

Historic
Independent Presbyterian
Church



Service of Lessons and Carols
December 15, AD 2019

207 Bull Street • Savannah, Georgia 31401 • 912/236-3346 • www.ipcsav.org

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

FIVE THIRTY O'CLOCK

The Prelude – “Angels’ Carol”
“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”

John Rutter
Kevin McChesney

Handbell Choir

The Welcome

The Bidding Prayer and Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Dr. Terry Johnson

* **The Opening Carol** – “Once in Royal David’s City”

Irby

The congregation rises with organ introduction

Stanzas 1 – All

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.

Stanzas 2 – All

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 Savior holy.

Stanza 3 – Seraph, Cherub and Chapel Choirs

And through all His wondrous childhood He would honor and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as He.

Stanzas 4 – All

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav’n above,
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Interlude

Stanzas 5 – All, in unison

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.

The congregation is seated.

The First Lesson – Genesis 3:1–15

Mr. Melvin Issac

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

“Come, O Precious Ransom, Come”

Mark Shepperd

The Youth Choir and Handbell Choir

Piano: Mrs. John Garnett

Come, O precious Ransom, come.
Come, O Savior of the world.
Only hope for sinful mortals!
Come, your beauty let us view;
Anxiously we wait for you.
Come, O precious Ransom, come.

Hail! Hail! Hosanna! David’s Son!
Jesus, hear our supplication!
Come, O precious Ransom, come,
Glorious King and Lord most holy.
Enter now my waiting heart,
Dwell in me and ne’er depart.
Come, O precious Ransom, come.

The Second Lesson – Isaiah 7:10–14; 9:1–2, 6–7

Rev. Ronald Parrish

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by the prophet Isaiah

“Unto Us a Child Is Born”

Laurel Farnell

The Chapel, Cherub, and Seraph Choirs
Piano: Mrs. John Garnett

For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is giv'n.
God is with us, Emanuel.
For unto us a child is born; unto us a son is giv'n.
Alleluia! A Savior has come!

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

He shall be called Emanuel, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!

For unto us...
A Savior has come!

The Third Lesson – Isaiah 40:1–5

Mr. Dennis Boatright

The prophet Isaiah announces,
“And the glory of the Lord will be revealed!”

“Prepare to Receive Him”

J. S. Bach

The Chapel Choir
Piano: Mrs. John Garnett

Prepare to receive him the promised Messiah,
The loving and caring, the Savior of all.

The Fourth Lesson – Isaiah 60:1–5, 18–20

Dr. David Gobel

The prophet Isaiah foresees the coming of the glory of the Lord

“Ukrainian Alleluia”

Craig Courtney

The Men's Chorus
Piano: Mrs. Douglas Winks

Alleluia.

The congregation rises with organ introduction

Introduction – David Cherwein

*** The Psalm – Psalm 72:1–4, 7–8, 11–14, 19**

Puer Nobis

All:

- 1 O God, Thy judgments give the King,
His reigning Son Thy righteousness;
- 2 He to Thy people right shall bring,
With justice shall Thy poor redress.
- 3 The heights shall bring prosperity,
The hills bring peace by righteousness;
- 4 He'll judge the poor, the wronged set free,
And crush the men who them oppress.

Women and Girls:

- 7 The just shall flourish in His day;
While lasts the moon shall peace extend;
- 8 From sea to sea shall be His sway,
And from the River to earth's end.

Men and Boys:

- 11 All kings shall down before Him fall,
All nations His commands obey.
- 12 He'll save the needy when they call,
The poor, and those that have no stay.

Psalm continues on next page

All:

- 13 He'll show the poor His sympathy,
And save the needy by His might;
14 From fraud and force He'll set them free;
Their blood is precious in His sight.

Interlude

All, in unison

- 19 And blessed be His glorious name,
Long as the ages shall endure.
O'er all the earth extend His fame;
Amen, amen, for evermore.

The congregation is seated

The Fifth Lesson – Luke 1:26–38

Rev. Evan Gear

The angel Gabriel greets the virgin Mary.

“Magnificat” (from Luke 1:46–55)

Ruth Elaine Schram

The Chapel Choir and Youth Choir Girls

Piano: Mrs. John Garnett

My soul glorifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
My soul glorifies, glorifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices, my spirit rejoices in God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
My soul glorifies, glorifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices, my spirit rejoices in God

Mighty and holy, he has exalted the lowly,
Filled the hungry, and scattered the proud.
He has remembered his servant, remembered his servant.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior.
My soul glorifies, glorifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices, my spirit rejoices in God

My soul glorifies the Lord.

The Sixth Lesson – Luke 2:1–7

Mr. Frankie Daniell

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

“Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming”

15th c. Plainsong
German Carol

“Of the Father's Love Begotten”

13th c. Plainsong
arr. J. Edmund Hughes

The Women's Chorus and Handbell Choir

Of the Father's love begotten...Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
Ere the world began to be...of Jesse's lineage coming
He the source the ending he...as men of old have sung.
Of the things that are that have been...It came a flow'ret bright
And that future years shall be...amid the cold of winter
Evermore and evermore,...when half-spent was the night.

Blooming... evermore and evermore,
Lo, how a rose o'er blooming...

The Seventh Lesson – Luke 2:8–20

Rev. Dr. Timothy Foster

The angels join the shepherds at the manger.

“Thou Who Wast Rich”

Molly Ijames
French Carol

*The Sanctuary and Youth Choirs
Piano: Mrs. Douglas Winks*

Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger did surrender
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou Who wast rich beyond all splendor
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;
Heav'nwards 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,
Savior and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what Thou would have us be.
Thou Who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King we worship Thee.

The Eighth Lesson – Matthew 2:1–12

Rev. Timothy Shaw

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

“On This Day Earth Shall Ring”

Neil Harmon
Personet Hodie, 1582

*The Youth and Handbell Choirs
Piano: Miss Grace Garnett
Cello: Mrs. John Garnett*

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing
To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us;
Him the Father gave us.
Gloria!...in excelsis Deo!

His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth
Bethlehem saw his birth; shepherds kneel before him,
Praise him and adore him.
Gloria!...in excelsis Deo!

God's bright star o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led;
Kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him,
Praise him and adore him.
Gloria!...in excelsis Deo!

On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring.
Praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us;
Peace and love he gave us.
Gloria!...in excelsis Deo

The Ninth Lesson – John 1:1–14

Mr. Michael Hazeltine

The Apostle John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

“God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen”

18th c. English Carol
Stuart Forster

The Sanctuary and Congregation

The congregation rises with organ introduction

(see insert of hymn)

All:

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray:

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Choir:

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name. *All: Refrain.*

Men:

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
And left their flocks afeeding in tempest, storm, and wind,
And went to Bethlehem straight way,
This blessed babe to find. *All: Refrain.*

Women:

But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this infant lay,
They found him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary, kneeling,
Unto the Lord did pray. *All: Refrain.*

All (in unison):

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and charity each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
Does sing redeeming grace. *All: Refrain.*

The Meditation

Rev. Dr. Terry Johnson

* **The Hymnal** – #270 “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

In Dulci Jubilo

The Blessing and Benediction

The Postlude - “Good Christian Men, Rejoice”

Held

MUSICIANS & DIRECTORS

Handbell Choir Director	Mrs. Greg Brunson
Piano (Chapel, Cherub, & Seraph).....	Mrs. John Garnett
Piano.....	Miss Grace Garnett
Piano (Sanctuary Choir)	Mrs. Douglas Winks
Trombone.....	Mr. Douglas Winks
Trumpet	Mr. Thomas Smith
Cello	Mrs. John Garnett
Cottas and Robes	Mrs. Rodney Steward
Assistants	Mrs. William Brodmann
	Miss Kirstie Brodmann
	Mrs. Rodney Steward
	Mr. Dennis Boatright
Organist & Choirmaster.....	Mrs. Kathryn Van Eck

ABOUT THE SERVICE

The Service of Lessons and Carols was first developed up by Archbishop Benson, when Bishop of Truro, for use in the Truro Cathedral. It was later simplified in 1918 for use in King's College Chapel, Cambridge, by its then Dean, the Very Reverend Eric Milner-White.

The service joins Scripture texts that speak of the birth of Christ with anthems and carols which highlight the themes found in those texts.

Universally beloved, this service is used with some variation all over the world.

THE SCRIPTURE

The Scripture readings are from the authorized "King James Version," which from 1611 served as the standard text of English-speaking Christianity.

NURSERY

Nurseries are available for children three-years-old and under. They are located down the hallways behind the pulpit. Children should be retrieved by 7:50 p.m.

PICTURE ON COVER

The cover art, "The Three Wisemen," is an original painting by Henry Collier (1886–1958).



CHRISTMAS BUFFET

You are cordially invited to our Christmas Buffet in Olmstead Hall, Telfair Hall & Courtyard immediately following the Service of Lessons & Carols.

DIRECTIONS TO THE BUFFET

If you are planning to join us for the Christmas Buffet, please exit down the front steps and proceed down Oglethorpe Avenue. Enter through the two doors just past the courtyard gate.

If you are uncomfortable walking down Oglethorpe Avenue, you may proceed down the hallway through the pulpit door.

If you are retrieving a Chorister, exit by the front steps and proceed down Oglethorpe Lane to pick them up in the Whitaker Street Building.

There is a designated seating area for our Seniors to eat in the Olmstead Hall (where the stage was located).

There is a designated location in the Olmstead Hall for children to enjoy their own buffet and this is located in the NW corner alcove (where the former butler's pantry was located).

Food is available in the Telfair Hall and Olmstead Hall locations with identical carving stations.



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE WITH CANDLELIGHT CAROLING TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2019 5:30 P.M.

A message by Mr. Johnson,
a children's story -sermon by Mr. Parrish,
and candlelight carol singing on the lawn.
