

JACOB'S LADDER

And Jacob dreamed, and behold, there was a **ladder** set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place, and I did not know it." And he was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." (Genesis 28:12,16-17)

And Jesus said to Nathanael, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on **the Son of Man.**" (John 1:51)

Jesus identifies Himself as the fulfillment of Jacob's vision. "What Jacob had dreamt was in Christ realized." (W. Robertson Nicholl)

JESUS, the incarnate One,
fully God and fully man,
Emmanuel,
God with us,

IS the true Ladder between Heaven and earth,
"the bridge across the great divide,"
the connection between deity and humanity,
the one Mediator between God and man (*1 Timothy 2:5*),
the House of God (*John 1:14*),
and the Gate of heaven (*John 10:7-9*).

Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus will be seen
as the One sent *by* the Father AND
as the One who leads us *to* the Father.

"He is the *Jacob's Ladder* upon which passes all that traffic of God to man and man to God which is the meaning of our worship."
(William Nicholls)

Cover Artwork: "Jacob's Dream" (1660–1665)
by Bartolomé Esteban Murillo

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God
with Us
the wondrous
mystery

A Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols
30th Annual Celebration at First Evan

December 9, 2018

Presented by

First Evan *Worship Choir* with Orchestra
Soloists and Readers from the Congregation

Orchestral Prelude

Finale from *Symphony No. 3*

C. Saint-Saëns

Choral Introit

“See Amid the Winter's Snow”

(choir)

See, amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below;
See the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years.
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn, hail redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem: “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”*

Lo, within a manger lies He who built the lofty skies,
He, who, throned in light sublime, sits amid the cherubim.
*Hail thou ever blessed morn, hail, redemption's happy dawn,
Sing through all Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”*

Sacred infant, all divine, what a tender love was Thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss, down to such a world as this!
*Hail thou ever-blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem, “Christ is born in Bethlehem.”*

Carol

(all, standing)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O, come ye, to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him, born the King of angels;
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
With joy we embrace Thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.***

**Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning!
Jesus to Thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Amen!***

(please be seated)

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Cole Huffman, Senior Pastor

Interlude

"Sussex Carol"

*Dan Gilbert, violin
Leesa Wilkinson, piano*

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring,
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth!

Lesson #1
The Promise of GOD WITH US

Genesis 3:8-15

“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”

(all, standing)

**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.**

**Come to us, redeem and cleanse us,
Show us mercy, grant us peace.
Heir unto the throne of David, fear and strife shall ever cease.
By Thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

**Israel’s strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation, joy of every longing heart!**

(please be seated)

Lesson #2
The Longing for GOD WITH US

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

“He Shall Reign Forevermore”

In the bleak midwinter all creation groans
For a world in darkness, frozen like a stone.
Light is breaking, in a stable for a throne.

*And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
Unto us a Child is born, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.*

If I were a wise man, I would travel far.
And if I were a shepherd, I would do my part.
But poor as I am, I will give to Him my heart.

*And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.
Unto us a Child is born, the King of kings and Lord of lords.
And He shall reign forevermore, forevermore.*

Here within a manger lies the One Who made the starry skies,
This Baby born for sacrifice; Christ, the Messiah.
Into our hopes, into our fears, the Savior of the world appears;
The Promise of eternal years—Christ, the Messiah! *(chorus)*

Lesson #3 The Expectation of GOD WITH US

Luke 1:26-27, 30-35, 38

*The same Spirit at work in Mary's womb was also at work in her heart.
The first miracle of Christmas is the regeneration of Mary. (Michael Horton)*

“Breath of Heaven”

Shekinah Toebbe, solo

I have traveled many moonless nights,
Cold and weary with a babe inside.
And I wonder what I've done.
Holy Father, You have come
And chosen me now to carry Your Son.

I am waiting in a silent prayer,
I am frightened by the load I bear.
In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?
Be with me now, be with me now.

*Breath of Heaven, hold me together,
Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,
Pour over me your holiness, for You are holy,
Breath of Heaven.*

Do You wonder as You watch my face
If a wiser one should have had my place?
But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan.
Help me be strong,...help me be...help me.

*Breath of Heaven, hold me together,
Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven.
Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness,
Pour over me your holiness, for You are holy,
Breath of Heaven.*

Lesson #4
The Joy of GOD WITH US

Luke 2:1-7

“Jesus, Joy of the Highest Heaven”

*Carter, Amelia and Luke Boer
Jane, Clemens and Hazel Russell*

Jesus, Joy of the highest Heaven,
Born as a little baby under a wondrous star.
Like us, crying, He takes His first breath,
Held by His mother, helpless, close to her beating heart.

*Jesus, laid in a lowly manger, facing a world of dangers;
Come to turn me, a stranger, into a child of God.*

Jesus, King of the highest Heaven,
Learning to take His first steps that He might bring us life.
Like us, knowing our smiles and our sorrows,
He showed the way to follow, a way that is true and right.

*Jesus, take away every darkness; steady my simple footsteps
That I might, in Your goodness, live as a child of God.*

Lesson #5

The Celebration of GOD WITH US

Luke 2:8-12

“Somethin's Up (Down In Bethlehem)”

Ephie Johnson, solo

Angels told the shepherds; shepherds spread the news around.
The long awaited Son of David just arrived in town.
Everybody's welcome; let's go and see the King,
Emmanuel, God with us; let heaven and nature sing!

*Somethin's up down in Bethlehem!
Hope has come, bringing peace and good will to men.
In a manger is born a Savior; come and worship Him.
Oh, somethin's up down in Bethlehem.*

We've all heard the story; now it's time to tell the world,
All creation, every nation, each man, woman, boy, and girl.
Oh, look inside the stable and find a brand new start.
Celebrate salvation; let Him in your heart! *(refrain)*

How great our joy! Joy, joy, joy!
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high, in heaven on high!

Lesson #6

The Celebration of GOD WITH US

Luke 2:13-14

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

(all, standing)

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim.
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold Him come,
Offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh, the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity;
Pleased as man with men to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

**Hail the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

(choir)
*Hark! The herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King, newborn King!"
(please be seated)*

Lesson #7

The Hope of GOD WITH US

Luke 2:15-18

"Suo-Gan"

(Welsh Carol, lyrics by Christian Man)

(choir)

**Lo, a child, born of Mary, rests this night in Bethlehem.
Bowing here before His countenance,
Magi, shepherds, ox and lamb.
Come, O wanderers, come, O restless,
Here your riven soul shall mend!
Fixed between the constellations,
Heaven's own light shall guide you there.**

Nothing for your journey taking,
Bread and money leave behind.
He who calls you shall sustain you:
All your needs His power shall meet.
Rise you now, O risen Christian,
Tarry not, O hasten there!
By the Christ-child's lowly manger,
Kneel and laud the newborn King!

Make your way in blessed communion
With your neighbor and your kin.
These, His people, these, His body:
God's own saints will go with you!
Through the tempest, through the desert,
Hand in hand your way shall be.
Go in victory! Go, rejoicing!
Let your songs outlast the night!

Lesson #8

The Delight of GOD WITH US

Luke 2:19-20

"Sussex Carol"

English Carol

(choir)

On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring;
On Christmas night all Christians sing,
To hear the news the angels bring:
News of great joy, news of great mirth,
News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad;
Then why should men on earth be so sad,
Since our Redeemer made us glad;
When from our sin He set us free,
All for to gain our liberty.

When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place.
When sin departs before His grace,
Then life and health come in its place;
Angels and men with joy may sing,
All for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light,
Which made the angels sing this night:
Then out of darkness we have light
Which made the angels sing this night,
“Glory to God in highest heaven,
Now and forevermore,” Amen!
Now and forevermore,
Now and forevermore, Amen!

Lesson #9
The Offer of GOD WITH US

1 John 4:9-10; John 3:16

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

JemmiLou Rye Rushing & Timothy Marsh, soloists

Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.

*Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus, offering what for sacred sign?*

*Love will be our token; love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and to all men, love for Heaven's Gift and sign.*

Love divine,
Love was born at Christmas. Star and angels gave the sign.

*Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus; through our hearts may His love shine.
Love will be the sacred sign.*

Lesson #10
The Wonder of GOD WITH US

Colossians 1:26-27

“Come Behold the Wondrous Mystery”

(all, standing)

**Come behold the wondrous mystery,
In the dawning of the King.
He, the theme of heaven’s praises, robed in frail humanity.
In our longing, in our darkness,
Now the light of life has come.
Look to Christ, who condescended,
Took on flesh to ransom us.**

**Come behold the wondrous mystery,
He, the perfect Son of Man.
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin.
See the true and better Adam
Come to save the hell-bound man.
Christ, the great and sure fulfillment
Of the law; in Him we stand.**

**Come, behold the wondrous mystery,
Christ the Lord, upon the tree.
In the stead of ruined sinners hangs the Lamb in victory.
See the price of our redemption;
See the Father’s plan unfold,
Bringing many sons to glory,
Grace unmeasured, love untold.**

**Come behold the wondrous mystery,
Slain by death the God of life,
But no grave could e’er restrain Him, praise the Lord! He is alive!
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope,
Christ in power, resurrected as we will be when He comes!
What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope,
Christ in power, resurrected as we will be when He comes!**

(please be seated)

Message

Cole Huffman, Senior Pastor



“I AM”

This performance of "I AM" is dedicated to Bob Westbrook, who first introduced the anthem to the choir and congregation of First Evan in 1983.

(choir)

I Am, I Am, I Am the Great I Am!

I Am the root of David, the Bright and Morning Star.
I Am the Lion of Judah. I Am, I Am.

I Am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End.
The First and the Last. I Am, I Am the great I Am.

I Am faithful and true. I Am the Word of God,
I Am the Lamb, I Am the Spotless Lamb, I Am.

I Am the Resurrection, and He that lives.
I Am alive forever. Amen! Amen!

I Am King of kings and Lord of lords. I Am Holy, Holy Lord.
God Almighty which was and is, and is to come.

I Am faithful and true. I Am the Word of God.
I Am the Lamb, I Am the Spotless Lamb.
I Am God Almighty which was, and is, and is to come.
I Am, I Am that I Am. I Am!
I am the great I Am!

“All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name”

(all, standing)

**All hail the power of Jesus' Name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem,
And crown Him Lord of all!**

(choir)

*Crown Him! Crown Him!
Crown Him Lord of all! Crown Him!*

(all)

**O that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall.
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song,
And crown Him Lord of all!
Amen!**

Benediction



First Evan Worship Choir

Ron Man, Director, Missionary in Residence

Carolyn Agapos	Jamie Henwood	Rachel Rogers
David Allen	Eddy Herbert	JemmiLou Rushing
Judy Baird	Chip Hill	Lily Russell
Becky Banks	Lorinda Hill	Chris Scholik
Martha Banks	John Hodges	Phil Sistrunk
Mallory Berry	Bernie Housholder	Hugh Spell
Teresa Blanton	Eileen Hughes	Jan Spurlin
Ken Boer	Buddy Jones	Shirley St. Hilaire
Allan Bowden	Rick Jordan	Kellye Stelling
Heidi Branam	Sally Klinke	Annette Stevenson
Sara Butler	Linda Lambert	Barbara Stewart
Wanda Cheatham	Colleen Lipscomb	Myrna Storck
Sara Coates	Christian Man	Christie Taylor
Linda Cook	Timothy Marsh	Greg Thompson
Twyla Dixon	Peggy Massey	Debora Thurman
Lauren Duffy	Mark McKenzie	Dan Torvik
Jeff Fendley	John McWhorter	Daryl Vrbas
April Fichthorn	Dena Miller	Harlon Walker
Barbara Flanagan	Daniel Newman	Janie Walker
Loren Friesen	Kelli Owens	Sharon Wappler
Beverly Garrison	Kathy Orr	Sharon White
GlynnAnn Goss	Francie Ozier	Leesa Wilkinson
Deborah Graves	Calvin Ozier	Susanna Winter
Charlie Hammond	Celie Ozier	Sara Wright
Nancy Hart	Bonnie Roelofs	
Glenda Hartmann	John Roelofs	

Orchestra

Members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and friends
Bob Westbrook, Contractor

Instrumentalists from First Evan

Bass	Betsy Man	Keyboard	Ken Boer
Baritone Sax	Lori Ingram	Organ	Trent England
Cello	Sarah Nowlin	Piano	Jamie Scholik
French Horn	Doris Shifflette		Leesa Wilkinson
Bass Guitar	Brandon Herrington	Violin	Rachael Boer
Electric Guitar	Shekinah Toebbe		Daniel Gilbert
Guitar	Dan Frazier		Lori Gilbert

Readers

Lesson	9:00 a.m.	10:45 a.m.
1.	Don Van, Vietnam	Kelly Hall
2.	Vivian Danis, Netherlands	Larry Parrish
3.	Francie Leslie, Brazil	Maureen Andrews
4.	Hans-Martin Herz, Germany	Collier Hill
5.	Grace Vester, India	Sue Gail Tackett
6.	Jalila Kumtor, South Sudan	John Cal Ozier
7.	Steven Yeo, South Korea	Hayden Thornton
8.	Sheila Battle, Canada	Dawn Kaercher
9.	Pablo Varela, Argentina	Micah Zywicki
10.	Betty Baird, Jamaica	John Payne

The Lord has blessed our church with a wonderful diversity of people, reflected as we honor those in our midst who are from other countries by having them read the Lessons during the 9:00 a.m. service. We want to also give testimony thereby to the fact that Jesus came into the world for ALL the peoples of the earth. At the 10:45 a.m. service we are using readers from a broad spectrum of age groups in our congregation.

Special Thanks

Church Decorations

Amy Irvine, Edie Bateman, Carolyn Bowden, Jan Carrier, JoAnne Clark, Tonya Escue, Jamie Henwood, Jean Hoppe, Jenny Jackson, Sally Klinke, Amy Person, Patsy Wheeler, Nancy Whitaker, Millie Young, First Evan Maintenance Staff

Program Design/Layout

Jan Spurlin, Guy Stieferman

Soloists

Ephie Johnson, Shekinah Toebbe, JemmiLou Rye Rushing, Timothy Marsh

Sound

Chris Godoy, Ryan Wiley

Worship Ministry Assistants

April Fichthorn, Jan Spurlin

Seasonal Calendar

This Morning

International Brunch

10:30 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Sunday, December 16

Regular Schedule

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

Elementary Children worship with parents
Regular Programs for Nursery and Preschool

Evening Service, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 23

No Sunday School

Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

Elementary and Preschool Children worship with parents
Child care: 2 years old and under

No Evening Service

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

with Children's Nativity

Child care: 2 years old and under

December 24–29, and January 1, 2019

Church offices closed.

For year-end giving, the Finance Office will be open

December 28, 30 and 31 until 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 30

No Sunday School

Worship Service, 10:45 a.m.

Elementary and Preschool Children worship with parents
Child care: 2 years old and under

No Evening Service

Offering chests are located at all the main entrances, or you may give through our app or online: www.firstevan.org/giving.