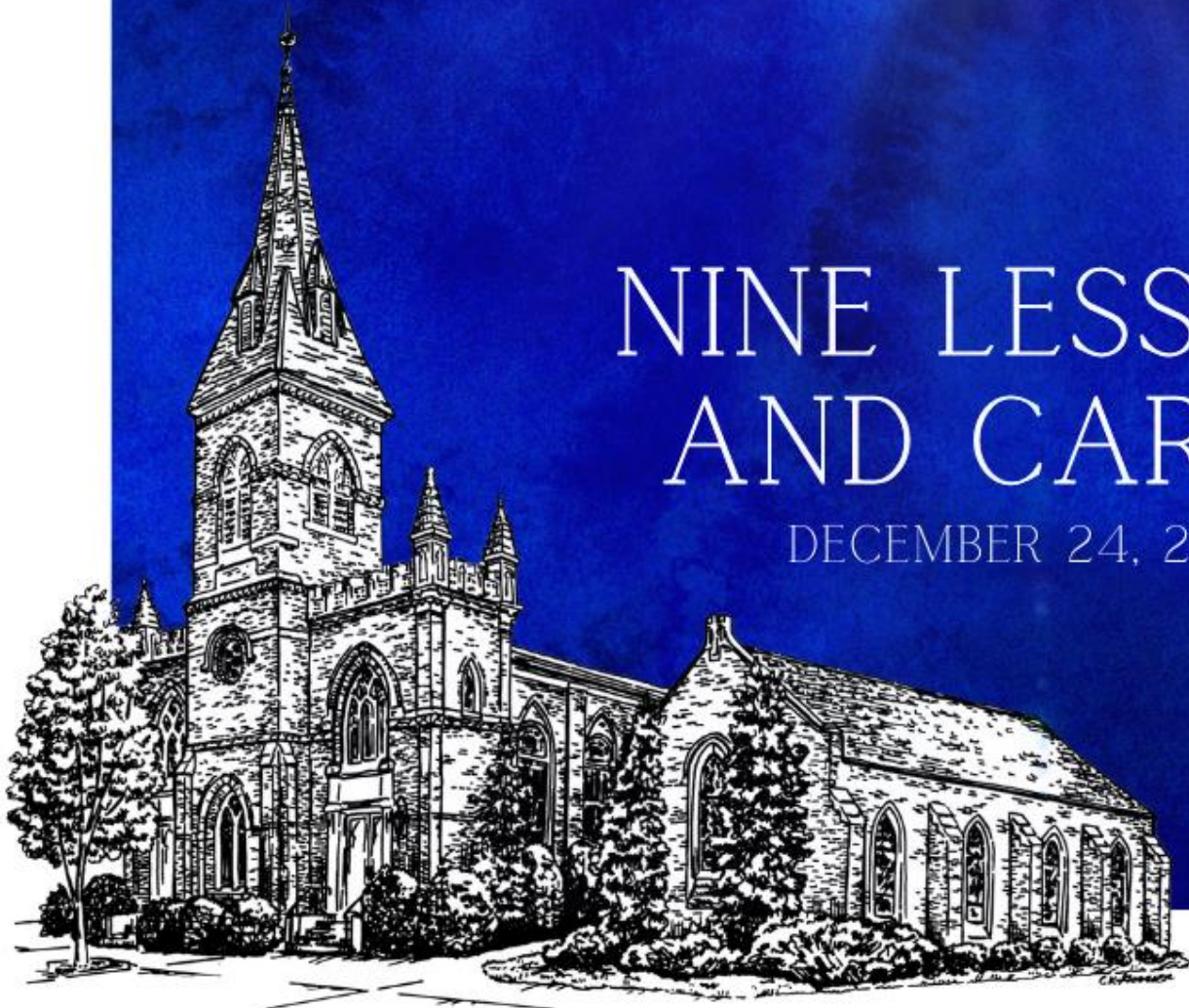


# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



## NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 24, 2024 9 PM



# The Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

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Merry Christmas to you and yours! The “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 liturgy was introduced in 1918 to bring a more imaginative approach to worship. It was originally broadcast in 1928 and is now broadcast to millions of people around the world. The service includes carols and readings from the Bible. This evening’s service is an adaptation of that original liturgy.

*The **bold print** indicates congregation standing: either in body or spirit.*

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## Gathering

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### **PRESERVICE MUSIC**

“Lo, How a Rose”

Max Drischner  
Johannes Brahms

“In Dulci Jubilo”

Max Drischner

“Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

Denis Bédard

“The First Noel”

Richard Byess, violin  
Michael Evans, viola  
Linette Taylor, cello

“See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

John Goss arr. By David Willcocks

Duet “Before the Marvel of This Night”

Vajda/Schalk

Linette Taylor and Julian Robbins

“Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”

Schop/Bach

### **CALL TO WORSHIP** (Leader)

Sing to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Sing to the LORD! Bless his name! Share the news of his saving work every single day! **Psalm 96:1-2**

**A WELCOMING CAROL, #133** “O’ Come, All Ye Faithful” Bridget Aikens, Piano **ADESTE FIDELES**

Caroline Aikens, v. 1 solo

**\* Congregation, v. 2 & 3**

**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) Sing, choirs of angels;  
sing in exultation;  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven  
above!  
Glory to God, all  
glory in the highest!**

**3) 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!**

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# The Lighting of the Christ Candle

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## OPENING PRAYER (leader)

Holy God, in this season of Christmas let us take the opportunity to quiet our hearts and minds from the hustle and bustle to rejoice in the message of the birth of the Savior. May our hearts be moved to the joy, peace, hope, and love given to all humanity in Christ.

As we hear the words of Scripture recount the purpose and love of God throughout history, may we be welcomed again to marvel at the presence of Christ humbly born in a manger. Let us rejoice in the Emmanuel, God with us.

Let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth, for the lost, the broken, the outcast: for unity within the whole church Christ came to build, and especially in this, the Winchester community.

Let us serve, in Christ's name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick, the grieving, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children. May we serve without expectation so that Christ alone is glorified.

Finally, let us rejoice alongside those whose race is won and who are now in the eternal presence of their Lord, those who were received into the loving embrace of their Savior this year and in years past. May the fulness of their hope encourage us to continue to draw upon the joy of Christ and His salvation.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader: In the sure confidence of the Incarnate Christ, let us pray as he 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.**

## LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

**\*CAROL, 134,**

**"Joy to the World" vv. 1,3, & 4**

**HANDLE**

**1 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.**

**3 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.**

**4 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.**

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# The Nine Lessons

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## FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15

CAROL 121

“O Little Town of Bethlehem” vv. 1,3

ST. LOUIS

**1** 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.

**3** 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.

## SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18

“What Child is This”

Kimberly Aikens, voice and guitar

GREENSLEEVES

## THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

\*CAROL #119, “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN

**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!”

## FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9

“The Holy Child of Mary”

The Chancel Choir

arr. Martin

Tune: Trad. English “The Holly and the Ivy” “Sans Day Carol”

## FIFTH LESSON Micah 5:2-4

“Hurry, Hurry Yonder”

The Chancel Choir

Brian Hobbs, Soloist

Douglas Wagner

## SIXTH LESSON Luke 1:26-38

**CAROL #113** “Angels, We Have Heard on High” vv. 1,2,3

French Carol

**1** 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!

**2** 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!

**3** 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!

**SEVENTH LESSON** Luke 2:1-7

\* **CAROL #118, vv.1 & 4** “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night”

**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  
**4) “The heavenly babe you there shall find**  
to human view displayed,  
all humbly wrapped in swathing bands,  
and in a manger laid,  
and in a manger laid.

**EIGHTH LESSON** Luke 2:8-16

**CAROL #147, vv. 1&2** “The First Nowell”

**1** The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

**2** They looked 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)

**Refrain:**

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,**  
born is the King of Israel.

**NINTH LESSON** John 1:1-14

“O Holy Night” Sofia Aikens, soprano

Adolphe Adam

**THE MEDITATION** The Rev. Michael Hafele

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# TONIGHT'S OFFERING



Tonight's Christmas Eve offering provides a special opportunity to help our neighbors in the Winchester area. The offering will benefit the First Presbyterian Helper Fund. The Helper Fund provides an average of \$3,500/month to assist clients in need. All proceeds go directly towards emergency funding for necessities like gas, utilities, and rent payments. This assistance can prevent eviction, electric/water cut-offs, medical emergencies, and not being able to get to work.

Thank you for supporting this ministry.

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**OFFERTORY** "O Wondrous Night" Cheryl Costello, soloist  
arr. Joseph Martin Tune: Traditional Irish, Londonderry

**PRAYER AND BLESSING (leader)**

Jesus Christ, holy child, glory of God revealed,  
by starlight we first saw your face;  
now by candlelight we sing your praise.  
Though the night is long, you are our hope.  
Though the path is dark, you lead the way.  
By your Spirit, help us to shine with the brightness of your truth  
and share the warmth of your great love,  
so that all may believe, rejoice, and give thanks,  
for you are the light of the world.

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**After the Prayer and Blessing, the sanctuary lights will be extinguished. The pastor will light a candle from the Christ candle. The ushers will light their candles from the pastor's candle and so light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The congregation will sing "Silent Night" as the light from the Christ candle spreads through all the sanctuary.**

***All are invited to lift their candles high on the singing of v.4***

v. 1 William, Bridget, Kimberly, Sofia, and Caroline Aikens | **Congregation, vv. 2-4**

**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.**

**\*Acapella 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!**

**Please extinguish your candle.**

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)

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We invite you to make First Presbyterian Church your spiritual home.

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