



### About this Service

The readings and songs of this service begin with the fall of Adam's race in the Garden of Eden, through the prophetic promises of salvation made to Israel and lead into the gospel announcement of the Savior's birth: The Ninth Lesson is the culmination of the service as it announces the coming of the Word made flesh. We will end with singing "Silent Night" and lighting individual candles as we spread the light.

# Christmas Eve

A Festival of Lessons & Carols

December 24<sup>th</sup> 2010, 7:00pm

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GRACE & PEACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH





# Christmas Eve

## A Festival of Lessons and Carols

*The entire service will proceed unannounced*



### Prelude (6:15pm)

(See Program for Prelude in the back of the folder)

### Welcome, Announcements and Brief Silence

### Choral Introit Puer Natus (14th cent. Hymn)

Anonymous

*Puer natus in Bethlehem,  
Unde gaudet Jerusalem,  
alleluia.*

**Refrain:**  
*In cordis jubilo,  
Christum natum adoremus  
Cum novo cantico.*

*Assumpsit carnem Filius,  
Dei Patris altissimus,  
alleluia.*

**Refrain**  
*Per Gabrielem nuntium,  
Virgo concepit Filium,  
alleluia.*

**Refrain**

A child is born in Bethlehem,  
Exult for joy, Jerusalem,  
hallelujah. [*Praise to JHWH*]

**Refrain:**  
With an exultant heart,  
let us adore the new-born Christ,  
with a new song.

The Son of God the Father,  
In the highest has taken flesh,  
hallelujah.

**Refrain**  
By angel Gabriel announced,  
The virgin has conceived the Son.  
hallelujah.

**Refrain**

### Opening Carol:

*Hymnal # 225 Once in Royal David's City* (4th stanza unaccompanied)

Congregation

IRBY

### Call to Worship and Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, we come to this service to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see the loving-kindness of our God, and the Babe lying in the manger. Let us therefore mark in Holy Scripture the earliest report of that disobedience to God's holy will, which is common to us all; and then the story of the promised advent and birth of Jesus Christ our Lord, to save us from our sins and make us pure; and to thank him with hymns and carols of praise:

But first let us pray:

(Congregation joins in bold face portions)

**I** bid you pray for the needs of the whole world; and especially for peace and goodwill among the people who bear his holy name; that we all may love one another in truth; that the world may see and believe in the One you have sent.

**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

### Prelude Program (6:15pm)

Josh Gardner	–	We Three Kings ( <i>Arr. Gina Sprunger</i> )
Liam Hinton	–	Joy to the World ( <i>Arr. Dennis Alexander</i> )
Josh Morrison	–	Oh Come, All Ye Faithful
Lilly Morrison	–	God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen
Nathaniel Morrison & Natalie Backhaus	–	The First Noel
Zoe Gardner	–	Silent Night ( <i>Arr. Gayle Kowalchyk</i> )
Stephen Cathey	–	O Come, O Come Emmanuel ( <i>Arr. Robert Vandall</i> )
Peri Hinton	–	The First Noel ( <i>Arr. Dennis Alexander</i> )
Liam Hinton	–	Pat-A-Pan ( <i>Arr. Dennis Alexander</i> )
Josh Gardner	–	I Wonder as I Wander ( <i>Arr. Gina Sprunger</i> )
Katie Segesdy	–	God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen ( <i>Arr. Melody Bober</i> )
Kristina Dronenburg	–	Away in a Manger
Kristina Dronenburg, Helen Gardner & Amy Wolbach	–	Joy to the World ( <i>Arr. Keith Snell</i> )
Kristina Dronenburg & Dawn Bartlett	–	The First Noel ( <i>Arr. B. Vallandingham &amp; Kristina Dronenburg</i> )
Bernard & Adina Vallandingham	–	Coventry Carol ( <i>Arr. B. Vallandingham</i> )



IHS

Pray for 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; and all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have forsaken his covenant of love:

**Lord, Hear Our Prayer.**

Give thanks to the Lord, for including us in the fellowship of those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude no one can number, with whom, in the Lord Jesus, we are one forevermore.

**Lord, Receive Our Thanks and Praise.**

The Collect for Christmas Eve

**All: O God, who makes our hearts glad by the yearly remembrance of the coming of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The Offering

Offertory Anthem

*Personent Hodie*

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing  
to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;  
him the Father gave us.

Refrain:

*Ideo-o-o, ideo-o-o, Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led;  
kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him,  
praise him and adore him.

Refrain

Chamber Vocal Ensemble & Children's Choir

*Piae Cantiones* (1582); Arr. B. Vallandingham

His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth,  
Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him  
from the cold would hide him.

Refrain

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,  
praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us;  
peace and love he gave us.

Refrain

**F**irst Lesson:

*Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19*

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise, but that the Seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Carol

*Remember O Thou Man*

Chamber Vocal Ensemble

Thomas Ravenscroft (1582-1635)

## **S**econd Lesson:

*Genesis 22:1-18*

*God promises to faithful Abraham that his seed shall be a blessing to all the nations.*

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

### Carol

*Es Ist Ein' Ros' Entsprungen*

### Chamber Vocal Ensemble

Michael Praetorius (1582-1635)

1. *Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen,  
aus einer Wurzel zart.  
Wie uns die Alten sungen,  
von Jesse war die Art.  
Und hat ein Blüm'lein 'bracht;  
mitten im kalten Winter,  
wohl zu der halben Nacht.*

2. *Das Röslein, das ich meine,  
davon Jesaia sagt:  
hat uns gebracht alleine  
Marie die reine Magd.  
Aus Gottes ew'gem Rat,  
Hat sie ein Kind geboren,  
Und blieb ein reine Magd.*

3. *Das Blümelein, so kleine,  
das duftet uns so süß;  
mit seinem hellen Scheine  
vertreibt's die Finsternis.  
Wahr'r Mensch und wahrer Gott!  
Hilft uns aus allem Leide,  
rettet von Sünd' und Tod.*

1. A rose has sprung up,  
from a tender root.  
As the old ones sang to us,  
Its lineage was from Jesse.  
And it has brought forth a floweret  
In the middle of the cold winter  
Right upon midnight.

2. The rosebud that I mean,  
Of which Isaiah told  
Is Mary, the pure,  
Who brought us the floweret.  
At God's immortal word,  
She has borne a child  
Remaining a pure maid.

3. The floweret, so small  
That smells so sweet to us  
With its clear light  
Dispels the darkness.  
True man and true God!  
He helps us from all trouble,  
Saves us from sin and death.

## **T**hird Lesson:

*Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

*Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.*

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

### Carol

*Hymnal #207 - Good Christian Men Rejoice*

Congregation  
IN DULCI JUBILO

## Sermon:

Choosing Your Relatives

The Reverend Dr. S. Edd Cathey

### Hymn

*Hymnal #208 - O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Congregation

ADESTE FIDELES

### Benediction

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, the love of Christ, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit remain with you always.

Congregation: **Amen!**

### Closing Carol (Candle Lighting)

*Silent Night*

Congregation

STILLE NACHT

*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,*

*Heav'nly 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.*

### Postlude

Romanian Carol: *Trei Crai de la Răsărit (Wise Men from the East)* arr. for Two Violins

Please remain quietly seated.

## **E**ighth Lesson:

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

*Matthew 2:1-11*

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Gradual Hymn (Stanzas 1-4)  
*Hymnal #226 - As With Gladness Men of Old*

Congregation  
DIX

## **N**inth Lesson:

(The ninth lesson is read in the midst of the congregation to symbolize the coming of Christ, the Word in our midst)

*Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.*

*John 1:1-14*

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it. There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God--children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Minister: **The Word of the Lord.**

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Gradual Hymn (Stanza 5)  
*Hymnal #226 - As With Gladness Men of Old*

Congregation  
DIX

## **F**ourth Lesson:

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.*

*Micah 5:2-4*

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Carol  
*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Congregation  
FOREST GREEN



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie;  
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; And gath - ered all a - bove,  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly The wond'rous gift is giv'n!  
4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py Pray to the bless - ed Child,  
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, De - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream less sleep The si - lent stars go by:  
While mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep Their watch of won - dering love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.  
Where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
Cast out our sin, and en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing light;  
O morn - ing stars to - geth - er Pro - claim the ho - ly birth;  
No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this world of sin,  
Where char - i - ty stands watch - ing And faith holds wide the door,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.  
And prais - es sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.  
Where meek souls will re - ceive him still, The dear Christ en - ters in.  
The dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, And Christ mas comes once more.  
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el.

# Fifth Lesson:

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Carol  
God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

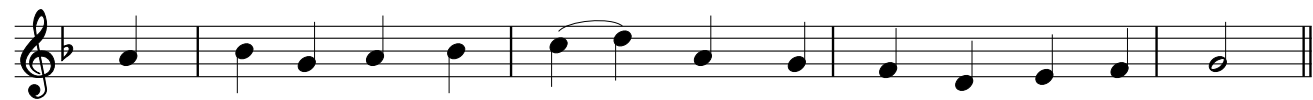
Congregation  
GOD REST YOU MERRY



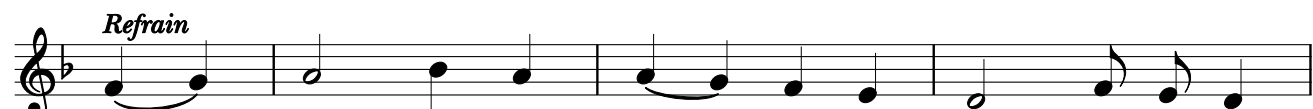
1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;  
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,  
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:  
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.  
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."  
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

# Sixth Lesson:

Matthew 1:18-25

Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

## Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Carol  
The First Nowell

Congregation  
THE FIRST NOWELL

1. The first Nowell the angel did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Refrain*  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

2. They lookèd 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.

*Refrain*

3. And by the light of that same star  
Three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent,  
And to follow the star wherever it went.

*Refrain*

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest,  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right over the place where Jesus lay.

*Refrain*

5. Then entered in those wise men three  
Full reverently upon their knee,  
And offered there in his presence  
Their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

*Refrain*

6. 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 hath bought.

*Refrain*

# Seventh Lesson:

Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to the manger.

## Congregation: Thanks be to God!

Carol  
O Magnum Mysterium

Chamber Vocal Ensemble  
Tomás Luis de Victoria (1548-1611)

O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,  
jacentem in praesepe!  
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt  
portare Dominum Christum.  
Alleluia!

O great mystery,  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the new-born Lord,  
lying in a manger!  
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was favored  
to bear Christ the Lord.  
Alleluia!