

CANDLELIGHT LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 24, 2019



WHITE MEMORIAL
— PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH —

Candlelight Lessons & Carols Service

December 24, 2019

6:00 & 11:00 p.m.

While the tradition of Lessons and Carols has evolved since the model service was held in 1918, the Scriptures and music still help us to trace the loving purposes of God from prophecy through fulfillment.

Greeting

One: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

All: Oh, come, let us adore him.

One: Let us prepare for worship.

Preparation for Worship

The church rejoices in Christ's first coming and eagerly looks forward to Christ's coming again. We pray for the coming of Christ in glory, even as we give thanks for the mystery of God with us, Emmanuel.

Prelude

La Nativité

In the Bleak Midwinter

In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 608

Chorale Prelude on Silent Night

Greensleeves

Rhapsody on Christmas Themes

Jean Langlais

arr. Allen Orton Gibbs

Johann Sebastian Bach

Samuel Barber

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Eugène Gigout

Our prelude music tonight features organ compositions on Christmas carols. French composer Jean Langlais' *La Nativité* evokes a musical image of the manger scene, using different sections and melodies for the angels, the shepherds, and the holy family. It is from that scene that we journey through the different carols, beginning with *In the Bleak Midwinter* and ending with *Angels We Have Heard on High*.

Christian Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship and Lighting of the Christ Candle (all singing)

tune: ABERYSTWYTH; text: J. Bowring (Hymn 97, stanza 3)

Watchman, tell us of the night, for the morning seems to dawn.

Trav'ler, shadows take their flight; doubt and terror are withdrawn.

Watchman, you may go your way; hasten to your quiet home.

Trav'ler, we rejoice today, for Emmanuel has come!

One: Our journey to Bethlehem has brought us to this place;

All: along the way hope, peace, joy and love have sustained us.

One: Even as we celebrate the nativity of our Lord, we recognize this is only a brief resting place on our larger journey of faith.

All: Emmanuel, God with us, enter our hearts we pray in the sharing of scripture, the singing of carols and the meditation of your Word.

Bidding Prayer

adapted from King's College Lessons and Carols Service

One: We have gathered to hear, in readings from the Holy Scriptures, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. We rehearse again the account of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to the glorious redemption brought to us by our Lord Jesus Christ. We rejoice, in carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. But first let us pray for the needs of God's whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth.

All: Let us remember the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind, them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children, and all who do not know the loving kindness of the Lord.

One: We also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number; whose hope was in the Word made flesh.

All: Almighty God, lead us to live our lives, trusting in your abundant grace, seeking to live in unity and fellowship with all your people and reverent of all that you have made, to the glory of Jesus, our Lord, Amen.

Processional Carol 140 – Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Please remain seated until stanza 2.

Stanza 1: Soloist

Stanzas 2-4: **ALL**

The First Lesson – Genesis 3:8-15; pew Bible p. 3

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

The Second Lesson – Genesis 22:15-18, pew Bible, p. 17

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

***Carol 123** – *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

CAROL

Stanza 1: **ALL**

Stanza 2: **High Voices**

Stanza 3: **ALL**

Stanza 4: **Low Voices**

Stanza 5: **ALL**

The Third Lesson – Isaiah 9:2-7, pew Bible p. 600

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Anthem – *I Wonder as I Wander*

(6:00) arr. John Rutter; (11:00) arr. Fred Gramann

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die, for poor or 'n'ry people like you and like I: I wonder as I wander, out under the sky. When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cow's stall, with wisemen and farmers and shepherds and all. But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of angels it then did recall. If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing: a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing; or all of God's angels in heaven to sing, he surely could have had it, 'cause he was the King!

The Fourth Lesson – Isaiah 11:1-9, pew Bible, p. 602

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

Anthem – *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

(6:00) arr. Hugo Distler

(11:00) arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

For anthem text see Hymn 129

The Fifth Lesson - Luke 1:26-38, pew Bible, p. 53

An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

***The Sixth Lesson** - Luke 2:1-7; pew Bible p. 54

Read in unison

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

ALL: In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

***Carol 121** – *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

The Seventh Lesson - Luke 2:8-16, pew Bible, p. 54

Angels appear to the shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.

Anthem – *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

(6:00) arr. Gerre Hancock

(11:00) arr. Susan Rucker

For anthem text see Hymn 128

The Eighth Lesson - Matthew 2:1-11, pew Bible, p. 1

Led by the star, wise men from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.

Christmas Eve Meditation

Christmas Eve Offering

Offertory Anthem

(6:00) *Where Riches Is Everlastingly*

Bob Chilcott

Into this world this day did come Jesus Christ both God and man, Lord and servant in one person, born of the blessed Virgin Mary. I pray you be merry and sing with me in worship of Christ's nativity. He that was rich without a need appeared in this world in right poor weed to make us that were poor indeed, rich without any need truly. A stable was his chamber, a crib was his bed, he had not a pillow under his head; with maiden's milk that babe was fed, in poor clothes was wrapped the Lord Almighty. A noble lesson here is taught, to set all worldly riches at naught, but pray that we may be thither brought where riches is everlastingly.

(11:00) *Sussex Carol*

arr. Philip Young

See Hymn 112

***Carol 133** – *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELIS

Prayer for Peace and Goodwill and the Lord's Prayer (in 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 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.

The Ninth Lesson – John 1:1-5, 14, pew Bible, p. 86

The Word of God becomes flesh and lives among us, full of grace and truth.

Lighting of the Candles

Carol 122 – *Silent Night, Holy Night*
(6:00) Introduced by vocal choir
(11:00) Introduced by handbell choir

STILLE NACHT
arr. Edward Chapman
arr. Betty Garree

Sing when directed:

**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.**

**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."**

**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! 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.**

Please hum an additional stanza.

Raise your candles when invited. Extinguish your candles when the next hymn begins.

***Christmas Blessing and Benediction**

Carol 134 – *Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! The Lord is 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! The Savior reigns: let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**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.**

***The Chiming of the Trinity**

Please return all candles and candle holders to the containers provided. Thank you.

***Postlude - Paeon on DIVINUM MYSTERIUM**

John Cook

Please be mindful of those who remain to listen to the postlude.

Announcements

Welcome to worship at White Memorial Presbyterian Church! We are particularly glad to have visitors with us. If you would like more information about White Memorial or are interested in membership, contact Elizabeth Viohl at eviohl@whitememorial.org.

Please silence cell phones and pagers, and please do not take photographs during worship.

Family Restrooms are located on the hallway to Jane Bell Gathering Space on the Pulpit side and also on the first floor of the Luther Building.

Thank you to the ushers, greeters and treasurer's assistants who are serving this evening.

The offering this evening goes to Christmas Share to support community and global missions. Our offerings support children and youth at risk, families in crisis, those who are in danger of not having enough food to eat and those not living in adequate housing. Our global mission partners share the good news of the gospel in Haiti, the Middle East, Poland and Russia.

Musicians:

(6:00) Members of the Youth, Chancel, Sanctuary and Seasonal Choirs

(11:00) Members of the Handbell Choir

Soloists for *Once in Royal David's City*:

(6:00) Sydney Coll

(11:00) Emma Claire Anderson and Molly Wyatt

Worship Leaders

Christopher Edmonston, Pastor
Tracey Daniel, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation
Jim Ferry, Parish Associate
Kirsten Homdrom, Associate Director of Music
Gloria Johnson, Associate Pastor for Outreach
Chip Pope, Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families
Karl Zinsmeister, Director of Music

Pastoral and Program Staff

Christopher Edmonston, Pastor
Andrew Amodei, Executive Director
Cynthia Baggett, Director of Weekday School
Levi Bannerman, Assistant Director of Youth Ministry
Genevieve Brooks, Director of Youth Ministry
Cate Church Norman, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care
Tracey Daniel, Associate Pastor for Faith Formation
Brock Downward, Director of Music Emeritus
Jim Ferry, Parish Associate
Kelly Gold, Director of Children's and Youth Music
Kirsten Homdrom, Associate Director of Music
Kathy Howell, Communications Director

Gloria Johnson, Associate Pastor for Outreach
Linda Nunnallee, StepUp Director
Chip Pope, Associate Pastor for Youth and Their Families
Grier Richards, Associate Pastor for Discipleship
Rich Richards, Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts
Art Ross, Pastor Emeritus
Judy Yates, Siker, Parish Associate
Lynn Springfield, Director of Elementary Ministry
Martha Stevenson, Educator Emerita
Gwen Whiteman, Director of Young Children's Ministry
Jean Williams, Parish Nurse
Karl Zinsmeister, Director of Music

Holiday Worship Schedule

Sunday, December 29, 2019
8:00 a.m. & 10:00 a.m.
Integrated Sanctuary/OnPoint @1704 Worship
Sanctuary

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