Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare Him room,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
He comes to make his bless - ings flow  
The glo - ries of His righ - teous - ness,



And heav'n and na - ture\_ sing,      And\_ heav'n and na - ture\_  
 Re - peat the sound - ing\_ joy,      Re - peat the sound - ing\_  
 Far\_ as the curse is\_ found,      Far\_ as the curse is\_ found.  
 And won - ders of His\_ love,      And\_ won - ders of His\_

sing,      And\_ heav - en, and heav - en and na - ture sing.  
 joy,      Re - peat, re - peat\_ the sound - ing joy.  
 found,      Far\_ as, far\_ as\_ the curse is found.  
 love,      And\_ won - ders, and won - ders of His love.

## CLOSING BLESSING

“The gospel message proclaimed by Christ’s disciples was the announcement of His first advent to the world. It bore to men the good tidings of salvation through faith in Him. It pointed forward to His second coming in glory to redeem His people, and it set before men the hope, through faith and obedience, of sharing the inheritance of the saints in light. This message is given to men today, and at this time there is coupled with it the announcement of Christ’s second coming as at hand. The signs which He Himself gave of His coming have been fulfilled, and by the teaching of God’s word we may know that the Lord is at the door.” (E.G. White, Christ’s Object Lessons)

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, he has come to his people and set them free. The darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining, the Word of Life which was from the beginning.

### **See what love the Father has given us.**

See what love the Father has given us that we should be called the children of God. You are my sons and daughters: this day have I begotten you.

### **See what love the Father has given us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

*Stand and join in singing*

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fidelis  
Cantus Diversi, 1751  
arr. David Hill



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2. True God of true God, Light from Light E - ter - nal,  
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, O  
4. Yea, Lord, we'll greet Thee, on that hap - py morn - ing, —



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem!  
lo, He shuns not the vir - gin's womb;  
sing, all ye cit - it - zens of hea - ven a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee will be all glo - ry giv'n,



Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels!  
Son of the Fa - ther, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ed.  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!  
Word of the Fa - ther, there in flesh a - pear - ing:



O come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him,



O come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

POSTLUDE

Toccata on 'Antioch'

Craig Phillips

Spencerville Sanctuary Choir

Mark Willey, director

Joy-Leilani Garbutt, organ

Mike Brest, trumpet

Nate Clark, trumpet

David Sisk, trombone

Will Timmons, trombone



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