

Sixth Lesson: The wise men are led by the star to Jesus Matthew 2:1-11

The first Noel the angels did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in
fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay keeping
their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was
so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

“The First Noel”
They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them
far:
And to the earth it gave great
light
And so it continued both day and
night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth
of naught,
And with his blood mankind has
bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Offertory Prayer

Seventh Lesson: John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation John 1:1-14

Joy to the World, the Lord has come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven and nature sing,
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing.

“Joy to the World”
He rules the world with truth and grace,
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love!

Closing Reading “A Christmas Prayer”

“Let There Be Peace on Earth”
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth the peace that was meant to be.
With God as our father Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take Let this be my solemn vow.
To take each moment and live each moment with peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

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3602 C-View Street • Durham NC
www.ImaniMCC.org

Imani, a church where, through faith, all can experience and express God’s irresistible

love through **worship**, **word**, **oneness**, **wonder** and **witness**.

“Imani (Faith) ... is the substance
of things hoped for, the evidence
of things not seen.” - Hebrews 11:1



Imani MCC

*December 24, 2014
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
6:00 pm
Imani MCC Ministry Center*

WE WELCOME YOU TO IMANI MCC.
YOU MAY BE NEW TO US, BUT
YOU ARE KNOWN AND LOVED BY GOD.

Welcome Rev. Marilyn Bowens

Call to Worship/Candle Liturgy Rev. Marilyn Bowens

One: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps.

All: We rejoice in God’s steadfast presence in our lives, and in God’s unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth – born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, Be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, And lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

Christmas Poem written and performed by Rae Cotton



First Lesson: Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

Second Lesson: The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem Micah 5:2–4

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in the dark street shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous Gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him still,
The dear Christ enters in.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And fathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth
And praises sing to God, the King,
And peace to men on earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell:
Oh, come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Immanuel!

Third Lesson: The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary Luke 1:26–38

“Mary Did You Know” by the Imani Praise Team

Fourth Lesson: Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus Matthew 1:18–23

“O Holy Night”

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
It is the night of our dear Savior’s birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
’Til He appear’d and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

Fifth Lesson: The shepherds go to the manger Luke 2:8–16

“Silent Night”

Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night, Holy night
Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven above
Heavenly, hosts sing Hallelujah.
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.