

THE ORDER *of* WORSHIP



A VIRTUAL FESTIVAL *of* NINE LESSONS *and* CAROLS

December 20, 2020 | 4.00 p.m.

FIRST UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

Salisbury, North Carolina

ESTABLISHED 1783



A HISTORY *on* THE FESTIVAL *of* NINE LESSONS *and* CAROLS

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service of Christian worship traditionally celebrated on or near Christmas Eve. The story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus is told in nine short Bible readings (lessons) from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir anthems.

Although the tradition of Nine Lessons and Carols is popularly associated the Christmas Eve service held in King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England, UK, its origins are attributed to Truro Cathedral in Cornwall. Up to the late 19th century, the singing of Christmas carols – generally considered to be secular in content – had been excluded from Christian worship. In the Victorian era, the rising popularity of hymnody encouraged church musicians to introduce carols into worship. An 1875 book of carols, *Carols for Use in Church During Christmas and Epiphany* by Richard Chope and Sabine Baring-Gould, was an influential publication. At around this time, the composer and organist, John Stainer was compiling a collection, *Christmas Carols New and Old*, and during Christmas 1878 he introduced carols into the service of Choral Evensong at St. Paul's Cathedral in London. Other cathedrals also began to adopt carols at Christmastide that year and the *Royal Cornwall Gazette* reported that the choir of Truro Cathedral would sing a service of carols at 10.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve:

The Choir of the Cathedral will sing a number of carols in the Cathedral on Christmas Eve, the service commencing at 10pm. We understand that this is at the wish of many of the leading parishioners and others. A like service has been instituted in other cathedral and large towns, and has been much appreciated. It is the intention of the choir to no longer continue the custom of singing carols at the residences of members of the congregation.

–*Royal Cornwall Gazette*, 20 December 1878

Two years later, the Right Rev^d Edward White Benson, at that time Bishop of Truro, conducted the first formal service of “Nine Lessons and Carols” on Christmas Eve 1880. Benson, concerned at the excessive consumption of alcohol in Cornish pubs during the festive season, sought a means of attracting revelers out of the pubs and into church by offering a religious celebration of Christmas. The idea for a service consisting of Christmas music interspersed with Bible readers was proposed by the succentor of the cathedral, the Rev^d George Walpole (who later became Bishop of Edinburg). The cathedral – a Victorian gothic building – was still under construction, and services were being held in a temporary wooden structure which served as a pro-cathedral. The first Nine Lessons and Carols service took place there at 10.00 p.m. on Christmas Eve and was attended by over 400 people. Benson's son, A. C. Benson, later recalled: “My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve, nine carols and nine tiny lessons. They were read by various officers of the church, beginning with a chorister and ending, through different grades, with the bishop. Bishop Benson was appointed Archbishop of Canterbury in 1883, and the Nine Lessons service began to gain popularity across the Church of England and wider Anglican Communion. The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world.

The first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge, was held on Christmas Eve 1918. During World War I the Rev^d Eric Millner-White, then new Dean of Kings College, Cambridge, had served as army chaplain in the 7th Infantry Division and he was concerned that the distress of the “Great War” had hardened attitudes against religion. Taking advantage of the established choral tradition of the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, he introduced Benson's carol service to King's as a means of attracting people back to Christian worship. It proved highly successful, and began an annual tradition – albeit with some alterations to Benson's original format from 1919 onwards, with the British Broadcasting Corporation broadcasting the service annually since 1928, with the exception of 1930. During the 1930s the service reached a worldwide audience and even throughout the Second World War, despite the stained glass having been removed from the Chapel and the lack of heating, the broadcasts continued. The service was first televised by BBC Television in 1954. In December 2013, Truro Cathedral staged a reconstruction of Bishop Benson's original 1880 Nine Lessons with Carols Service which was attended by a congregation of over 1,500 people. King's College, Cambridge, celebrated its centenary service on Christmas Eve 2018.

Cover art: “The Annunciation to the Shepherds” [*Les Tres Riches Heures du duc de Berry*, Folio, 48r], 1410; by Jean de Limbourg (ca. 1385–ca. 1416), Paul de Limbourg (ca. 1385–ca. 1416), and Herman de Limbourg (ca. 1385–ca. 1416); on display in Musée Condé (Chantilly, France).

This beautiful miniature painting combines so many iconographical aspects, that the viewer can easily follow the connection from the very conception of Christ to his final days in Jerusalem. In the left center of the painting, a fountain of pink marble appears. This rocky font may be a representation of the “Fountain of the Virgin,” the only water spring source in the countryside near Jerusalem. Its proximity made it a popular place for drawing water and watering sheep and goats. The artist conflates the countryside of Nazareth, six miles from Jerusalem, with the location of this spring. Jerusalem, the holy city, is therefore represented in the distance. According to tradition, Gabriel announced to Mary her carrying of the Christ child at this spring, hence the name, “Fountain of the Virgin.”



A VIRTUAL FESTIVAL of NINE LESSONS and CAROLS

THE LORD'S DAY, 20 December, Anno Domini 2020

half-past four in the afternoon | The Sanctuary

☩ denotes the People standing, in body or spirit, as able.

The People's responses are printed in **bold**.



SILENT PRAYER of PREPARATION for WORSHIP

Merciful God, you sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation.

Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may celebrate aright the commemoration of the nativity, and may await with joy the coming in glory of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever. Amen.

GREETING

Pastor Mark Conforti

PRELUDE

Chimings of Great Joy

Peals of Praise Handbell Ensemble

Dan R. Edwards

PROCESSIONAL CAROL: NO. 250

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Halle Dunn, solo



Solo 1. *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.*

Choir 2. *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 Saviour holy.**

**The People stand after stanza 2.*

☩ *ALL* 3. **And through all his wondrous childhood he would honour and obey,
love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.**

Women 4. *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.*

[continued overleaf...]

Men 5. 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.

ALL 6. **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, 1848; (Luke 2.7).

Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1849; harm. A. H. Mann; desc. David Willcocks.

✠ THE BIDDING PRAYER

Pastor Stacey Lundy

Beloved in Christ,
in this season of Advent, 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 read and mark in 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 our homes glad with our carols of praise
as we look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth.

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 of mission within the one Church for which he died and built,
for goodwill among all peoples,
and especially for this country and our city.

And particularly at this time, let us at this time remember in his Name:
the poor, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed;
the sick and those who mourn;
the lonely and the unloved;
the aged and the little children;
and all those 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 before God 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 whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

These prayer and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven,
in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER (*in unison*)

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

✠ THE BLESSING

The Almighty God bless us with divine grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life;
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above
may the King of Angels bring us all.
Amen.

THE INTROIT
Sing Gloria!

Wee-Praise! & KidzPraise! Children's Choir
Ruth Elaine Schram

*Christ Jesus is born, the Savior is born!
Sing "Gloria!"
Oh, how we have longed to meet Him.
Oh, how we have longed to greet Him,
and so we join the angels and with one voice we sing:
"Gloria in excelsis Deo!"**

[Latin: "Glory to God in the highest!"]

**from "Angels We Have Heard on High," Words and Music: Traditional French Carol.
©2014 Celebrating Grace Music.*

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3.8-19

Bailee Weisensel

*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.*

⁸They 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. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." ¹⁴The 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.

¹⁵I 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."

¹⁶To the woman he said,
"I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you."

[continued overleaf...]

¹⁷And 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;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹By 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.”

Thanks be to God.





ALL 1. **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.**

Men 2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Dayspring from on high appear;
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse, of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels telling news, glad tidings of a birth;
"Go to him, your praises bringing; Christ the Lord has come to earth!"

Women 3. Come to earth to taste our sadness, he whose glories knew no end;
By his life he brings us gladness, our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number, born within a cattle stall;
this the everlasting wonder, Christ was born the Lord of all.

ALL 4. **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 own sufficient merit, raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Words: st. 1 & 4: Charles Wesley, 1744; st. 2 & 3: Mark E. Hunt, 1978, alt.

Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1830.

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

¹⁵The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

Prepare Him Room

Youth Praise Band
Sovereign Grace Music

*O behold, the mystery now unfolds;
See the star shine on the Virgin foretold.
Angels sing and light up the sky,
hope rings out in a newborn’s cry;
Swing wide, you ancient gates
for Christ is born today!*

*God with us, the promise has come to be;
This, the one the prophets were longing to see.
In the darkness a blazing light,
to the hungry the words of life;
His Kingdom is near
for those with ears to hear.*

Prepare Him room; prepare Him room; Let the King of Glory enter in.

*Oh, our hearts, as busy as Bethlehem;
Hear Him knock, don’t say there’s no room in the inn.
Through the cradle, cross, and grace
see the love of God displayed;
Now He’s risen and He reigns;
Praise the Name above all names!*

Words and Music: Rebecca Elliot and Dave Fournier

©2014 Sovereign Grace Praise (BMI)/Sovereign Grace Worship (ASCAP).



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

²The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined...

⁶For 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.

⁷His 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.

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

The Father's Love

Christmas Choir

arr. William Roger Price

*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!*

*This flower, whose fragrance tender
with sweetness fills the air,
dispels with glorious splendor
the darkness everywhere.
True Man but very God;
from sin and death he saves us
and lightens every load.*

*Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung,
of Jesse's lineage coming,
as men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it.
This is he whom heaven taught singers
sang of old with one accord,
whom the Scriptures of the prophets
promised in their faithful word;
now He shines, the long-expected;
Let creation praise its Lord, evermore and evermore.*

Christ, Lord, forevermore. Amen.

*Words: XII Century Latin Plainsong & XV Century German: st. 1-2: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius;
trans. John Mason Neale, 1851; and Henry W. Baker, 1859; st. 3-4: XV Century German; trans. Theodore Baker, 1894;
st. 5 from The Hymnal, 1940; (Isaiah 35.1-2).*

Music: XI Century Sanctus trope; Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609.

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

- 11 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
- ²The 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.
- ³His 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;
- ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; [...]
- ⁶The 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.
- ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹They 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.

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL
Quiet Praise

Peals of Praise Handbell Ensemble
Dan R. Edwards



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

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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.

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

The Angel Gabriel

Christmas Choir

arr. Richard Shephard

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

*"For now a blessèd Mother thou shalt be,
all generations laud and honor thee,
thy Son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,
most highly favored lady." Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!*

*Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!*

Words: XVIII Century Basque carol; trans. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834–1924).
Music: GABRIEL'S MESSAGE; arr. Charles Edgar Pettman (1865–1943).



*Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes,
Jesus is born.*

2 In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

Thanks be to God.

♠ THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: NO. 230

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS & FOREST GREEN



ALL 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.**

Choir 2. *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!*

Solo 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.*

ALL 4. **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, abode with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

Words: Phillips Brooks, ca. 1868.

Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1868; Traditional English melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter

Christmas Choir

arr. Arlen Clarke

*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.*

*Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a Lamb.
If I were a wiseman I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.*

Words: Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; (Luke 2.8-14).

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

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² 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.” ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶ ‘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.’”

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ 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.” ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ 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. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

Star of Wonder

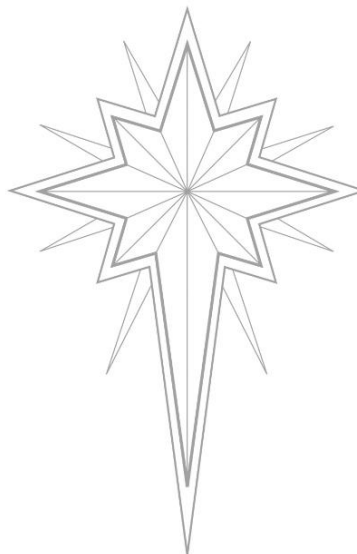
*Star of wonder, star so bright;
Lead us to the Child of Light.
Bow before Him. Praise and adore Him.
Baby Jesus is born tonight.
Sing “Noel!” All is well.*

Wee-Praise! & KidzPraise! Children’s Choir

John H. Hopkins, Jr.; arr. Lynn Shaw Bailey & Becki Slagle Mayo

*Star of wonder, star so bright;
Lead us to the Child of Light.
Songs we sing Him. Praises we bring Him.
Baby Jesus is born tonight.
Sing “Noel!” All is well.*

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Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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 God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

♠ THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: NO. 234

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

ALL join the Refrain after each stanza:

Refrain:

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, — Christ — the Lord.

[continued overleaf...]

- ALL* 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.
- Women* 2. True God of True God, Light from Light Eternal,
Lo! he shuns not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; (*O come...*)
- Choir* 3. *See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,*
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; (O come...)
- Men* 4. Lo! star-led chieftains, Magi, Christ adoring,
offer him incense, gold, and myrrh;
we to the Christ-Child bring our heart's oblations; (*O come...*)
- Choir* 5. *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...)
- ALL* 6. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,**
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" (*O come...*)

Words: Latin by John F. Wade, ca. 1743; trans. Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others.
Music: John F. Wade, ca. 1743.

✠ THE COLLECT

Eternal God,
by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world.
Grant that, being born in our hearts,
he may save us from all our sins,
and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,
to whom be everlasting praise and glory,
world without end. **Amen.**

THE MEDITATION

♣ THE RECESSIONAL CAROL: NO. 240

Hark! How All the Welkin Rings

EASTER HYMN & MENDELSSOHN

The lyrics printed to this beloved Christmas carol are of the original hymn written as "Hymn for Christmas-Day" by Charles Wesley and included in John Wesley's 1739 collection "Hymns and Sacred Poems." The opening line was changed to "Hark! the Herald-Angels sing" by George Whitefield in his 1754 "Collection of hymns for social worship," and the 1782 publication of the Tate and Brady "New Version of the Psalms of David" appeared with the added refrain of Whitefield's adaptation of Wesley's opening line "Hark! the Herald Angels sing / Glory to the newborn King" at the end of each stanza, as is commonly sung. In 1855, British musician William H. Cummings adapted Felix Mendelssohn's secular music from "Festgesang" to fit the lyrics of Wesley's Christmas hymn, though Wesley envisioned the hymn to be sung to the same tune as his Easter hymn, "Christ the Lord is Risen Today." Thus, the choir will sing the first and last stanzas of the hymn, as Wesley intended, while the People will sing the more common lyrics and tune traditionally used.

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

Choir 1. "Hark!" how all the Welkin* rings, "Glory to the King of kings, ["Welkin" means "the sky or heaven."]
 Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies,
 Universal Nature say, "Christ the Lord is born today!"

ALL 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 as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
 "Hark!" the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

ALL 3. Hail the Heavenly 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 newborn King!"

[continued overleaf...]

ALL 4. **Come, Desire of Nations, come, fix in us Thy humble home.
Rise the woman's conquering Seed, bruise in us the serpent's head.
Now display Thy saving power, ruined nature now restore,
Now in Mystic Union join Thine to ours and ours to Thine:
"Hark!" the herald-angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

Choir 5. *Adam's Likeness, Lord, efface, stamp Thy image in its place,
Second Adam from above, reinstate us in Thy Love.
Let us Thee, though lost regain, Thee, the Life, the Inner Man:
O! to all Thyself impart, formed in each believing heart! A – MEN!*

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; (Luke 2.14).

Music: John F. Wade, ca. 1743; Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. William H. Cummings, 1856.

✠ THE BENEDICTION *and* COMMISSION

**The People bow their heads and extend their arms to receive the 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 in the Name of Christ,
to make and nurture Christian disciples through the presence and power of God.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

THE POSTLUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo**

**formerly attributed to J. S. Bach as BWV 751*

Johann Michael Bach

(1745–1820)

✠ THE DEPARTURE *into* THE MISSION FIELD

Eternal God, by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world. Grant that, being born in our hearts, he may save us from all our sins, and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator, to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.



**Thank you for joining us for this Virtual Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols.
The FUMC Church Staff and Council wish you and your loved ones
a very Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year!**

We invite you to join us for:

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES (THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24)

Children's Paper Bag Pageant @ 3.00 p.m. – Front Lawn

Carols & Candlelight Communion @ 4.30 p.m., 6.00 p.m. & 7.00 p.m. – Front Lawn

LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

Sunday, December 27 @ 11.00 a.m. – YouTube

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU" TO ALL WHOSE PARTICIPATION MADE THIS SERVICE POSSIBLE:
(listed alphabetically, in order of appearance)

PEALS OF PRAISE HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

Mrs. Susan Cooley
Mrs. Kathy DeFalco
Ms. Jen Fogt
Mrs. Judy Fowler
Mrs. Deneen Jones
Mrs. Gloria Matthews
Mrs. Kris Mueller
The Rev^d Richard Paschall
Mrs. Nancy Schoch
Ms. Carole Young

YOUTH PRAISE BAND

Miss Alfreda Chea, *vocals*
Miss Christie Chea, *vocals*
Ms. Jen Fogt, *vocals*
Mr. Kevin Lundy, *guitar*
Master Jude Smeltzer, *piano*



WEE-PRAISE! & KIDZPRAISE! CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Miss Holland Bradshaw
Master Dudley Johnsen
Master Rohan Joseph
Master Raleigh Schafer
Miss Charleigh Weisensel

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Mrs. Carol Bachl, *soprano*
Mr. Carl Brown, *baritone*
Mrs. Susan Cooley, *alto*
Mr. Joshua DeFalco, *tenor*
Mrs. Kathy DeFalco, *soprano*
Ms. Halle Dunn, *alto*
Ms. Brenda Loflin, *alto*
Mr. Ed Lutz, *baritone*
Mrs. Peggy Lutz, *tenor*
The Rev^d Richard Paschall, *baritone*
Ms. Barbara Senter, *soprano*

THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CLERGY & STAFF

Mrs. Becca Blackmon, *Business Administrator*
The Reverend Dr. Mark Conforti, *Senior Pastor*
Mr. Mike Fansler, *Building Superintendent*
Ms. Jen Fogt, *Director of Youth Ministries*
The Reverend Stacey Lundy, *Associate Pastor*
Mr. Joshua Starnes, *Director of Music & Organist*
Mrs. Bailee Weisensel, *Director of Children's Ministries*

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*The Mission of First United Methodist Church is
To Make and Nurture Christian Disciples Through the Presence and Power of God.*