



# First Presbyterian Church



Serving Christ and Neighbor in the Heart of Winchester & Beyond

# The Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

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Virtual Worship ★ Christmas Eve ★ December 24, 2020

*Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* is the Christmas Eve service held in King's College Chapel at the University of Cambridge, located in the United Kingdom. The Festival was introduced in 1918 to bring a more imaginative approach to worship. It was first broadcast in 1928 and is now broadcast to millions of people around the world. The service includes carols and readings from the Bible. The opening carol is always 'Once in Royal David's City', and there is always a new, specially commissioned carol. It is distinct from Carols from King's, which is a carol service pre-recorded for BBC television, also broadcast on Christmas Eve.

## Gathering

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### PRELUDE MUSIC

"In dulci jubilo"	Pat Byers, pipe organ	Max Drischner
"Joy to the World"		
"A la Nanita Nana"	Jen Galang, flute	Robert Powell
"What Child Is This"	Amy Bowman, piano	Thompson
"Reflections of the Nativity"	Colin and Julia Watts, violin duet	Scott Staidle
"Once Again My Heart Rejoices"		
"O Come Little Children"	Jen Galang, flute	arranged by B. Wayne Bisbee

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**PROCESSIONAL CAROL, #140** "Once in Royal David's City" **IRBY**

Caroline Aikens, v. 1 solo | Caroline, Kimberly, and Sofia Aikens, vv. 2-3 trio

**1** Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild;  
Jesus Christ, her little child.

**2** He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor and meek and lowly,  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

**3** Jesus is our childhood's pattern;  
day by day like us he grew;  
he was little, weak and helpless;  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
and he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.

# The Lighting of the Christ Candle

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## A BIDDING PRAYER

**Leader:** Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Leader:** These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

**All:** **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## BIDDING CAROL, HYMN #133, VV. 1-2, 4

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

Morgan Myers, soprano | Pat Byers, pipe organ

1 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!

2 True God from true God,  
Light from light eternal,

born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

very God, begotten, not created!

O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;

O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;  
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!

## The Nine Lessons

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**FIRST LESSON** *God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head. Genesis 3:8-15* (The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr.)

**CAROL #82, VV. 1-2** "Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus" **HYFRYDOL**  
MiKayla Hatfield, soprano | Amy Bowman, piano

1 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.

2 Born thy people to deliver,  
born a child and yet a king,  
born to reign in us forever,  
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.

**SECOND LESSON** *God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed. Genesis 22:15-18* (The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas)

**SONG** "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" **Natalie Sleeth**  
Morgan Myers, soprano | Jen Galang, flute | Amy Bowman, piano

**THIRD LESSON** *Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah. Isaiah 9:2, 6-7* (Josh Corsnitz)

**CAROL #129, VV. 1-2** "Lo, How Rose E'er Blooming" **ES IST EIN' ROS'**  
Cheryl Costello, soprano and guitar

1 Lo, how a rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung,  
of Jesse's lineage coming,  
by faithful prophets sung.  
It came, a floweret bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

2 Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the rose I have in mind;  
with Mary we behold it,  
the virgin mother kind.  
To show God's love aright  
she bore for us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

**FOURTH LESSON** *The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown. Isaiah 11:1-9.* (Carrie Warner)

**CAROL #108, VV.1 & 4** "Of the Father's Love Begotten" **DIVINUM MYSTERIUM**  
Colin Watts, tenor | Julia Watts, handbell

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

**4** 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!

**FIFTH LESSON** *The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem. Micah 5:2-4*  
(The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr.)

**SONG** "Who Would Have Dreamed" **Bob Kauflin / Jason Hansen**  
Mikayla Hatfield, soprano | Amy Bowman, piano

**SIXTH LESSON** *The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary. Luke 1:26-38*  
(The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas)

**SONG** "Mary Did You Know?" **Greene Lee Rufus / Lowry Mark Alan**  
Katie Volkmann, soprano | Amy Bowman, piano

**SEVENTH LESSON** *Luke tells the birth of Jesus. Luke 2:1-7* (The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas)

**CAROL #118, VV.1-2** "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night" **CHRISTMAS**  
Sandy Tromm, soprano | Pat Byers, pipe organ

**1** While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,  
the angel of the Lord came down,  
and glory shone around, and glory shone around

**2** "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind:  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring  
to you and humankind, to you and humankind.

**EIGHTH LESSON** *The shepherds go to the manger. Luke 2:8-16*

*(Carrie Warner)*

**CAROL #119, VV. 1-3,** "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

**MENDELSSOHN**

Mikayla Hatfield, soprano | Amy Bowman, piano

1 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!"

2 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 in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn king!"

**NINTH LESSON** *John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation. John 1:1-14*

*(The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr.)*

**SONG** "Light of the World"

Allie Swiger, soprano | Amy Bowman, piano

Lauren Daigle

**SERMON** The Rev. Dr. Dan McCoig Jr.

## OFFERING

*Tonight's Christmas Eve offering provides a special opportunity to help those in need through First Presbyterian's Helper Fund. Tonight's offering will go directly to give emergency assistance to our neighbors in need. First Presbyterian's generous donations this year have helped more than 380 individuals and families keep the lights on, keep a roof over their head, and ease their financial burden. Thank you for continuing to provide hope to our neighbors in need.*



### OFFERTORY "Gesù, Bambino"

Pam Keim, soprano | Pat Byers, pipe organ

Pietro Yon

## PRAYER AND BLESSING The Rev. Amanda Maguire Thomas

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may, with sure confidence, behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. Amen.

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

## CAROL #122, "Silent Night"

STILLE NACHT

v.1, Caroline Aikens, solo | vv.2-4, Kimberly, Sofia, and Caroline Aikens, trio

1 Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace,  
sleep in heavenly peace.

2 Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight;  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

3 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.

4 Silent night, holy night  
Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing,  
Alleluia to our King:  
Christ the Savior is born,  
Christ the Savior is born!

## POSTLUDE "Noel" Pat Byers, pipe organ

Daquin

# Merry Christmas

*Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.*

*Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.*

*May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen.*

Robert Louis Stevenson (1850-1894)

Continue your Christmas with First Presbyterian Church, and join us virtually on Sunday, December 27 at 10 am, and every Sunday after Christmas—LIVE!

We invite you to make First Presbyterian Church your virtual home during these times.

You can find our worship videos and devotionals on our website

[fpcwinc.org/virtual](https://fpcwinc.org/virtual)

Facebook page

[@firstpresbyterianchurchwinchester](https://www.facebook.com/firstpresbyterianchurchwinchester)

YouTube Channel

[@firstpreswinc](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

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