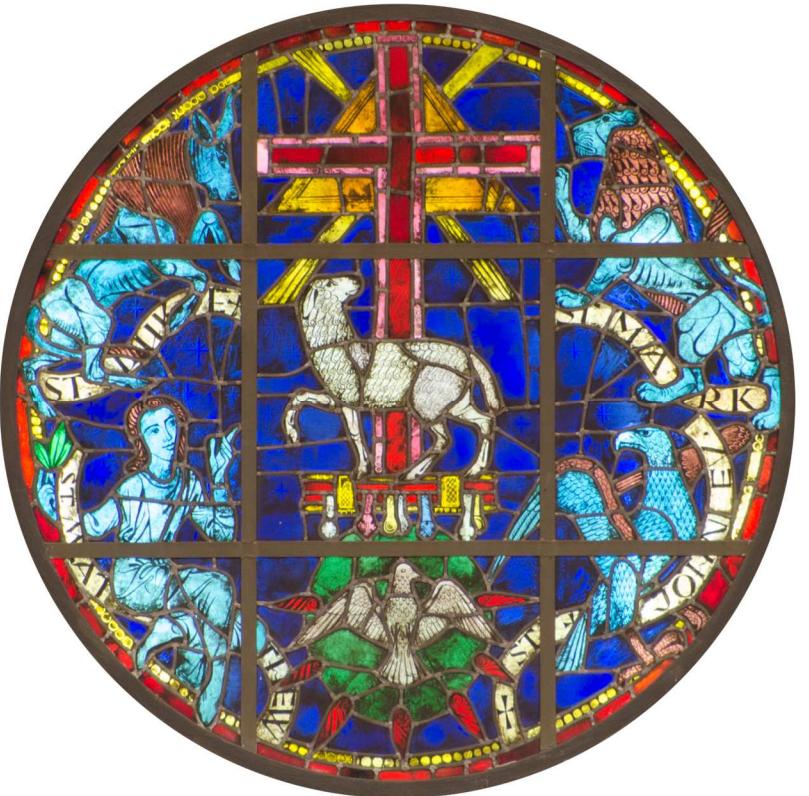


A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2022

TEN FORTY-FIVE O'CLOCK



PASTORS
REV. RAY WARREN
REV. STEPHAN MARGESON

CHILDREN'S MINISTER
MELISSA MILLER

YOUTH MINISTER
CHRIS HUNEYCUTT

MINISTER OF VISITATION
LESLIE B. PEAVY

ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
DR. MATT BRITTAINE

CHOIR DIRECTOR
DR. P. BRADLEY LOGAN

ORDER OF SERVICE

Welcome: In 1880 E. W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Truro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for Christmas Eve. In 1918 it was adapted for the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, by its Dean, Eric Milner-White, who also wrote The Bidding Prayer. The Nine Lessons given here have been customarily used in recent years at King's College. The service has been edited for United Methodist congregations.

* Please stand if you are able.

GATHERING AND COMMUNITY CONCERNS

VOLUNTARY

Variations sur 'In dulci jubilo' (1992)

Denis Bédard
(b. 1950)

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Come and rejoice in God!

People: Sing praise to God who continually blesses our lives!

Leader: In the midst of troubles and stress, God is near, offering compassion.

People: Our hope is in the Lord.

Leader: Let all the people praise God.

All: Hallelujah! AMEN.

Rev. Ray Warren

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

Congregation and Chancel Choir

Rebecca Tillman, soprano

IRBY

Solo

*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.*

Chancel Choir

*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 mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

Congregation

*And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey,
Love, and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.*

Congregation

*For he 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 feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.*

Congregation

*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.*

Congregation

*Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.*

Words, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895)
Music, Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876)
Harmonized, Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)
Descant, Sir David Willcocks (1919-2015)
Oxford University Press

Rev. Ray Warren

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Season it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our sin until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time let us remember the poor, the cold, the hungry, 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 grieved his heart of love.

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

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (IN UNISON)**LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES**

We are a people who seek to be brought together by the love of Christ.
Our faith teaches us that God gives us unconditional love and forgiveness.
Acknowledging God's free gift of grace, we light the Candle of Love.

Lee and Emily Conner and family

FIRST LESSON

Reader: Julie Wolverton, A Representative of the Chancel Choir

God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

A Gallery Carol: Rejoice and Be Merry
Chancel Choir

*Rejoice and be merry in songs and in mirth!
O praise our Redeemer, all mortals on earth!
For this is the birthday of Jesus our King,
Who brought us salvation—his praises we'll sing!*

*A heavenly vision appeared in the sky;
Vast numbers of angels the shepherds did spy,
Proclaiming the birthday of Jesus our King,
Who brought us salvation—his praises we'll sing!*

*Likewise a bright star in the sky did appear,
Which led the wise men from the East to draw near;
They found the Messiah, sweet Jesus our King,
Who brought us salvation—his praises we'll sing!*

*And when they were come, they their treasures unfold,
And unto him offered myrrh, incense, and gold.
So blessed for ever be Jesus our King,
Who brought us salvation—his praises we'll sing!*

Words and Music, An Old Church-Gallery Book
Arranged, Martin Shaw (1875-1958)
Oxford University Press

SECOND LESSON

Reader: Lisa Thomas, A Representative of the Epworth Ringers

God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

Genesis 22:15-18

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

A Spotless Rose

Chancel Choir

Jack Wolverton, baritone

*A spotless Rose is blowing,
Sprung from a tender root,
Of ancient seers' foreshowing,
Of Jesse promised fruit;
Its fairest bud unfolds to light
Amid the cold, cold winter,
And in the dark midnight.*

*The Rose which I am singing,
Whereof Isaiah said,
Is from its sweet root springing
In Mary, purest Maid;
For through our God's great love and might,
The Blessèd Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.*

[the second verse is repeated]

Words, 14th-Century Anonymous
Translated, Catherine Winkworth (1827-1878)
Music, Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
Oxford University Press

THIRD LESSON

Reader: Leslie Peavy, Minister of Visitation

The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

In the Bleak Midwinter

Chancel Choir

Margaret Dalton, soprano

William Inabnit, tenor

*In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long ago.*

*Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain.
Heaven and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter, a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
A breast full of milk, and a mangerful of hay.
Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.*

*What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part.
Yet what I can I give Him,
Give my heart, give, give my heart.*

Words, Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Music, Harold Darke (1888-1976)
Stainer & Bell

FOURTH LESSON

Reader: Katie Porter, Afterschool Director

The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

There Is No Rose

Chancel Choir

*There is no rose of such virtue
As is the rose that bore Jesu. Alleluia.*

*For in this rose contained was
Heaven and earth in little space. Res miranda.*

*By that rose we may well see
There be one God in persons three. Pares forma.*

*Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth. Transeamus.*

*The angels sungen the shepherds to
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gaudemus.*

*Then leave we all this worldly mirth
And follow we this joyful birth. Transeamus.*

Words, 15th-Century Anonymous
Music, Alan Husby
Augsburg Fortress

FIFTH LESSON

Reader: Melissa Miller, Children's Minister

The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

Luke 1:26-35, 38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Ding Dong! Merrily on High

Chancel Choir

*Ding dong! merrily on high
In heaven the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riven with angel-singing.
Gloria,
Hosanna in excelsis!*

*E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And i-o, i-o, i-o,
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria,
Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria,
Hosanna in excelsis!*

Words, George Ratcliffe Woodward (1848-1934)
Music, 16th-Century French Melody
Arranged, Sir David Willcocks
Oxford University Press

SIXTH LESSON

Reader: Chris Huneycutt, Youth Minister

Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.
Luke 2:1-7

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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Somerset Carol

Chancel Choir

*Come all you worthy gentlemen
That may be standing by.
Christ our blessed Savior
Was born on Christmas Day.
The blessed Virgin Mary
Unto the Lord did say
"O we wish you the comfort and tidings of joy."*

*God bless the ruler of this house,
And long on may he reign.
Many happy Christmases
He live to see again!
God bless our generation,
Who live both far and near,
O we wish them a happy new year.*

Words and Music, English Folk Carol
Arranged, Dr. P. Bradley Logan



SEVENTH LESSON

Reader: Dr. Matt Brittain, Organist/Director of Music

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.
Luke 2:8-16

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day, Op. 75, No. 2

Chancel Choir

Jennie Vaughn, percussion

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to my dance:
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.
Then was I born of a virgin pure,
Of her I took fleshly substance;
Thus was I knit to man's nature,
To call my true love to my dance:
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.*

*In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to my dance:
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
This have I done for my true love.
Then afterwards baptized I was;
The Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above,
To call my true love to my dance:
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;
That have I done for my true love.*

Words, Traditional
Music, John Gardner (1917-2011)
Oxford University Press

EIGHTH LESSON

Reader: Jim Roberson, Lay Leader

The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn

The First Nowell
Congregation and Chancel Choir

THE FIRST NOWELL

Congregation *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:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

Chancel Choir *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:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

Congregation *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:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

Chancel Choir *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:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

Congregation *Then entered in those wise men three, full reverently upon their knee,
And offered there in his presence their gold and myrrh and frankincense:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

Congregation *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:
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!*

*NINTH LESSON

Reader: Rev. Ray Warren, Senior Pastor

St. 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 in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn

Hark! the Herald-Angels Sing
Congregation and Chancel Choir

MENDELSSOHN

*Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born 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 new-born King.*

*Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come offspring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.*

*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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.*

Words, Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Music, Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847)
Arranged, Sir David Willcocks
Oxford University Press

Words and Music, Traditional English Carol
Descant, Sir David Willcocks
Oxford University Press

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**CALL TO PRAYER****OFFERTORY****Advent Fantasy**

Epworth Ringers  
Jennie Vaughn, percussion

Rev. Ray Warren

arr. Judy Phillips  
(b. 1952)

**\*DOXOLOGY UMH No. 94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

**\*HYMN****Joy to the World!**

Congregation and Chancel Choir

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;  
Let earth receive her King.  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*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.*

Words, Isaac Watts (1674-1748)  
Music, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)  
Arranged, John Rutter (b. 1945)  
Oxford University Press

**\*PRONOUNCEMENT OF BLESSING**

May the Christ 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 Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Go forth in peace and joy.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

The congregation is invited to be seated for the postlude.

**POSTLUDE****In dulci jubilo, BWV 729**

13

Johann Sebastian Bach  
(1685-1750)

**WELCOME!** We're glad that you have chosen to worship with us today. Following this service, there is a gathering in the Heritage Center for fellowship and refreshments. Our hosts this week are Carol Old and Betty Huneycutt.

**YOUNG DISCIPLES:** Today, there will not be a children's message or children's church. Children are encouraged to stay in the sanctuary and enjoy the beautiful music. The nursery will be available to any children birth-first grade.

**THE ALTAR FLOWERS** are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jean C. Reader, sister, organist, musician, and friend, by Don and June West.

**MEMBERS OF THE ALTAR GUILD SERVING IN DECEMBER** are Mary Ellen Cross, Marie Crissman, Helen Ellington, Beth Kelley, and Margaret Pardue.

**MEMBERS OF THE BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE** serving in December are Marie Crissman, Martha Brannock, Stacy Lahey, Gade Lander, Bertie Mims, and Carol Sineath. If you are interested in serving on the Bereavement Committee, please contact Marie Crissman at [marie.crissman@gmail.com](mailto:marie.crissman@gmail.com) or 336-260-2512.

**THE PRAYER REQUEST CARDS** in the pews may be placed in the offering or in the Prayer Request Boxes in the reading area and the narthex area, or you may email the Prayer Ministry Team at [prayer@frontstreetumc.org](mailto:prayer@frontstreetumc.org). We thank team members Rhett and Jan Davis, who will be in the Prayer Room on our behalf at noon to pray for requests given on the Prayer Request Cards.

**CHRIST OFFERING**

These words capture the meaning of the Advent season, a time when we live somewhere between the fact of darkness and the hope of light. As a faithful supporter of the ministries of Front Street United Methodist Church, you play an important role in seeing that light wins over darkness. Your faithful support helps us to battle the darkness of this present age.



As the end of the year approaches, we ask that you help us finish our "first mile" and participate in our Christ offering. This offering assures that we not only meet our obligations for the year, but that we testify to the light which is Jesus Christ our Lord. Offering envelopes are provided in the pew slots for your gift. Just indicate "Christ Offering" on the envelope. Please give generously today.

**UPDATED FOOD LIST FOR BACKPACK MINISTRY**

This academic year, our Backpack Ministry supplies food for 200 children at Eastlawn Elementary. Here are our current needs: oatmeal packets, peanut butter in plastic jars, rice, and soup. Please deposit donations in the Welcome Center.

**TREES OF LOVE**

Thank you to everyone who has adorned our Trees of Love to share Christ with our neighbors this season. Please return all items (unwrapped) to the trees by **Sunday, December 18**. Note: if you are donating money or gift cards, please return them to the church office.

**CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

All are invited to join one of our small groups in singing Christmas carols to some of our homebound members and spread some Christmas cheer! Gather at the home of Jim and Kathy Roberson (2017 Shirley Drive, Burlington) **tomorrow evening** at 6:30 p.m. Questions? Contact Paula Reardon at 336.260.6981.

#### FRESH MOBILE MARKET

We are excited to announce a new C4C ministry in a collaboration with Out of the Garden: Fresh Mobile Market. On the **3rd Wednesday of each month**, we will distribute fresh food (meat, fruit & vegetables, bread, etc.) to the hungry. Our target audience is Eastlawn families, but anyone is welcome. This is a drive-thru distribution. We need lots of volunteers to make this run smoothly. This monthly market begins at 2:00 p.m. and lasts until we run out of food—usually about an hour and a half or so. Volunteers are needed to help box food, load cars, and direct traffic. Learn more and sign up at [www.frontstreetumc.org](http://www.frontstreetumc.org). If you have questions, contact Ms. Melissa (melissa@frontstreetumc.org).

#### SMALL GROUP INTEREST SURVEY

Pastor Stephan will be offering a new small group study beginning in January. The topic is TBD but will include something of “discerning the next steps of our church.” To help us with planning, if you are interested in participating in this study, please complete a short survey by **December 21** at [www.frontstreetumc.org/features](http://www.frontstreetumc.org/features).

#### CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING

A Christmas Eve offering will be taken. This year's Christmas offering will be divided between missions and the church budget.

#### OFFICE HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The church office will be closed **December 23, 26, and 27** for Christmas and **January 2** for New Year's Day. Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

#### CHRISTMAS DAY AND JANUARY 1 SERVICES

On **December 25**, there will be only one service at 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. There will be no nursery, childcare, or children's Sunday School on Christmas Day and no children's Sunday School on **January 1, 2023**.

#### 2022 CONTRIBUTION DEADLINE

A friendly reminder from the Church Office: in order for contributions to be included as a contribution towards your 2022 statement, please have mail postmarked or dropped at the church office **NO LATER THAN December 30**. All contributions received after December 31 will be applied to your 2023 statement.

Please note: when you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or to process the payment as a check transaction.

#### OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes are available for pick-up outside the church office. PLEASE pick yours up by **December 30**. This will help in reducing our mailing costs. Thank you.

#### UPPER ROOM

The January-February issue of the Upper Room is available. Copies are located in the Narthex and Welcome Center.

#### ALTAR FLOWERS 2023

The **2023** flower calendar is available in the Welcome Center. If you are interested in placing flowers in the Sanctuary in honor or in memory of a loved one, please write your name on the Sunday you wish to put flowers in the church. For more information, please contact Linda Paul at 336-543-5081 (cell) or [kpaul5@triad.rr.com](mailto:kpaul5@triad.rr.com) (email).

#### MEALS ON WHEELS

Our FSUMC Meals on Wheels group needs volunteers. The current vacancy is for a Monday, delivering every 8 weeks for Burlington Route 7, **beginning in 2023**. Most of our volunteers deliver in pairs, but some deliver alone—either way you will be glad you are providing meals for our homebound neighbors in Alamance County! For more information, contact Salley Bradford at 336-584-7401 or [salleybradford@yahoo.com](mailto:salleybradford@yahoo.com).

#### LIVE-STREAMING

We are pleased to be able to live-stream our 11:00 a.m. worship each week for the benefit of those who are not able to be physically present. For those who would prefer to not be on camera, we endeavor to make the back half of the Sanctuary a non-video zone. The balcony is also available for non-video seating. If you have any questions about this service, please feel free to speak with Pastor Warren. For Aldersgate sermons, search [Aldersgate@FSUMC](mailto:Aldersgate@FSUMC) wherever you find podcasts to listen to past sermons.

FRONT IMAGE: photo by John Moran.

| WORSHIP ATTENDANCE |            |       |  |       |
|--------------------|------------|-------|--|-------|
| Date               | Aldersgate | 11:00 |  | Total |
| 11/13              | 54         | 162   |  | 216   |
| 11/20              | 45         | 153   |  | 198   |
| 11/28              | 37         | 143   |  | 180   |
| 12/4               | 42         | 170   |  | 212   |

#### CHURCH CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 11, 2022

##### Sunday, December 11

|                                       |                 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 8:45 Aldersgate Contemporary Worship  | Aldersgate Hall |
| 9:45 Sunday School                    | Class Rooms     |
| 9:45 Aldersgate Praise Band Rehearsal | Chapel          |
| 10:45 Service of Lessons and Carols   | Sanctuary       |
| 6:00 UMYF Movie Night                 | Aldersgate Hall |

##### Tuesday, December 13

|                                          |                 |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 9:30 Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study | Room 305        |
| 7:00 Circle #5 Meeting                   | Heritage Center |

##### Wednesday, December 14

|                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 7:30 Youth Breakfast Club   | Biscuitville, 669 Huffman Mill Road |
| 7:00 Chancel Choir Practice | Choir Room                          |

##### Thursday, December 15

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| 9:30 Prayer and Meditation         | Room 402/Zoom    |
| 12:00 Social Justice Conversations | John Wesley Room |

##### Sunday, December 18

|                                       |                  |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|
| 8:45 Aldersgate Contemporary Worship  | Aldersgate Hall  |
| 9:45 Sunday School                    | Class Rooms      |
| 9:45 Aldersgate Praise Band Rehearsal | Chapel           |
| 11:00 Worship Service                 | Sanctuary        |
| 5:30 UMYF Christmas Party             | Huneycutt's Home |

**FRONT STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
MUSIC MINISTRY, FALL 2022**

**Chancel Choir**

**SOPRANO**

\*Margaret Dalton  
\*Erin Layfield  
Dawn Logan  
\*Rebecca Tillman

**ALTO**

Donna Bearden  
Marty Crank  
Bert Mims  
Jan Peach  
Marti Strickland  
\*Jennie Vaughn  
Julie Wolverton

**TENOR**

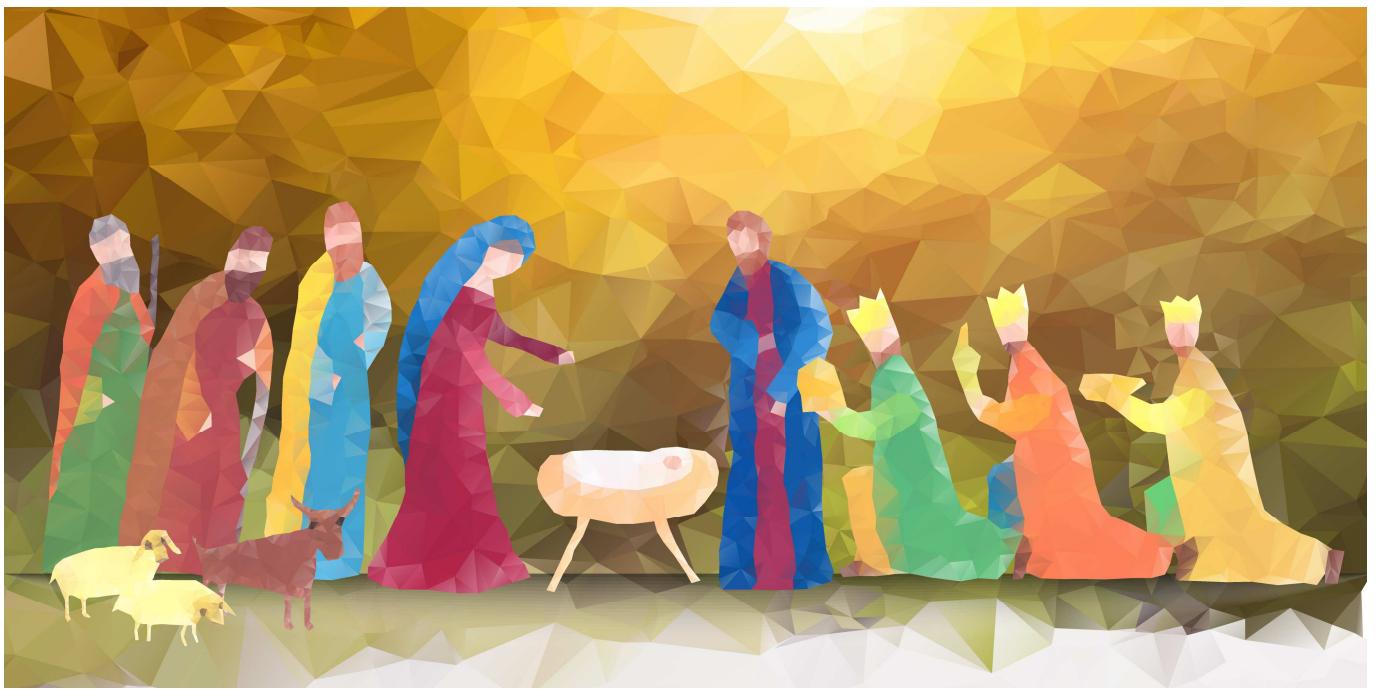
Bob Bearden  
Gene Fonville  
\*Elijah Henderson  
William Inabnit

**BASS**

David Hoxie  
John Kent  
\*Jack Wolverton

Dr. P. Bradley Logan, Choir Director  
Dr. Matt Brittain, Organist/Director of Music

\*Denotes section leader.



# Christmas Eve Service

Candlelight Communion Service

for the whole family

December 24 at 5:00 P.M. in the Sanctuary

*WORSHIP WITH US!*

Dr. Matt Brittain, conductor

**Epworth Ringers**

Amy Chandler  
Stephanie Gable  
Carol Hoxie  
David Hoxie  
Betsy Huneycutt  
William Inabnit  
Beth Kelley

Suzie Lambeth  
LuAnn Maner  
Paula Reardon  
Erin Rodriguez  
Ethan Rodriguez  
Lisa Thomas  
Susie Wall



## **PARTICIPATE IN OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

**An Invitation to All Children**

Do you have a child or grandchild who would enjoy dressing up and participating in our Christmas Eve service?

Be an angel, a shepherd, a sheep, a donkey, or a cow.

Costumes are provided (or you can wear your own).