



LESSONS and Carols



THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Fourth Sunday of Advent | Festival of Lessons & Carols

December 22, 2024

10:50 a.m.

✠ We Gather in God's Name ✠

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Bill Pollack

Lighting of the Advent Candle of Love

The Goodwin Family

Prelude

Max Jackson

Kim Whitman, flute

Ryan Whitman, trombone

Angels We Have Heard On High

John Wilson

† **Processional Hymn**

#140

Once in Royal David's City

Once in Royal David's city stood lowly cattle shed.

Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for His bed.

Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ that little child.

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.

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.

And our eyes at last shall see Him

Through His own redeeming love,

For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in Heaven above;

And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Special Music

Children's Choir

Away in a Manger

Silent Night

O Holy Night

✠ The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols ✠

Statement of Purpose

Beloved in Christ, with delight we prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see Mary and Joseph with Jesus in the manger. Let us listen to the story of God's loving purpose which traces God's saving acts from humanity's first disobedience down to the glorious redemption brought to all by this Holy Child. And let us make these hallowed walls reverberate with the glad tidings of great joy which is to all the people.

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8—15

Jan Holbrook

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

Congregational Carol

#82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

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.

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: Isaiah 9:2, 6—7

Chris Payne

God promises to faithful Abraham that through his seed the nations of the earth will be blessed.

Chancel Choir

To Abraham the Promise Came

William Walker, arr. Allen Orton Gibbs

To Abraham the promise came, and to his seed forever, a light to shine in Isaac's line by scripture we discover. Hail promised morn the Savior's born, the glorious Mediator. God's blessed Word made flesh and blood, assumed the human nature. No royal things as used by kings were seen by those that found Him. But,

(continued next page ⇨)

in the hay the stranger lay, with swaddling bands around Him.
The city's name is Bethlehem, in which God hath appointed this
glorious morn a Savior's born for Him God hath anointed.
On that same night a glorious light to shepherds there appeared,
Bright angels came in shining flame, they saw and greatly feared.
The angels said "Be not afraid, although we much alarm you,
we do appear good news to bear as now we will inform you."
When this was said, straightway was made a glorious sound from
heaven. Each flaming tongue an anthem sung, "To men a Savior's
given." In Jesus' name, the glorious theme, we elevate our
voices, at Jesus' birth be peace on earth, meanwhile all heaven
rejoices.

Third Lesson: Isaiah 11:1 – 9

Mitch Hall

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

† **Congregational Carol**

#129

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

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.

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 to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

This flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.

Enfleshed, yet very God, from sin and death He
Saves us and lightens every load.

Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2 – 4

Barb Payne

The prophet foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Congregational Carol

#121

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 thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary and, gathered 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 all on earth.

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.

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.

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26 – 35, 38

Lee Hall

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Congregational Carol

#99 (1,2,5)

My Soul Gives Glory to My God

My soul gives glory to my God; my heart pours out its praise.

God lifted up my lowliness in many marvelous ways.

My God has done great things for me: yes, holy is God's name.
All people will declare me blessed, and blessings they shall claim.

Praise God, whose loving covenant supports those in distress,
Remembering past promises with present faithfulness.

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1 – 7

Kate Hanni

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Chancel Choir

Sweet was the Song

David Ashley White

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang when she to Bethlehem
Judah came. And was delivered of a Son that blessed Jesus hath
to name: Lulla, lullaby. Sweet babe said she, my Son, also a Savior
born. Who has vouchsafed on high to visit us that were forlorn.

Lulla, lullaby, sweet babe sang she and rocked Him sweetly on
her knee. Lulla, lullaby.

Congregational Carol

#115

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8 – 16

Carli Weston

The shepherds go to the manger.

Chancel Choir

A Sound of Angels

David G. Mason

A sound of angels from afar fills all the quiet air.
And ah! How full of gladness are the tidings they bring.
The shepherds run to Bethlehem to see a wondrous sight,
The Lord of lords to earth come down is born for men tonight.
Yea, Christ is born, our heavenly King, salvation now is nigh.
So, all mankind with angels sing, "Glory to God on high."

Congregational Carol

#113

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1 – 12

David Murphy

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Chancel Choir

Arise and Hail the Glorious Star

Daniel Mason

Arise, and hail the glorious star which brought the wise men from afar: Which led them on this happy morn to see the great Messiah born. Awake! Let heavenly shouts arise, see Israel's star appear in yonder skies. Behold angelic choirs together sing! With melody the heavens ring. Good will to all mankind proclaim for Christ is born in Bethlehem. Awake! Let heavenly shouts arise, see Israel's star appear in yonder skies. With heart and voice ye nations join in from afar in songs of praise to Israel's star. Sing all ye angels from on high; shout alleluias to the sky. Awake! Let heavenly shouts arise, see Israel's star appear in yonder skies.

Offertory Acknowledgement

Special Offering – CARES

† **Doxology**

#143 (4)

All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn king!

† **Prayer of Dedication**

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1 – 14

Pastor Bill & Nanette

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

† **Recessional Hymn**

#133

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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!

Refrain: *O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!*

(continued next page ⇨)

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal He comes.
Very God, begotten, not created!

Refrain: *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.
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning.
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

Postlude

In the Bleak Midwinter
Malcolm Archer

† Charge and Blessing

† *Standing if you are able.*

LAST WEEK'S RECAP

Attendance: 61
General Offering: \$1,233.70
Backpack Ministry: \$20.00
Clean Start: \$21.00
Memorial: \$1,000.00
Pastor's Discretionary Fund: \$260.00
Poinsettias: \$150.00
Online Offering: \$752.10
Total Offering: \$3,436.80

IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

⇒ Sunday, December 22

Sunday Morning Study, 9:28 a.m. (on break until January 5)

Armchair Theologians, 9:30 a.m.

Harmony of the Gospels, 9:30 a.m. (on break until January 5)

Morning Worship, 10:50 a.m.

The Longest Night Service, 5:30 p.m.

⇒ Tuesday, December 24

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, 6:30 and 11:30 p.m.

⇒ Wednesday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

Join us for an evening of candle lighting and communion. We will

gather **Tuesday, December 24 at 6:30 and 11:30 p.m.** for a time

of worship and celebration as we remember the birth of Jesus.

Invite your friends and family to join us.

Elsie Julia Rucker Hicks Artwork on Display

Amy Crookes' mother's oil paintings will be temporarily displayed in the ACTC College Drive Campus Library following the Christmas break. Beginning January 6, 2025 these paintings will be on display for a limited time. See Bettie George with questions.



READ THROUGH THE BIBLE

“Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.” This scripture from the Psalms relates two of many reasons why we should read and study the Scriptures. Please join us as we read through the Bible in 2025. You will find the reading plan in your mailbox. Let’s make 2025 a year of the Bible. If you have any questions, see Pastor Bill.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Week ending December 19, 2024

Allyson Garnes (Pastor Bill & Nanette's great niece)
John Justice, Jr. (Jane Justice's stepson)
Wilma Montgomery (Nanette's mother)
Greg Sanders (Pastor Bill's brother-in-law)

Week ending December 12, 2024

Kathleen Filkins
Jimmy Hall
Trish Hall
The family of Brenda Presley (David Murphy's aunt)
Adrianna Riggs (traveling to India)
College Students/Finals

Week ending December 5, 2024

Gail Frazier (Nanette)
Kate Hanni
Dr. Roger Potter

Prayer requests will rotate off after three weeks. If you have an ongoing concern, please contact the church office.

Ongoing: Pastor Bill; Bill Gesling; Charlie Holbrook; Dr. Matthew Lewis; Kenny McGill; Derek Payne; Nancy Payne; Bonnie Pettijohn; Tim Shephard; Kim Whitman; Jan Winans; Ann Wiseman

Kingsbrook Care Center: Barry Barbour

The Lantern: Carolyn Graber

Woodland Oaks: Bob Miller

Military: Erik Adkins (USAF Reserves, son of Kris Adkins); Cadet Katie Brown (West Point, granddaughter of Kim & Mike Whitman); Greg Weston (Kuwait); Major Kaitlin Whitmore (US Army, niece of Don & Judy Lilly)

Puzzle!

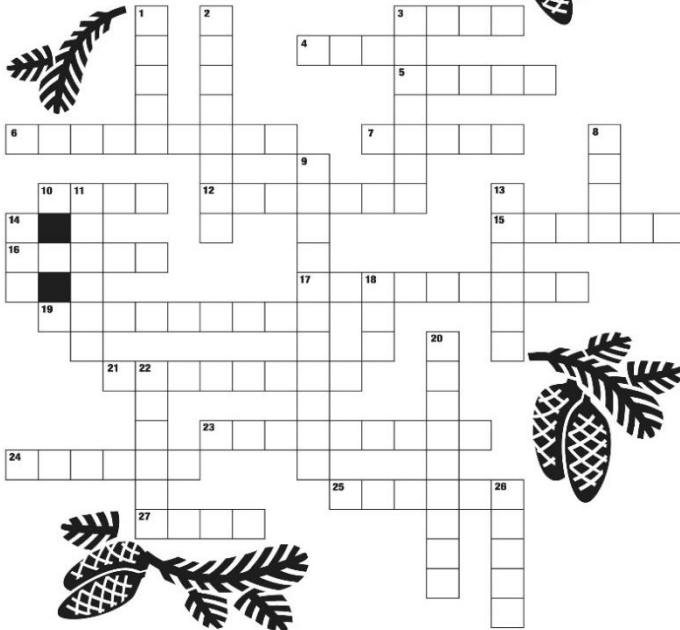
Take a break from Christmas preparations to complete this seasonal crossword.

DOWN

1. song
2. keeper of sheep
3. Anointed One
8. a gift of the magi
9. red plants
11. coming
13. Jesus _____
14. 12th month (abbrev.)
18. B&B
20. a form of holly
22. heavenly messengers
26. he ordered the slaughter of the innocents

ACROSS

3. wise men
4. author of the most famous Christmas account
5. red-suited gift-giver
6. of Ephrathah
7. presents
10. Gabriel came to her
12. has a red nose
15. "Messiah" composer
16. northern little helpers
17. patron saint of children
19. made flesh
21. home for Mary
23. tree decorations
24. crib
25. he was a carpenter
27. a nova



Answer: DOWN 1. carol, 2. shepherd, 3. Messiah, 8. gold, 9. poinsettias, 11. Advent, 13. Christ, 14. dec, 18. inn, 20. mistletoe, 22. angels, 26. Herod; ACROSS 3. magi, 4. Luke, 5. Santa, 6. Bethlehem, 7. gifts, 10. Mary, 12. Rudolph, 15. Handel, 16. elves, 17. Saint Nick, 19. incarnation, 21. Nazareth, 23. ornaments, 24. manger, 25. Joseph, 27. star

STAFF

Minister: *Rev. William Pollack*
Choirmaster/Organist: *Max Jackson*
Administrative Assistant: *Nanette Pollack*
Facilities Manager: *Glen Thomas*
Nursery Attendant: *Kara Adkins*

SESSION MEMBERS

President of Congregation: *Mitch Hall*
Secretary of Congregation/Clerk of Session: *Kelly Hanni*
Treasurer: *Cathy Wilson*

2025	2026	2027
<i>Kelly Hanni</i>	<i>Mitch Hall*</i>	<i>Jimmy Hall</i>
<i>Kim Whitman</i>	<i>Jan Holbrook</i>	<i>Lee McCloud *</i>
<i>Geri Willis</i>	<i>Ryan Whitman*</i>	<i>J.T. Norris *</i>
	*2nd term of service	

MINISTRY TEAMS

Building & Grounds: <i>Glen Thomas</i>	Membership: <i>Kim Whitman</i>
Christian Education: <i>Lee McCloud</i>	Mission: <i>Geri Willis</i>
Congregational Life: <i>Cathy Wilson</i>	Personnel: <i>Janet Holbrook</i>
Finance: <i>Trish Hall</i>	Worship: <i>Ryan Whitman</i>

To visit the church website, scan the code below.



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