



NEWTOWN United Methodist Church

December 21, 2025 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

A Festival of Lessons and Carols

Prelude It Is Well with My Soul (P.P. Bliss), arr. J. Ray

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Leader: In the beginning, God spoke light into the darkness.

People: And the darkness could not overcome it.

Leader: God made promises to bless the nations and never forgot them.

People: God’s word moved through generations, faithful and sure.

Leader: In the fullness of time, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

People: Glory to God in the highest, peace and joy have come near. Amen

*Hymn “Once In Royal David’s City” UMH #250

Lighting of the Advent Candle Janet & Eric Johnson

Response to Lighting of the Candle “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”
UMH #211 *(Verses 1-4 in unison)*

Bidding Prayer

First Lesson Genesis 1:1–5 Pastor Rodney Brailsford
Carol “What Wonder” Haydn
Bridgette & Scott Johnson, *Duet*

Second Lesson Genesis 12:1–3 Donald Smith
Carol “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” J. Schmidt
Adrienne Walsh, Domi Liu, *Piano-Violin Duet*

Third Lesson Isaiah 7:10–14 Susan Smith
Congregational Carol “Lo, How A Rose E’er Blooming” UMH #216

Fourth Lesson Micah 5:2–5a Eric Johnson
Carol “He Shall Feed His Flock” Handel
Bridgette & Scott Johnson, *Duet*

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:39–55 Gerry Hixson
Carol “Mary, Did You Know?” B. Greene
Bridgette & Scott Johnson, *Duet*

Sixth Lesson Luke 2:1–7 Donna Wengiel
Choral Carol “The Never Ending Song of Praise” E. Harris

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-14 Oliver Flint
Carol “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” B.C. Dockery
Adrienne Walsh, Domi Liu, *Piano-Violin Duet*

Eighth Lesson Luke 2:15–20 Judi Swerk
Congregational Carol “Angels We Have Heard on High” UMH #238

Ninth Lesson John 1:1–5, 10–14 Nora Schenk
Choral Carol “Where Shepherds Lately Kneel” C. Schalk

Announcements

Invitation to Generosity

Offertory

*Response

Doxology, UMH #95

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

*Offertory Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Hymn

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

UMH #240

*Dismissal and Blessing

*Postlude

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

**Please Stand if able*

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Rev. Rodney Brailsford, Pastor
Kathy Mershon, Administrative Assistant
Domi Liu, Choral Director/Organist

LOVE

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, THAT HE GAVE
HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON.

JOHN 3:16

