



# TRINITY

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PRESBYTERIAN (PCA) • MURFREESBORO

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*Service of Lessons & Carols*

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DECEMBER 13, 2020

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Honor God.

Welcome All.

Embody Christ's Reign.

# ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

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December 13, 2020

Lessons & Carols

*Advent Service*

The Service of Lessons and Carols is an annual tradition that began at Kings' College Chapel, Cambridge. The original liturgy was devised in 1878 by E.W. Benson, but Eric Milner-White, Dean of Kings' College-Cambridge, adapted Benson's liturgy for use at Cambridge in 1918. The format continues today every Christmas Eve at Cambridge and has been adopted throughout the world for use in local congregations.

The heart of the Lessons and Carols service is the presentation of the redemptive narrative in Scripture. Nine passages combine to declare the wondrous story from the fall of humanity, through the promise of a Savior, to the birth of Jesus. Congregational carols and musical anthems highlight the meanings of each text with their lyrical poetry, thoughtful melodies, and artistic beauty.

Through Lessons and Carols, our community learns to embrace Advent and anticipate Christmas by telling itself, once again, in Word and in song, the true story of the loving purposes of God in our beautiful Messiah. Tonight, hear the Word, not only in English, but also in Dutch, Yoruba, Portuguese, Hindi, and Malayalam. May the rich, global tradition of Lessons and Carols remind us of the historic and cross-cultural nature of our Christian faith. Let us sing with countless others across time and space of our Immanuel!

## ENTERING GOD'S PRESENCE

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### Bidding Prayer

PASTOR: Beloved in Christ, throughout this season of Advent and as we await 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, the babe lying in the manger. Therefore let us read in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought to us by this Holy Child. But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community. And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children; 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 man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of Heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

ALL: Our Father, who art in Heaven; Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin 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.

\*Bidding Carol

“Once in Royal David’s City”

\*Congregation stands

## The Nine Lessons

**First Lesson: *God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.***

**Scripture:** Genesis 3:8-15

Sarah Shearer

<sup>8</sup>And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" <sup>10</sup>And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."  
<sup>11</sup>He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" <sup>12</sup>The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." <sup>13</sup>Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." <sup>14</sup>The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. <sup>15</sup>I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

**READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Congregational Carol**

**"Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light"**

**Second Lesson: *God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the earth be blessed.***

[This passage will be read in a language other than English to aid our worship of him who is the Word made flesh, the one who came into the world for the purpose of rescuing people from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages (Rev. 7:9).]

**Scripture:** Genesis 22:15-18 (Read in Dutch)

Pleun Troost

<sup>15</sup>And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

**Congregational Carol**

**“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”**

*(sung responsively - the songleader will sing the verses, and the congregation will join for the refrains)*

### **Third Lesson: *Christ's birth and kingdom foretold by Isaiah.***

**Scripture:** Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Mary Thompson

<sup>2</sup>The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>6</sup>For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup>Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **Instrumental Meditation**

#### **"Thou Who Wast Rich Beyond All Splendour"**

Barbara Ehresman and Anna Robertson

*(Lyrics provided for reference and prayerful meditation.)*

*"Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love's sake becamest poor;  
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,  
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.  
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,  
All for love's sake becamest poor.*

*Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man;  
Stooping so low, but sinners raising  
Heavenwards by thine eternal plan.  
Thou who art God beyond all praising,  
All for love's sake becamest man.*

*Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee.  
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,  
Make us what thou wouldst have us be.  
Thou who art love beyond all telling,  
Saviour and King, we worship thee."*

## Fourth Lesson: *The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.*

[This passage will be read in a language other than English to aid our worship of him who is the Word made flesh, the one who came into the world for the purpose of rescuing people from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages (Rev. 7:9).]

**Scripture:** Isaiah 11:1-9 (Read in Yoruba)

Banji Sokoya

<sup>1</sup>There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. <sup>2</sup>And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. <sup>3</sup>And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, <sup>4</sup>but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. <sup>5</sup>Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. <sup>6</sup>The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together; and a little child shall lead them. <sup>7</sup>The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. <sup>8</sup>The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. <sup>9</sup>They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL:** Thanks be to God.

## Instrumental Meditation

## “Of the Father’s Love Begotten”

*(Lyrics provided for reference and prayerful meditation.)*

*“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!*

*O that birth forever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race;  
and the babe, the world’s Redeemer  
first revealed His sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!*

*This is He Whom heav’n-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, to thee with God the Father,  
and O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving  
and unwearied praises be;  
honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore!”*

## Fifth Lesson: *The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.*

Scripture: Luke 1:26-35

Mitchell Carter

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" <sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>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 father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." <sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" <sup>35</sup>And the angel answered 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 called holy - the Son of God."

READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

## Musical Meditation

## "What Child Is This?"

Kimberly Robertson

*(Lyrics provided for reference and prayerful meditation.)*

*"What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?*

*Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?*

*Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?*

*Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.*

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;*

*Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe the son of Mary!*

*So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.*

*Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby;*

*Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary."*



## Sixth Lesson: *Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.*

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-23

Randy Thompson

<sup>18</sup>Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. <sup>19</sup>And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly.

<sup>20</sup>But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. <sup>21</sup>She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." <sup>22</sup>All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

<sup>23</sup>"Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,  
and they shall call his name Immanuel" (which means, God with us).

READER: This is the Word of the Lord.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

### Instrumental Meditation

### "Away in a Manger"

Callie, Graham, and Grant Widener and Anna Robertson

*(Lyrics provided for reference and prayerful meditation.)*

*"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
the stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes;  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay  
close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven, to live with thee there."*

## **Seventh Lesson: *The shepherds go to the manger.***

[This passage will be read in a language other than English to aid our worship of him who is the Word who made flesh, who came into the world for the purpose of rescuing people from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages (Rev. 7:9).]

**Scripture:** Luke 2:8-20 (Read in Portuguese)

Tim & Debbie Dunn

<sup>8</sup>And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup>And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup>For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup>And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup>"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup>When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup>And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Instrumental Meditation**

## **"Angels We Have Heard on High"**

*(Lyrics provided for reference and prayerful meditation.)*

*"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!*

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
Say what may the tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!"*

## **Eighth Lesson: *The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.***

**Scripture:** Matthew 2:1-11

Rick Malone

<sup>1</sup>Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>saying, “Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” <sup>3</sup>When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: <sup>6</sup>“And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”” <sup>7</sup>Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.” <sup>9</sup>After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. <sup>11</sup>And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

**READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **Instrumental Meditation**

### **“The First Noel”**

*(Lyrics provided for reference and prayerful meditation.)*

*“The first noel the angels 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.  
Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel!*

*And by the light of that same star  
the wise men came from 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!*

*Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
that hath made Heav’n and earth of nought  
and with his own blood mankind has bought.  
Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel!”*

**\*Congregational Carol**

**“Joy to the World”**

**\*Ninth Lesson: *John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.***

[This passage will be read in a language other than English to aid our worship of him who is the Word made flesh, the one who came into the world for the purpose of rescuing people from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages (Rev. 7:9).]

**Scripture:** John 1:1-14 (Read in Hindi & Malayalam)

Roy & Jooly Philip

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup>All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. <sup>4</sup>In him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. <sup>6</sup>There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. <sup>7</sup>He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. <sup>8</sup>He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. <sup>9</sup>The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. <sup>11</sup>He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, <sup>13</sup>who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. <sup>14</sup>And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

**READER:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**ALL:** **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Congregational Carol**

**“O Come All Ye Faithful”**

## **Prayer**

PASTOR: O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may, with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

## **The Blessing**

PASTOR: Go forth into the world in peace;  
be of good courage;  
hold fast that which is good;  
render to no person evil for evil;  
Strengthen the faint-hearted; support the weak;  
help the afflicted;  
honor all people;  
love and serve the Lord,  
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you forever. Go forth in the peace of Christ. Amen.

## **Postlude**

## Notes and Reflections



**ADVENT SERVICES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE - 6:00 P.M.**

*SEATING IS LIMITED, PLEASE SIGN UP THROUGH THE  
WEBSITE OR VIA ENEWS)*



**TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Senior Pastor: Rev. Brandon Eggar

Assistant Pastor: Rev. Mitchell Carter

Director of Music Ministries: Kimberly Robertson

Director of Children's Christian Formation: Sherry Nowlin

Nursery Coordinator: Rachel Ehleben

Director of Hispanic Ministries: Carlos Sepúveda

Director of A/V: David White

Director of Youth: Reilly Liner

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