

# Weekly Schedule

<b>Sun 12/8</b>			
10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary	Downtown
11:15 M	Youth Gathering		Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
3:00 pm	Alpha Brass & DJO Concert	Sanctuary	Downtown
4:30 pm	Food at First	Narthex	Downtown
6:30 pm	AACC Christmas Concert	Sanctuary	Downtown
<b>Mon 12/9</b>			
11:00 am	FUMC Buddy Bag Pack	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
5:00 pm	Exercise		Davis Park
6:00 pm	Advent Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
6:00 pm	AA Big Book Study	East West Parlor	Downtown
<b>Tues 12/10</b>			
9:00 am	Tuesday Sew Day	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
10:00 am	Staff Meeting	Conference Room	Downtown
6:00 pm	Girl Scout Troop	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
<b>Wed 12/11</b>			
8:00 am	Energy Assistance	Door #2	Downtown
8:30 am	Helping Hands Pantry	Door #3	Downtown
3:00 pm	Coffee with Corinne		Facebook
5:00 pm	Exercise Class		Davis Park
6:00 pm	Advent Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
6:00 pm	Wesley Bells	Sanctuary	Downtown
<b>Thurs 12/12</b>			
6:00 pm	Adapt group dinner	North/South Parlor	Downtown
<b>Fri 12/13—Office closes at Noon</b>			
9:00 am	Friday Bible Study	North/South Parlor	Downtown
11:30 am	JOY Lunch	North/South Parlor	Downtown
11:30 am	FUMC Buddy Bag delivery		Downtown
12:00 pm	Downtown Devotion		Facebook
<b>Sat 12/14</b>			
10:00 am	AA Meeting	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
4:00 pm	Gingerbread Competition	Fellowship Hall	Downtown
<b>Sun 12/15</b>			
9:30 am	Photo Directory	Wesley Room	Downtown
10:00 am	Worship	Sanctuary	Downtown
11:15 am	YA Gathering	Youth Room	Downtown
2:00 pm	Worship		Primrose
4:30 pm	Community Café	Fellowship Hall	Downtown



**First United Methodist**  
FAITH FIRST. FAMILIES FIRST. ANDERSON FIRST.

**A Service of Lessons & Carols**  
**December 8, 2024**

# Lessons & Carols

*The Festival of Lessons and Carols is a service of Scripture and song that dates to the late 19th century. In this service, we listen to nine Scripture lessons which recount the Fall, the promise of a Messiah, the Incarnation, and the Great Commission to preach the Good News. Each lesson is followed by a carol or other song that reflects on the lesson's message and a brief prayer.*  
It is the perfect worship service for this holiday season.

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*Note: Please hold any applause until the end of the service—thank you*

## WELCOME

Welcome to worship on Sundays and all programs & ministries throughout the week!

## Weekly Prayer Requests

- Our love and condolences are extended to Bev Briles and family in the death of Dick Briles last Saturday
- Praise God for you and your generosity!

## Announcements

- 115 meals were served at Community Cafe last Sunday. It was a blessing to serve the community.
- CONCERT: We are hosting an Alpha Brass and Director's Jazz Orchestra Concert at 3:00 pm TODAY in the Sanctuary.
- The Anderson Area Children's Choir will host their annual Christmas Concert tonight at 6:30 pm in the Sanctuary.
- ADVENT STUDY: Join Pastor Corinne for this entitled "On the Way to Bethlehem" continuing Monday, December 9 @ 6 p.m. in NS Parlor. All are welcome!
- GINGERBREAD HOUSE COMPETITION: No matter what age or ability, YOU are encouraged to join in the fun at this friendly Christmas competition on Saturday, Dec. 14 from 4-6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Register today!
- If you see Ann Hardacre today, wish her a happy 91st birthday on December 7.

### We give thanks for today's:

**Ushers:** Bill Kahle, Dorinda & Richard Cassiday, Bob Ballenger

**Greeters:** Becky Ball, Kay McConnell, Kaylynn McConnell

**Coffee Hosts:** Keith and Beth McFall

## **SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE FOR MAKING THIS SERVICE POSSIBLE:**

Director of Music /Organist: Susan Finger

Members of Sanctuary Choir: Ethan Carter, Susan Daoust, Maria Falkenberry, Mark Finger, Will Fosnot, Nate Hochstetler, Rachel Hochstetler, Otis Jeffries, Ludvick Kelly, Abby Mercer, Claire Miller, Staci Miller, Elizabeth Murray, Peg Peter, Erin Powell, James Sirks, Janine Spurgeon, Erin Stout, Chris Taylor, Sarah Taylor

Members of Wesley Chorale: Susan Daoust, Mark Finger, Will Fosnot, Nate Hochstetler, Rachel Hochstetler, Abby Mercer, James Sirks, Erin Stout, Chris Taylor, Sarah Taylor

Members of the Children' Choir Abby Mercer, director  
Maizen Hochstetler, Connor Falkenberry, Grace Stout, Teddy Stout, Caroline Taylor, Jackson Taylor

Members of the Lessons & Carols Orchestra:

Piano/Organ: Michele Murray

Violins: Adele Maxfield, Elizabeth Murray

Viola: Elisabeth Ohly-Davis

Cello: Heather Scott

Bass: Darrel Fiene

Flute: Rachael Lashbrook

Oboe: Lora Dingledine

Percussion: Matt Finger

Handbells: Mary Falkenberry, Sarah Taylor

The orchestra this morning was made possible with a gift from

## **Please join us for these special Christmas Services:**

**Blue Christmas Service, Saturday, December 21, 2:00 pm:**



The anguish of broken relationships, the insecurity of unemployment, the weariness of ill health, the pain of isolation, the loneliness that death brings – all these and more can cause us to feel alone and sad when everyone around us is celebrating joyfully. We need a space and a time in which we can acknowledge our sadness and concern.

The Blue Christmas Service will provide that opportunity. Worship will include music, scripture, prayer and light. It will provide a time for silence and reflection. God comes to those who mourn and to those who struggle. We are not alone. God is light in the darkness and hope in our despair.

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service:**

**Tuesday, December 24, 7:00 pm:** Keep Christ as a part of your Christmas! Join us for special music, candles, children's message, and inspirational worship all in the beautiful setting of the sanctuary.



## **Prelude**

"Of the Father's Love Begotten"  
Sanctuary Choir & Chamber Orchestra

## **Bidding Prayer**

Rev. Dale Mendenhall

## **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who 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**

**\*Processional Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory" v 1,3 #220**

## **Verse 1**

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing you flight o'er all the earth;  
Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
worship Christ, the newborn King**

## **Verse 3**

**Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar; seek  
the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:  
Come and worship, come and worship,  
Worship Christ, the newborn King.**

## **The First Lesson**

Genesis 3:8-15

Jim Ault

*God speaks to Adam*

They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the LORD God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The LORD God said to the serpent, 'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Carol**

"Adam Lay Ybounden"

Sanctuary Choir, Oboe, Percussion



## The Second Lesson

Isaiah 40: 1-5

Karen Ambler

*A voice cries out: "Prepare the way of the Lord"*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain made low; the uneven ground shall become level and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn

**"Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" Verse 1 #196**

**Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;  
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee.  
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art;  
dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart.**

## Lighting the Advent Candle of Peace

Tupling Family

ONE: Last Sunday we lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath, the candle of hope. Let us light it again to show that our hope continues.

*Light one purple candle*

ONE: John the Baptist called on the people of his day to prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah. He called them to repent, turn around, change their ways. To live in peace with others, we need to repent and change directions.

ONE: We light this second candle to remind us that Jesus is the Prince of Peace. He shows us how to share God's peace with others.

*Light a second purple candle.*

ONE: The prayer of St. Francis asks God to help us be peacemakers. Let us pray it together:

**ALL: Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; Where there is injury, pardon; Where there is doubt, faith; Where there is despair, hope; Where there is sadness, joy; And where there is darkness, light. Grant that we may seek not so much to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, in**



## Shepherd's Pipe Carol

Going through the hills on a night  
all starry

On the way to Bethlehem,  
Far away I hear a shepherd boy  
piping on the way to Bethlehem.

Angels in the sky, brought this  
message nigh:

Dance and sing for joy that Christ the  
newborn King is come to bring us  
peace on earth, and he's lying cradled  
there at Bethlehem.

Tell me, shepherd boy piping tunes so  
merrily on the way to Bethlehem,  
Who will hear your tunes on these hills  
so lonely on the way to Bethlehem?  
Angels in the spk brought this message  
nigh: Dance and sing for joy that Christ  
the newbord King is come to bring us  
peace on earth, and he's lying cradled  
there at Bethlehem.

Where is this new King, shepherd boy  
piping merrily, is he there at  
Bethlehem?

I will find him soon by the star shining  
brightly in the sky o'er Bethlehem.  
Angels in the sky brought this message  
nigh: Dance and sing for joy that Christ  
the newborn King is come to bring us  
peace on earth, and he's lying cradled  
there at Bethlehem.

May I come with you, shepherd boy  
pipping merrily, Come with you to  
Bethlehem? Pay my homage too at the  
King's cradle, Is it far to Bethlehem/  
Angels in the sky brought this message  
nigh; Dance and sing for joy that Chris  
the infant King born this night in lowly  
stable yonder, born for you at  
Bethlehem.

## Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why  
your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which  
inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see  
Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See Him in a manger laid,  
Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid  
With us sing our Savior's birth

Gloria in Excelsis Deo!





### Sans Day Carol

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, and Mary bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:

And Mary bore Jesus our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly, holly, holly!

And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, and Mary bore Jesus, who died on the cross:

And Mary bore Jesus our Saviour for to be, And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, And Mary bore Jesus, who died for us all:

And Mary bore Jesus our Saviour for to be, and first tree in the greenwood it was the holly,

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red, Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead: And Mary bore Jesus, for Saviour for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly, holly, holly!

And the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.



### Go Tell It On the Mountain (chorus)

Go, tell on the mountain,  
Over the hills and every where  
Go tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a Holy light (chorus)

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When, lo! Above the Earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth (chorus)

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And brought us all salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn. (chorus)

### Have You Seen the Newborn King

Have you seen the newborn king  
born in a manger?  
Have you seen the newborn king  
Born today in Bethlehem?

Come and see the newborn king!  
The child of whom the angels sing!  
Wise men journeyed just to see him.  
A shining light did lead them!

Have you seen the tiny baby?  
Have you seen the newborn king?  
Glory, glory hallelujah!

Have you seen the little child?  
Born today in Bethlehem?

**pardoning that we are pardoned, and in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

### "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus Verse 2

Choirs and Congregation

**Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a King,  
Born to reign in us foever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.  
By thine own eternal spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By thine all sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

**Carol** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Sanctuary Choir, Flute

**The Third Lesson** Isaiah 9:2-7 Chris Tupling

*A child will be born, the Prince of Peace.*

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Carol** "And the Glory of the Lord" Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra

**The Fourth Lesson** Micah 5:2-5 Frank Later

*The prophet Micah interprets the glory of little Bethlehem.*

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in travail has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren 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 dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. And there shall be peace.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Carol** "O Bethlehem" Sanctuary Choir & Cello

## The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35

Ingrid Childs

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And 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 called holy, the Son of God."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn "What Child Is This" verse 1 #219**

**What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?**

**Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?**

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

## The Sixth Lesson

Luke 1:46-55

Marissa Childs

*Mary thanks the Lord.*

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has regarded the low estate of his handmaiden. For behold, henceforth all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. And his mercy is on those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm, he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts, he has put down the mighty from their thrones, and exalted those of low degree; he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent empty away. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his posterity forever."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Carol

"Sans Day Carol" Sanctuary Choir & Orchestra

## O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel. That mourns  
in lonely exile her until the Son of God  
appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come  
to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Dayspring, come and  
cheer our spirits by Thine advent her.  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
and death's dark shadows put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come  
to thee, O Israel.

To come, Thou Wisdom from on high,  
Who ord'rest all things far and nigh;  
To us the path of knowledge show and  
teach us in her ways to go.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come  
to thee, O Israel.

O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine  
own from Satan's tyranny; From depths  
of hell Thy people save, And give them  
vic'try o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come  
to thee, O Israel.

O come, Desire of nations, bind all peo-  
ples in one heart and mind. Bid envy,  
strife and quarrels cease; fill all the  
world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come  
to thee, O Israel.



## And the Glory of the Lord

And the glory; the glory of Lord  
Shall be revealed,  
And all flesh shall see it together;  
For the mouth of the Lord has spoken it;



## O Bethlehem

O Bethlehem, how still you lie.  
Above your dreamless sleep silent  
stars go by.

O Bethlehem, how dark the night  
Within your shadowed streets  
Shines the Everlasting Light,  
The Light.

O Bethlehem, how silently He came.  
Greatest gift from heav'n  
Without wealth or fame.

O Bethlehem, how great your hope  
and fear.

Lay to rest your wearied past  
Your Promised One is near, He is  
near.

O Bethlehem, the Heavens shone  
bright! In a field not far away,  
Shepherds witnessed the sight.

O Bethlehem, how the angels sing!  
O hear them proclaim the birth of the  
King of kings.

O Bethlehem, He's come to us.  
O Bethlehem, He abides with us.

O Bethlehem, hear the angels tell  
how the Great I AM has become  
Emmanuel

O Bethlehem.



# Song Lyrics for Carols



## Of The Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten ere the  
worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, he the source,  
then ending of the things that are, that  
have been and that future years shall  
see evermore and evermore!

By his word was all created, he  
commanded; it was done: heaven and  
earth and depths of ocean, universe of  
three in one, all that sees the mon's  
soft hining, all that breathes beneath  
the sun, evermore and evermore!

This is he whom seers in old time  
chanted of with one accord, whom the  
voices of the prophets promised in  
their faithful word.

Now he shines, the long expected.  
Let creation praise its Lord evermore  
and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore him.  
Angel hosts, his praises sing.  
Powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every  
voice in concert ring, evermore and  
evermore! Amen.



## Adam Lay yBounden

"Adam Lay Ybounden" is an early  
English rhyming poem that dates to the  
early 15th century AD, circa 1400.

Originally a song, the poem's musical  
setting did not survive, but the lyrics  
have been set to new music by modern  
composers like Boris Ord. The poem is  
based on the Biblical story of Adam,  
Eve, the Garden of Eden, the "forbidden  
fruit" and the "fall." However, the poet  
took an optimistic view, saying that the  
eating of the forbidden apple ended  
well, thanks to Mary and her son Jesus.

Adam lay bound, bound in a bond;  
Four thousand winters, he thought, were  
not too long.

And all was for an apple, an apple that  
he took,

As clerics now find written in their book.

But had the apple not been taken, or  
had it never been,

We'd never have had our Lady, heaven's  
queen.

So blessed be the time the apple was  
taken thus;

Therefore we sing, "God is gracious!"

Here is the original poem in one of its  
ancient forms:

*Adam lay i-bounden, bounden in a  
bond;*

*Foure thousand winter thought he not  
too long.*

*And all was for an apple, an apple that  
he took,*

*As clerkes finden written in their book.*

*Ne hadde the apple taken been, the  
apple taken been,*

*Ne hadde never our Lady aye been  
heavene queen.*

*Blessed be the time that apple taken  
was,*

*Therefore we moun singen, "Deo  
gracias!"*

## The Seventh Lesson

Luke 2: 1-7

Nina Kline

*Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world  
should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment when Quirinius was  
governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And  
Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the  
city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and  
lineage of David, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with  
child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And  
she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,  
and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Carol

"Go, Tell It On the Mountain"

Children's Choir

## Hymn

**"Good Christian Friends Rejoice" verse 1 #224**

**Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice;**

**Give ye heed to what we say: News, news!**

**Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow,**

**And he is in the manger now.**

**Christ is born today, Christ is born today**

## Carol

"Have You Seen the Newborn King?"

Wesley Chorale

## The Eighth Lesson

Luke 2:8-12

Tim Kline

*The shepherds go to the manger.*

And in that region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over  
their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the  
glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the  
angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a  
great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the  
city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you:  
you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger."  
And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of heavenly host praising  
God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace among  
men with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into  
heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem  
and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to  
us." And they went with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe  
lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which  
had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at  
what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering  
them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God  
for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

