

THE SEVENTH LESSON

The shepherds go to the manger.

Luke 2:8-16 Joe Pool
Carol: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* L. Larson

~ Covenant Ringers ~

INVITATION TO OFFERING Grady Moseley

A special offering will benefit Crisis Assistance Ministry

OFFERTORY CAROL

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly arr. R. Harvey
~ Brass Charlotte ~

THE EIGHTH LESSON

The Wise Men are led by a star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-11 Lita Gatlin
Carol: *The First Noel* D. Forrest

Noel! Noel! The first Noel, the angels did say,
was to certain poor shepherds in fields where they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far.
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of naught
and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Noel, Noel! Born is the King, Noel, Noel!

~ Covenant Choir ~

***THE NINTH LESSON**

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

John 1:1-14 Bob Henderson
Carol: *The Dream Isaiah Saw*. T. Troeger, G. Rudolph

Lions and oxen will sleep in the hay, leopards will join with the lambs as
they play, wolves will be pastured with cows in the glade, blood will not
darken the earth that God made.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart,
bring the dream Isaiah saw; life redeemed from fang and claw.

Peace will pervade more than forest and field;
God will transfigure the Violence concealed deep in the heart
and in systems of gain, ripe for the judgment the Lord will ordain.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw; Justice purifying law.

Nature reordered to match God's intent, nations obeying the call to repent,
all of creation completely restored,
filled with the knowledge and love of the Lord.

Little child whose bed is straw, take new lodgings in my heart.
Bring the dream Isaiah saw; Justice purifying law.

~ Covenant Choir ~

***BLESSING** Bob Henderson

***RECESSIONAL HYMN 119**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

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 the 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 the 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 sun 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!"

***POSTLUDE**

Postlude on "Mendelssohn" D. Willcocks



Leading Worship this Evening

Bob Henderson, senior minister; Jessica Patchett, associate minister; Grady Moseley,
interim minister of congregational life, pastoral care; Heather Potter, director of
traditional music; Robert Dicks, associate director of traditional music & organist;
Kenney Potter, choral conductor.

Musicians

Henry Trexler: double bass; Stacey Mills, Brian Winegardner: trumpet;
Michael Hosford, Keith Johnson: trombone; Judith Thompson: French horn;
Doug Black: tuba; Jordan Taylor, djembe; Anne Fehring, Sarah Summers: piano

Video/Audio

Joel St. Onge (visuals), Dave Welchman (sound)

Offering

A special offering is received during this worship service to benefit Crisis
Assistance Ministry, whose mission is to provide assistance and advocacy for
people in financial crisis, helping them move toward self-sufficiency. Those
participating in the offering by check are asked to make payable to Covenant
Presbyterian Church and to designate it for Crisis Assistance Ministry.

Cover Image

The Nativity is located in the Sanctuary in the first window on the west nave.
Jesus is elevated on a manger with stalks of wheat laid below – the altar of sacri-
fice of the bread of heaven. A lamb, representing the innocent Christian, looks
up from below. An ox and donkey look on from above, symbols, respectively,
of the Yoke of the Law of the Jews and the pagan practices of the Gentiles.
Mary kneels before the altar. Joseph holds the gladiolus, the name recalling
Simeon's words to Mary when Jesus was presented in the Temple.
Reference: Luke 2:1-7, 35. Photo © 2010 JonSilla.com.

This worship service is being streamed via the Internet and video recorded for online viewing.
♻️ If you would not like to keep this bulletin, please recycle it in the bins located in the narthex.



1000 E. Morehead Street • Charlotte, North Carolina, 28204 • 704.333.9071
www.covenantpresby.org



To the Greater Glory of God
**A WORSHIP SERVICE
OF LESSONS & CAROLS**
Sunday, December 16, 2018
5 p.m.

SANCTUARY

Covenant Presbyterian is a dynamic Christian community
that gladly invites all people into a transformational experience
of faith; boldly proclaims the gospel; bravely works toward a
whole and just world; and passionately nurtures discipleship.

A SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, December 16, 2018

5 p.m.

Welcome to Covenant, we are glad you are here. Children are always welcome in worship.

Child care (ages 6 weeks to fifth grade) is offered in the Education Wing.

Infant soothing rooms with live video of the worship service are available in the balcony and parlor. See an usher for assistance.

PRELUDE

Noël X L Daquin

Puer Natus in Bethlehem BWV 603. J.S. Bach

Weihnachten Op. 145 No. 3. M. Reger

Der Tag, der is so freudenreich BWV 605 J.S. Bach

Reflections on "E'en So, Lord Jesus" P. Manz

Dance of the Sugar Plum FairyP. Tchaikovsky

I Saw Three Ships. R. Elliott

~ Robert Dicks, organ ~

Patapan arr. Boyle

Silent Night arr. W. Himes

A Carol Fantasy.arr. J. Iveson

~ Brass Charlotte ~

CALL TO WORSHIP & LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

PROCESSIONAL CAROLS

Once In Royal David's City. IRBY

Choir: 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.**

***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 heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

***O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES**

**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.*

**True God from true God, light from light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes,
Very God, begotten, not created.**

**Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given; Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!**

***BIDDING PRAYER Jessica Patchett**

THE FIRST LESSON

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

Genesis 3:8-15. Patricia Joslin

Carol: Of the Father's Love Begotten DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM

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!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts his praises sing.
Powers, dominions bow before him, and extol our God and King.
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

~ Covenant Choir, Covenant Ringers~

THE SECOND LESSON

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

Genesis 22:15-18 John Beyer

***Congregational Carol: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus HYFRYDOL**

**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.**

**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 all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

THE THIRD LESSON

The prophet Isaiah foretells the coming of the Savior.

Isaiah 9:2-7 Genie White

Carol: Will You Be Ready? M. Patterson

People who walk in darkness have seen a great light.
The light will shine upon them;
may it shine brightly tonight.

Will you be ready for the light?
Ready for the light to shine upon you?
Will you be ready for the light?
Ready for the light to shine?

Will you be watching? Will you be listening?
Will you hear the angels sing? Will you be waiting?
Will you be searching? For a Savior and a King?

People keep watching, true light is coming,
look for a bright star in the east.
Look for the Christ Child, born in a manger,
there you will find the Prince of Peace.

~ Angelus Choir, Chorister Choir ~

**You are invited to rise in body or spirit*

THE FOURTH LESSON

The prophet Micah foretells the Savior's birthplace.

Micah 5:2-4 Dan Caldwell

***Congregational Carol: O Little Town of Bethlehem ST. LOUIS**

**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.**

**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.**

**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!**

THE FIFTH LESSON

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

Luke 1:26-38 John Longshore

Carol: Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain C. Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news;
Behold, your Lord comes to you.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will ever keep them safe from harm.
Behold, your Lord comes to you.
He who made the stars in the heaven,
He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal, He was Alpha and Omega,
He will come in power and glory, He will rule with truth,
Hope of all the nations, Light of all the world.
He will love the little children, He will hold them in his arms.
Love him and trust him as a child, Behold, your Lord comes to you.
Trust him as a child.

~ Angelus, Chorister and Covenant Choirs ~

THE SIXTH LESSON

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Luke 2:1-7 Lexi Frost

Carol: Gloria N. Sleeth

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria Alleluia. Christ the Lord is born.
Lo, now he comes, the awaited Messiah,
the babe who is born in a poor cattle stall.

There 'mid the wise men and shepherds adoring, he lies sweetly
sleeping, the Savior of all.

Tell the news through all the earth; tidings of the holy birth.
Sent from God with us to dwell: Jesus our Emmanuel.

~ Youth Choir, Henry Trexler, double bass; Jordan Taylor, djembe ~