



First Presbyterian Church OF OKLAHOMA CITY

Service of Lessons & Carols — December 24, 2025 | 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 in Many Lands (Organ Settings of World Carols)

George Emlen

Gabriel's Message (Basque Carol)

Cant Des Ocells (Catalan Carol) +

Dobar Večer Dobri Ljudi (Croatian Carol)

Jesous Ahatonhia {Huron Carol} (French Canadian Carol) +

Nu Är Det Jul Igen (Swedish Carol)

Ihr Kinderlein, Kommet (German)

Niño Lindo (Venezuelan Carol) +

The Cherry Tree Carol (Appalachian Carol) +

The Wexford Carol (Irish Carol)

Quanno Nascette Ninno (Italian Carol)

+ Matthew Denman, guitar

Silent Night

arr. Fred Bock

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

CHIME

LIGHTING OF THE VIGIL CANDLES

Travis, Emily, Olivia, and Ruby Johnson,
Cyndi Lockwood, and William Stumpf

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

***CAROL (140)**

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

(Descant harmonization: D. Willcocks)

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

Mary Ann Doolen

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

ANTHEM

We Are Dust

Warren Puffer Jones

Sanctuary Singers

We are dust; to dust we shall return.

*Darkness surrounds us
as we wander in the shadow
of death.*

*One foot in front of the other,
far from home;
cast out of the garden,
cold and alone.*

*Lifting our eyes, we behold in the distance
a shining light, a beautiful light,
a light of hope, of joy!
A light of love, a light of peace.*

*I heard the sound of your footsteps.
I hid myself
because I was naked and afraid.*

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

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.*

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

Love Came Down at Christmas

John Rutter

Sanctuary Singers

Love came down at Christmas,

Love all lovely, love divine;

Love was born at Christmas,

Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,

Love incarnate, love divine;

Worship we our Jesus:

But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,

Love be yours and love be mine;

Love to God and all men,

Love for plea, and gift and sign.

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/PRAYER OF DEDICATION

OFFERTORY

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Warren Puffer Jones, baritone

*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)

**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

God Rest You Merry

Rebecca Groom te Velde

Upcoming Event

Music for the Nativity — Friday, January 2 | 12:00 p.m.

Join us for a special midday concert featuring Mr. John L. Edwards on the organ, in the Sanctuary choir loft. This 45-minute program is based on the story of the Nativity and will include music by Bach/Gounod, Daquin, Gray, Mui, and Smith.

A free lunch will follow in Watchorn Hall. Donations accepted. **For lunch reservations, call the church office (405-525-6584) by December 31.**

Menu: Lemon Chicken, Roasted Vegetables, Rice Pilaf, and Lemon Cake

**Give to
FPC today!**



SCAN ME

First Presbyterian Church

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