



The First Sunday after Christmas Day
The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
December 28, 2025, 10:00am

We welcome all to our worship service, whether present in the sanctuary, joining us on streaming video, or watching our service in the future.

The Service of Lessons and Carols is a traditional service, with origins probably in the Church of England. The service tells the story of our faith, from the creation through the prophecy and culminating in the birth of the Christ Child, God becoming flesh and living among us.

To follow along with the Lessons readings, please see the page references for the pew Bibles.

FOR YOUR CONTEMPLATION

"I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

Charles Dickens

PRELUDE

Ave Maria

Gerald Near

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHORAL INTROIT

O Come, Little Children

* HYMN

Once In Royal David's City

No. 155

CALL TO WORSHIP

L: Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

P: Therefore let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

L: But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all the people; for unity and brotherhood and sisterhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

P: And because this would rejoice in God's heart, let us remember, in God's name, 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; all those who know not the Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved God's heart of love.

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

* HYMN	<i>Good Christians All, Rejoice v.1,3</i>	No. 158
THE FIRST LESSON	Genesis 3:8–15 (OT p. 2) <i>God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.</i>	
CAROL (seated)	Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus v. 1,2,3	No. 121
THE SECOND LESSON	Genesis 22:15–18 (OT p.14) <i>God promises to faithful Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed.</i>	
CAROL (seated)	<i>O Come, O Come, Emmanuel v. 1,4</i>	No. 114
THE THIRD LESSON	Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 (OT p.494) <i>Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.</i>	
CAROL (seated)	<i>The First Nowell v. 1,2</i>	No. 141
THE FOURTH LESSON	Isaiah 11:1–9 (OT p. 496) <i>The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.</i>	
CAROL (seated)	<i>Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming</i>	No. 148
THE FIFTH LESSON	Luke 1:26–38 (NT p. 43) <i>The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary</i>	
CAROL (seated)	<i>Angels We Have Heard on High v.1,3</i>	No. 135
THE SIXTH LESSON	Matthew 1:18-23 (NT p. 1) <i>Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.</i>	
CAROL (seated)	<i>O Come, All Ye Faithful</i>	No. 132
THE SEVENTH LESSON	Luke 2:8–16 (NT p. 44) <i>The shepherds go to the manger.</i>	
CAROL (seated)	<i>Hark! The Herald Angels Sing</i>	No.137
THE EIGHTH LESSON	Matthew 2:1–11 (NT p. 1) <i>The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus</i>	
CAROL (seated)	<i>We Three Kings of Orient Are v.1,2</i>	No.162
THE NINTH LESSON	John 1:1–14 (NT p. 70) <i>John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.</i>	
CAROL (seated)	<i>In the Bleak Mid-Winter v.1,4</i>	No.154
CHRISTMAS PRAYERS AND PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE		
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.		
PRAYER RESPONSE	<i>O Come, Let Us Adore Him (refrain)</i>	

OFFERTORY

Quiet Songs of the Holy Night

arr. Lani Smith

* PRESENTATION WITH THE DOXOLOGY

**To God, all glorious heavenly Light,
to Christ revealed in earthly night,
to God the Spirit now we raise
our joyful songs of thankful praise.**

DEDICATION PRAYER

* HYMN

Joy to the World

No. 134

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE (*SUNG*)

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid, God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong, and true. Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above. Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

POSTLUDE

The Birthday of a King

W. H. Neidlinger

* * * * *

“Our worship ends, let our service begin!”

**Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
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Those serving you today:

Pastor: Rev. John Hogue

Music Director: Joel Pierce

Ushers: Ann Harris and Dewey Harris

Noisy Offering Today benefits the St. Philip's Help Yourself Shelf Food Pantry.

Please join us for fellowship, coffee or tea, and refreshments in Fellowship Hall following worship.

Please take note of the colored paper prayer slips in the pew rack. These are for you to write a word or phrase of prayer or concerns. Fold it and place it in the offering plate. It will only be shared with Rev. John.

Happy December Birthday to John Crispin, Anita Green, Sue Lewis, Jon McKinney, and Chris Sieracki.

Coming Events

Monday – Wednesday Dec. 29 – Dec 31: Office Hours 9:00am to 12:00pm

Monday Dec. 29 – Mah Jongg 3:00 – 5:30pm

Thursday January 1 – New Year's Day

Sunday January 4 – No Choir Rehearsal

Worship 10:00am

Coffee Hour Following Worship

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly
 2. Christ came down to earth from hea - ven, love in - car - nate
 3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -

cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her ba - by
 for us all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble,
 us he grew, he was lit - tle, weak, and help - less,
 deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so help - less

in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry was that mo - ther
 and his cra - dle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, the
 tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he feels for all our
 lives and reigns in heaven a - bove; and he leads his chil - dren

mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 on to the place where he is gone.

WORDS: Cecil F. Alexander, 1848, alt.
 MUSIC: Henry John Gauntlett, 1849; harm. Arthur H. Mann, 1919

Gauntlett was a lawyer for fifteen years until organ playing
 and hymn composing overwhelmed him. He may have
 composed more than a thousand hymn tunes!

IRBY
87.87.77

Harm. © 1927, ren. Novello & Co., Ltd.,
 admin. Shawnee Press, Inc.

BIRTH

1. Good Chris-tians all, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 2. Good Chris-tians all, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;
 3. Good Chris-tians all, re-joice, with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er-more.
 Calls you one and calls you all, to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save!

WORDS: German-Latin carol, 14th century; tr. John M. Neale, 1853, alt.
 MUSIC: German melody, 14th century

IN DULCI JUBILO
 66.77.78.55

Genesis 3:8-15

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.’

1. Come, thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our sins and fears release us; let us find our rest in thee.
2. Israel’s strength and consolation, hope of all the world thou art;
dear desire of every nation, enter every longing heart.
3. Born thy people to deliver, born a child and yet a king,
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.

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.’

1. O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here,
until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.
4. O come desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind; bid envy, strife and quarrels
cease; fill the whole world with heaven’s peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee O
Israel.

Isaiah 9:2

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.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

1. The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields where 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.
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.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

Isaiah 11:1-9 The Peaceful Kingdom

A shoot shall come out from the stock 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;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

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.

1. 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.
2. 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.

Luke 1:26-38 The Birth of Jesus Foretold

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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echo back their joyous strains,
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Matthew 1:18-23 The Birth of Jesus the Messiah

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, ‘Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.’ All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

‘Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel’,

which means, ‘God is with us.’

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. O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in expectation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest. O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
3. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee with love and awe;
Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly. O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
4. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given;
Word of the Eternal, 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.

Luke 2:8-16 The Shepherds and the Angels

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 Saviour, 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 favours!’

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.

1. 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”.

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 God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity,
pleased on earth with us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born 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 all souls on earth, born to give us second birth.

Hark! the herald angels sing, “Glory to the new-born King”.

Matthew 2:1-11 The Visit of the Wise Men

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.

1. We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of light, star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.
2. Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.
O star of wonder, star of light, star of royal beauty bright,
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

John 1:1-14 The Word Became Flesh

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.

1. In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood still as iron,
water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.
4. 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.

Joy to the World! the Lord Is Come 134

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns: let earth her
 3. Christ rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; let fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right- eous - ness,

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

and heaven and na - ture sing and
 re - peat the sound-ing joy, re -
 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing.
 peat the sound-ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

WORDS: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

MUSIC: Attr. Georg Frederick Handel, 1741; arr. Lowell Mason, 1848

This is Congregationalist Watts' paraphrase of Psalm 98.
 His free paraphrasing helped wean churchgoers from

ANTIOCH
CM w. repeat

We