



a festival of
nine lessons
& carols

Sunday,
December 15,
2024

—
Five o' clock
in the afternoon

First Presbyterian Church • Greensboro, North Carolina



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Sunday, December 15, 2024
Five o' clock in the afternoon
Given by the Music Ministry of First Presbyterian Church

This is a service of worship. Through the singing of carols and the reading of scripture, we offer our gifts to God who sent His Son to live and grow among us. The participants of the Ministry of Music respectfully ask that expressions of gratitude be shown through words or notes rather than through applause.

PRELUDE: On Christmas Night arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
I Wonder as I Wander..... arr. Sondra K. Tucker
Ding Dong! Merrily on High..... arr. Cynthia Dobrinski
What Child Is This?..... arr. Cynthia Dobrinski

CAROL: Once in Royal David's CityIRBY
 Text: Cecil Francis Alexander / Music: Henry John Gauntlett

Canticle Choir 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty Stood a
Chancel Choir 2. He came down to earth from hea - ven Who is
All 3. And through all his won - drous Child - hood He would
Treble Voices 4. *For he is our child - hood's pat - tern Day by*
Lower Voices 5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his
All 6. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, With the
 low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a
 hon - or and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly
day like us he grew. He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love. For that child so dear and
 o - xen stan - ding by, We shall see him; but in
 ba - by In a man - ger for His bed. Ma - ry
 sta - ble, And his cra - dle was a stall: With the
 mai - den, In whose gen - tle arms he lay: Chris - tian
help - less, Tears and smiles like us he knew: And he
 gen - tle Is our Lord in hea - ven a - bove; And he
 hea - ven, Set at God's right hand on high; Where like
 was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - iour ho - ly.
 chil - dren all must be Mild, o - bed - ient, good as he.
feel - eth for our sad - ness, And he shar - eth in our glad - ness.
 leads his chil - dren on To the place where he is gone.
 stars his chil - dren crowned All in white shall wait a - round.

BIDDING PRAYER

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

FIRST LESSON

*God makes an announcement in the Garden of Eden
 Madeline Faucher, Canticle Choir*

Genesis III

Reader: The Word of the Lord
 People: **Thanks be to God.**

CAROL: Adam lay y bounden Boris Ord (1897-1961)

Chancel Choir

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond:
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.
Deo gracias! (Thanks be to God)

Ne had the apple taken been.
Ne had never our lady abeen heavnè queen.
Deo gracias!

And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
As clerkes finden written in their book.
Deo gracias!

Blessed be the time that apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen
Deo gracias!

- *Anonymous, 15th century*

SECOND LESSON

God makes a promise to faithful Abraham
Connie Shorter, Westminster Ringers

Genesis XXII

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Hope for Resolution.....arr. Paul Caldwell and Sean Ivory

Canticle Choir

Chancel Choir

Susan Fancher, soprano saxophone

Radha Upton, piano

Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the Source, the Ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see
Evermore and evermore.

And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring
Evermore and evermore.

O that birth forever blessed,
when the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Savior of our race;

*Thula sizwe, ungabokala,
uJehova wakho uzokunqobela.
Inkululeko, sizoyithola,
uJehova wakho uzokunqobela.*

Nation, do not cry.
Jehovah will protect us.
We will attain freedom.
Jehovah will protect us.

THIRD LESSON

The Prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour
Lane Ridenhour, Chancel Choir

Isaiah IX

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: O Radiant Dawn.....James McMillan (b. 1959)
Chancel Choir Ensemble

O Radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
Isaiah had prophesied,
'The people who walked in darkness have seen the great light
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.' Amen.

FOURTH LESSON

*The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown
Jim Hoeger, Worship and Music Committee*

Isaiah XI

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Spotless Rose..... Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)
Chancel Choir

Alleluia.
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;
Through God's great love and might
The Blessed Babe she bare us
In a cold, cold winter's night.
Alleluia.

FIFTH LESSON

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary
Matt Bussell, Associate Pastor for Outreach & Mission*

Luke I

Reader: The Word of the Lord
People: Thanks be to God.



CAROL: Annunciation..... Kevin Siegfried (b. 1969)

Chancel Choir

I

She met the day
as days before—
a cup of milk,
a crust of bread,
bare feet upon
the clean-swept floor.
She planned her day
as days before—
the empty jug,
a tattered rug,
stray threads within
a cluttered drawer.
Then Gabriel
outside the door.

II

*Ave Maria,
gratia plena,
Dominus tecum,
benedicta tu
in mulieribus.*
How can this be,
this quiet, gentle grace
that visits us
within a word,
a welcome,
or embrace ...

III

All shall be well,
and all shall be well.
Within this grace
the promise and
the blessing dwell—
Emmanuel.
Emmanuel,
Emmanuel.

SIXTH LESSON

*Luke tells of the birth of Jesus
Anne Albert, Director of Worship*

Luke II

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Star Carol..... John Rutter (b. 1945)

Canticle Choir

Chancel Choir

Orchestra

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem,
Christ our Lord in a lowly manger lies;
Bring your gifts, come and worship at his cradle,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory,
Bear the news with its message of good cheer:
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!"

See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See, he lies in his mother's tender keeping;
Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.
Shepherds poor, come to worship and adore him,
Offer their humble gifts before the son of Mary.

See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

Let us pay our homage at the manger,
Sing his praise on this joyful Christmas Night;
Christ is come, bringing promises of salvation;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

See his star shining bright
In the sky this Christmas night!
Follow me joyfully;
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary,
Hurry to Bethlehem and see the son of Mary!

OFFERING:

Invitation – Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

Offering supports the Music Ministry of First Presbyterian Church,

CAROL: Ding Dong! Merrily on high..... Ken Berg (b. 1942)

*Canticle Choir
Radha Upton, piano*

Ding dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! Verily the sky is riv'n 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!

CAROL: The First Noel..... Dan Forrest (b. 1978)

*Chancel Choir
Orchestra*

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor sheperds in fields as they lay:
In fields where they lay a keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

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

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.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought,
And with his blood mankind has bought.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel,
Born is the King of Israel

SEVENTH LESSON

*The shepherds go to the manger
Will Edwards, Director of Rejoice! Music and AV Support*

Luke II

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: Mid-Winter Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Canticle Choir

In the bleak mid-winter
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 mid-winter
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 mid-winter
A stable-place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty,
Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breastful of milk,
And a mangerful of hay;

Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim
Thronged the air -
But only His mother
In her maiden bliss
Worshipped the Beloved
With a kiss.

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.

- Christina Rossetti

EIGHTH LESSON

The wisemen are led by a star to Jesus
John Alexander, Director of Music and Principal Organist

Matthew II

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CAROL: I Will Light the Candles This Christmas Kim Andre Arnesan (b. 1980)

Chancel Choir

I will light Candles this Christmas;
Candles of joy despite all sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

- Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: O Come, All Ye Faithful..... ADESTE FIDELES

Text: John Francis Wade / Music: John Francis Wade



Congregation	1.	O	come,	all	ye	faith - ful,	Joy - ful	and	tri -
Chancel Choir	2.	God	of	God,	Light	of			
Congregation	3.	Sing,	choirs	of	an - gels,	Sing	in	ex - ul -	
Congregation	4.	Yea,	Lord,	we	greet	Thee,	Born	this	hap - py



um - phant,	O	come	ye,	O	come	ye	to	Beth -	le - hem;
Light,	Lo!	He	ab -	hors	not	the	Vir -	gin's	womb;
ta - tion,	Sing,	all	ye	cit - i -	zens	of	heav'n	a -	bove;
morn - ing,	Je -	sus,	to	thee	be	all	glo -	ry	giv'n;



Come,	and	be -	hold	Him,	Born	the	King	of
Ve -	ry	God,	Be -	got -	ten,	not	cre -	
Glo -	ry	to	God,	all	glo -	ry	in	the
Word	of	the	Fa -	ther,	Now	in	flesh	ap -



An -	gels!							
a -	ted:	O	come	let	us	a -	dore	him,
high -	est!	O	come	let	us	a -	dore	him,
pear -	ing:	O	come	let	us	a -	dore	him,



come,	let	us	a -	dore	Him,	Christ	the	Lord!
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CAROL: Glory, Glory, Glory to the Newborn King..... Moses Hogan (1957-2003)

*Julie Celona-VanGorden, soprano
Chancel Choir*

What will we call that pretty little baby? Baby born in Bethlehem.
What will we call that pretty little baby? Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Where was He born, this pretty little baby? Down in a lowly manger.
Where His birth was in a stable, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Born this night, the Son of Mary, Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace.
Glory to the newborn King. Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King.

Go and tell it on the mountain, Lord, over the hills and ev'rywhere.
Why don't you go tell it on the mountain, Lord, that Jesus Christ is born.
We're singin' all praise to the newborn King,
Hail, the new King, Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King

BENEDICTION

Jill Duffield, Senior Pastor

*** CONGREGATIONAL CAROL:** Hark! The Herald Angels Sing..... MENDELSSOHN

Text: Charles Wesley / Music: Felix Mendelssohn



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King.
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ - teous - ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
Late in time be - hold Him come, Off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild He lays His glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die,



With th'an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
Born to raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

* **RECESSIONAL:** Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci jubilo' J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
John Alexander, organ

VOLUNTARY: Dieu parmi nous from *La Nativité du Seigneur* Olivier Messiaen (1908-1992)
(God Amongst Us from *The Nativity of our Saviour*)
John Alexander, organ



* **Let us rise in body or spirit.**

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is drawn from ancient sources and has a format patterned after that used at King's College, Cambridge, England, since 1918. Carols are sung as a response to each of the traditional lessons. Readers have been chosen to represent various aspects of congregational life.

Cover: "The Adoration of the Shepherds" by Peter Paul Rubens (Flemish, 1577-1640).

Pen and brown ink and brown wash, white gouache heightening, about 1613–1614.

Height: 27.9 cm (11 in); width: 18.1 cm (7-1/8 in).

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- FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH CHOIRS -

Chancel Choir

SOPRANO

Anne Albert
Julie Celona-VanGorden
Louann Clarke
Joyce D'Arconte
Detra Davis
Jean Davison
Emily Ford-Coates
Lee Lashley
Karen Messina
Bonnie McAlister
Judith Ransom
Louise Reynolds
Karen Ridenhour
Phaedra Smith
Connie Shorter
Colbert Trotter

TENOR

Greg Allen
Ty Buckner
Tom Gillespie
Robby Hassell
Daniel Paparozzi
Joshua Thomas

ALTO

Jill Amidon Strickland
Karyl Beavers
Kit Conner
Linda Davis
Susan Fancher
Stephanie Foley Davis
Rosalind Grier
Carolyn F. Hall
Beth Howe
Terry Lashley
Marlo Nall
Lynn Simpson
Radha Upton
B.J. Williams
Peggy Young
Yue Zhang

BASS

Trip Adams
Jerry Beavers
Tim Cook
Ralph Davison
Steve Hall
Austin Jeffries
Dan Kerns
David McDonald
Bob Rhodes
Lane Ridenhour
Bill Schink

Canticle Choir

Jackie Albert
Eliza Price Barbee
Meier Bussell
De'Nique Byron
Madeline Faucher
Charlotte Freeze
Evelyn Hare
Lydia Hare
Liza Johnston
Emerson Jones
Zoë Upton

Coventry Ringers

Will Edwards
Charles Efir
Colin Haynes-Burns
Grace Haynes-Burns
Dawn Kouba
Janice Maner
Karen Messina
Melinda Ogburn
Phaedra Smith
Jane Whichard
Gay White
Rhonda Youngdahl

Piano

Radha Upton

Organ

Laura Alexander

- Orchestra -

VIOLIN

Wendi Rawls
Maddi Huff-Lane
Enshi Li
Siana Wong

VIOLA

Melissa Bonilla Parra

CELLO

Ryan Graebert

FLUTE

Joshua Thomas

SOPRANO SAXOPHONE

Susan Fancher

- THE MINISTRY OF MUSIC -

DR. JOHN ALEXANDER, Director of Music Ministry and Principal Organist

WILLIAM EDWARDS, Director of Rejoice! Music

DR. ANNE ALBERT, Director of Worship