



First Presbyterian Church
OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Service of Lessons & Carols – December 24, 2024 | 10:30 p.m.



The Nativity Window

Welcome

A special welcome to those visiting us this evening! We are grateful for your presence with us on this holy night and hope this time of worship will fill you with joy. Our candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols is modeled after the service of nine lessons and carols made popular by King's College, Cambridge. It 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 or lessons from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns and choir anthems.

Prelude — 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Carols for Flutes and Guitar

arr. William Bay and Clark Kimberling

John L. Edwards, flutes and Matthew Denman, guitar

Service of Lessons & Carols — 10:30 p.m.

CHIME

LIGHTING OF THE VIGIL CANDLES

Michael, Mickie, Sean, and Sophia Smith

Come, Immanuel, for here is where heaven and earth come together in meeting. Come and keep your appointment with us—to let the power of your story affect us, the reality of your presence touch us, and the unity of our worship wrap us up in sacred togetherness of heavenly, earthly love.

Come, Immanuel. The world is in great pain. Come bringing light and lightness to our living. Come as welcome company for the lonely and hurting. Come as forgiveness for the guilty and calming for the tormented. Come disturbing the apathetic and upsetting the indifferent. Come bringing peace and affirmation for those who can find no peace within themselves.

Come, Immanuel. Your world is ready; your people are waiting. Come where hope is sleeping. Come where faith has given way to fear. Come where spirits long to leap again. Come where joy is absent and tears are waiting to be dried.

Come, Immanuel. Shape our living and our being. Come and bless us so that as we are blessed, we will bless other people. Come, Child of God, our best friend and companion. Come, great hope of humanity. Come to one and come to all on this holy night.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Plainsong, arr. M. Denman

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Plainsong, arr. M. Denman

Matthew Denman, guitar

Solo: Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild; Jesus Christ, her little child.

Choir: He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

**All: Jesus 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 feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.
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.
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.**
(following, please be seated)

WORDS OF WELCOME

Rev. John McKinnon

PRAYER OF ADORATION

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

Becki Walden

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

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Plainsong

Sanctuary Singers

arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

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.

O come, Thou Day-Spring come and cheer

Our spirits by Thine advent here;

Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,

And death's dark shadows put to flight.

O come, Thou Key of David, come,

And open wide our heavenly home;

Make safe the way that leads on high,

And close the path to misery.

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.

ANTHEM

The Stars of Heaven

Warren Puffer Jones

Sanctuary Singers

CONDITE ALMA SIDERUM

I will bless you; I will indeed bless you. And I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven.

*Creator of the stars of night,
your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, redeemer of us all,
we pray you, hear us when we call.*

*When this old world drew on toward night,
you came; but not in splendor bright,
not as a monarch, but the child
of Mary, blameless mother mild.*

And from your offspring shall all the nations of the earth find blessing.

*At your great name, O Jesus, now
all knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
all things on earth with one accord,
like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.*

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

ANTHEM

Born Among Us in the Night

Carson P. Cooman

Sanctuary Singers

Will you leave the light of heaven for the shadows of this earth, turn from songs that know your glory to the questions of your worth?

It is love that leads to leaving, love will bring you to our side; we will know you, Love incarnate, born among us in the night.

Will you leave the way of power that can call the stars by name, to be found within a manger, lit by olive oil aflame? It is love that leads to leaving, love that lays its power aside; we will name you, Christ our brother, born among us in the night.

Will you leave the endless giving, truth sings and love that flows, for a world whose way is grasping, hands that clutch and hearts that close? It is love that leads to leaving, love whose arms are open wide; and our hearts will open to you, born among us in the night.

FOURTH LESSON

Micah 5:2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

*CAROL (121)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

(Additional harmonization: T. T. Noble)

**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 street shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**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.**

Choir: 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.

**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; abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

ANTHEM

Nothing Will Be Impossible with God

Warren Puffer Jones

Sanctuary Singers

Luke 1:28-31, 34-35, 37-38

“Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” But she was much perplexed by his words. “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus.”

Mary said to the angel: “How can this be?”

“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. For nothing will be impossible with God.”

“Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.”

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

***CAROL (114)**

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

(Additional harmonization: R. Lloyd)

**Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 poor baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until 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

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

*CAROL (119)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

(Introduction: R. A. Hobby; Descant harmonization: D. Willcocks)

**Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
With th’angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!
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 th’incarnate deity,
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”
Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son 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 us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king!”**

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

ANTHEM

Following the Star

Warren Puffer Jones

Sanctuary Singers

*We walk in darkness but seek the light, following the star all through the night.
Its shining guides us, mile after mile, as we seek salvation in a sleeping child.
On our pilgrimage we journey far guided by the brightness of the holy star!
We bring our gifts to lay before him.
We will bow down and worship at his feet.
Our hearts still seek him, the prince of peace.
Longing for redemption our search will never cease.
From the deep darkness of Adam’s fall, we follow the brightness of the rising star.
Oh, shine upon us now in the shadows.
The dawn has broken over all the earth, the holy radiance of this new birth!
The light is shining for all to see.
Guiding our feet into the way of peace!
Alleluia! Oh, shine!*

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14a

John unfolds the great mystery of Incarnation.

*CAROL (133)

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

(Descant harmonization: D. Willcocks)

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!

(Refrain) **O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;**

O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!

True God from true God, Light from light eternal,

Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;

Very God, begotten, not created! (Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;

Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! (Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! (Refrain)

(following, please be seated)

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

CALL FOR THE OFFERING/PRAAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Cady Lewis, soprano; Jennifer Coffman, mezzo-soprano

O holy night! The stars are brightly shining, it is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.

Long lay the world in sin and error pining, 'til he appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born;

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming, with glowing hearts by his cradle we stand.

So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, here come the wise men from the Orient land.

The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger; in all our trials born to be our friend.

He knows our need, to our weakness no stranger, behold your King! Before him lowly bend!

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.

Chains shall he break for we are all brothers; and in his name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we, let all within us praise his holy name.

Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise him! His power and glory evermore proclaim.

ENTRANCE OF THE CHRIST CANDLE (in silence)

*CAROL (122)

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

(Harmonization: J. Linker, D. Wood; Descant: W. P. Jones)

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing "Alleluia:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born!"**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

(unaccompanied)

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels let us sing Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born; Christ the Savior is born.**

*CAROL (134)

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

(Additional harmonization: W. Held & J. Bender)

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her king;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.**

*BLESSING

(following the blessing, please extinguish the candles)

*POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

arr. Anna Laura Page

Upcoming Events

Music for the Nativity — Friday, January 3 | 12:00 p.m.

FPC-OKC presents Joseph Ripka, Organist Canon Precentor & Director of Music Diocesan Music Missioner at St. Paul's Cathedral of Oklahoma City, in a Music for the Nativity concert. The concert will be followed by a luncheon in Watchorn Hall.

Both the concert and luncheon are FREE, but donations will be accepted. **RSVP for the luncheon by calling 405-525-6584 or emailing office@fpcokc.org.**

Boy Scout Popcorn Sale — Sunday, January 5 | Before & After Worship

Troop 15 will hold a popcorn fundraiser before and after worship service on Sunday, January 5. Thank you for supporting Troop 15!

First Sunday Lunch — Sunday, January 5 | 12:00 p.m.

After 11:00 a.m. worship, we'll gather in Watchorn Hall to enjoy a delicious meal prepared by Junebug Catering.

Menu: Roasted Chicken, Roasted Vegetable Platter, and Lemon Cake

Individual Prayer & Evensong Worship — Wednesdays | 5:00 & 5:30 p.m.

The Sanctuary is open on Wednesdays for individual meditation and prayer at 5:00 p.m. and an Evensong service from 5:30–6:00 p.m. Evensong is a short church service, featuring sung psalms, readings, and prayers, offering a period of respite and contemplation after the workday, to help transition into the restful night.

After service, we'll have a time of fellowship in the Reception Center from 6:00-6:30 p.m.

Free Yoga Class — Wednesday, January 8 | 6:00 p.m.

Our weekly Free Yoga Class returns on Wednesday, January 8! We'll meet in the Rec Room in the basement. Angela Rose will lead our hour-long class. All skill levels are welcome!

Reserve the Third — Saturday, January 18 | 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

We're volunteering at the Urban Mission in January! **Please contact Roane Pittman (johnpittmanmd@gmail.com) if you're interested in serving or have any questions.**

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Kemp Concert Series

4x4 Organ Concert — Sunday, February 2 | 4:00-6:00 p.m.

In this moveable musical feast, audience members begin in the Chapel, then move to the other organ rooms in the church, hearing a short recital in each location. Music is chosen to highlight the special characteristics of each instrument. *This is a free concert.*

Featuring:

- Alvez Barkoskie IV of St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, OKC
- Christopher Evatt of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Edmond
- Steven McConnell of First Baptist Church, OKC
- Carolyn Sargent of Mayflower Congregational Church, OKC



POINSETTIAS CHRISTMAS 2024

REMEMBERING, HONORING, AND CELEBRATING

Adams, Gaylan and Harriet
In memory of D.D. and Covia Adams
and Harry and Patsy Francis (parents)

Andrulonis, Collin and Erin
In memory of Gigi

Anonymous
In memory of the founding members of the
church

Baker, W. Nat
In memory of Louise Rogers Baker and
William Rorer Baker (parents)

Ballenger, Kandace
In memory of Ryan Beck (husband)

Baxter, Suzanne
In memory of Eileen, Bob, and John Baxter
(parents and special uncle)

Beeson, Glenda
In memory of Jim Beeson (husband)

Bosteels, Linda and Carl
In memory of Carl and Mary Bosteels and
Robert and Marilyn Millier (parents)

Bouchereau, Sherry; Kuehes, David; and Lacy,
Vickie
In memory of Pat and Bobby Kuehes
(parents)
In memory of John Lacy and Keain Hanneld
(husband and brother)

Brown, Ken and Kay
In celebration of Gigi Stillwell
(great-granddaughter born this year)

Charlet, Barbara
In celebration of the FPC Staff

Curtis, Jeff and Renée
In memory of our grandparents

Dykeman, W. Samuel
In honor of Jannis Dykeman (wife)

Eselin, Janet
In memory of loved ones

Forsman, Doug and Mary Su
In memory of our parents

Foster, Ona, Eric, and Kathleen
In memory of John Foster
(husband and father)

Hatcher, Richard and Elizabeth
In celebration of family and friends

Hays, Tom and Dorothy
In honor of loved ones
In celebration of Warren Puffer Jones,
John Edwards, Sanctuary Singers, Sanctuary
Ringers, Children's Choir, and Soloists

Heimbach, Bobbie
In memory of Don Heimbach (husband)

Holden, JoAnn
In memory of James H. Holden (husband)
In memory of Dr. and Mrs. C.M. Hodgson
and Mr. and Mrs. Rex Holden (parents)

Howard, Lacey
In honor of Billie Brumley (friend)

Johnson, Travis, Emily, Olivia, and Ruby
In honor of Cyndi Lockwood (grandma)
In honor of Gary and Jane Johnson
(grandparents)
In honor of Delorus Bockwoldt (grandma)

Lee, Shang-Mei
In memory of Jwu H. Lee (husband) and
Julia Lee (daughter)

Maxwell, Kari
In memory of grandparents

McKinnon, John
In honor of Barbara Charlet, Clerk of
Session
In honor of Gayle Cox

McKinnon, John, Darci, Aidan, and Ian
In memory of Rev. James Hawley
McKinnon Jr. (father and grandfather)

In memory of Rev. James Hawley
McKinnon, III (John's brother)

In memory of Diana Gayle Siber
(mother and grandmother)

In memory of Junior Curtis Siber
(father and grandfather)

In memory of Jeffrey Wade French
(Darci's brother)

McLean, Kova
In memory of Bud McLean (husband)

In memory of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Mobley
(parents)

Miller, Lolieta
In memory of Larry Miller (husband, father,
beloved Baba), Ens. Evan Walling Miller,
USN (beloved son, brother, and uncle), and
Dolly Green Sydow (travel partner, sister,
and best friend)

In celebration of my family, Heath and
Jennifer (son and daughter-in-law) and my
precious grandchildren, Rhys, Salem,
Avonlea, Jenika, and Corbin

Moore, Blaine
In celebration of Jack Ogden and
Lane Wallace joining the church this year

Nelson, Alan and Jean
In celebration of Mark and Gabrielle and
Kathleen and Andrew

Nelson, Alan, Jean, Mark, and Kathleen
In memory of David L. Nelson
(son and brother)

Nichols, Larry
In memory of John W. and Mary Nichols
(parents)

In memory of John T. and Mary Nichols
(grandparents)

Osmond, Wayne and Becky
In memory of Ewen and Dorothy Osmond
and Tenal and Nancy Cooley (parents)

In memory of Sierra Custer (granddaughter)

Painchaud, Elizabeth
In honor of Pat and Dorothy Day
(parents)

Pittman, Roane and Debbie
In celebration of Kim, David, Rachel,
Rebecca, Collin, Camac, Sloan, and Reese
(children and grandchildren)

Poe, Raymond
In memory of Raymond and Louise Poe
(parents)

In memory of Joanne and Robert Poe
(sister and brother)

In memory of Douglas and Margaret Magers
(father and mother-in-law)

Rizzato, Sol
In honor of John L. Edwards
(friend and mentor)

Shaw, Doug
In memory of C.W. Shaw (son)

Shaw, Naome
In honor of Erlinda (mother)

Straehla, Leila
In memory of Sheila Straehla
(mother and grandmother)

Stumpf, William (Uncle Giraffe)
In celebration of Cyndi, Olivia, and Ruby
(mother and nieces)

White, Peggy and Missie
In memory of John White
(husband and father)

Winfree, Jana
In celebration of Walter, William, Diana,
Mia, Zoey, and Robin (bright stars)

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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