

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

December 19, 2021 - 6:00 p.m.

Instrumental Prelude

Welcome

Dr. Mantle Nance

*Opening Bidding and The Lord's Prayer

Leader: Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide, let us listen anew to the message of the angels, and in heart and mind, go even to Bethlehem to see what has come to pass. As we await the great celebration of Christmas, we prepare our hearts that we may be shown its true meaning. We hear from the Holy Scriptures the words of the prophets foretelling the coming of Immanuel—God with us. We rehearse again the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience to our glorious redemption through Jesus Christ our Lord. We join our voices with the multitude of the heavenly host as we sing God's glory on high. We rejoice in the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, ushers in a kingdom of power and glory forever. Lastly, we offer up our prayers and praises to the Throne of Heaven in the words Christ himself taught us, saying:

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

Congregational Hymn #225 "Once in Royal David's City" Cecil F. Alexander

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15

Choral Anthem "Jesus Christ the Apple Tree" Arr. Austin C. Lovelace

*Congregational Hymn #193 "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" 5th Century

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

Choral Anthem "Emmanuel, Expected Jesus" Ruth Schram

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Choral Anthem "Let Our Gladness Have No End" Mark Sedio

*Congregational Hymn #199 "See, Amid the Winter's Snow"

Fourth Lesson

Micah 5: 2-4

Instrumental Anthem "O Holy Night" Adolphe Adam

*Congregational Hymn #201 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Choral Anthem "Let the Stable Still Astonish" Dan Forrest

*Congregational Hymn #221 "Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming" German

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2: 1, 3-7

Choral Anthem "The Gift"

arr. William Cutter

Instrumental Anthem "In the Bleak Midwinter" Christina Rossetti

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2: 8-16

Instrumental Anthem "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"

*Congregational Hymn #218 "Angels from the Realms of Glory" J. Montgomery

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2: 1-11

Choral Anthem "Christmas Gloria"

arr. Lloyd Larson

The congregation is invited to join, singing:

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!

Ninth Lesson

John 1: 1-14

Homily

Dr. Mantle Nance

Choral Anthem "Candlelight Carol" (Lighting of the Candles) Joseph Martin

The congregation is invited to join, singing:

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!

The Collect

Leader: Let us pray together

All: Almighty God, God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in the darkness. On this night you have made us glad with the remembrance of the birth of your only Son. Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, we may, with sure confidence, behold him, when he comes to be our judge. We pray this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen (Extinguishing of the Candles)

Postlude

*Congregation standing, as able

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Welcome to Ballantyne Presbyterian

We extend a special welcome to all visitors and invite you to join us for light refreshments following the service. You are also warmly invited to worship with us on Christmas Eve at our 6 p.m. service. Childcare will be provided.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

This beloved service can be traced to Truro, England where, on Christmas Eve of 1880, Bishop E.W. Benson put together the "little service for Christmas Eve—nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church." King's College in Cambridge, England adapted this service and has held it continuously each Christmas Eve since 1918

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White points out, derive from the scriptures. "The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God... 'seen' through the windows and words of the Bible."

It is our earnest prayer that this evening's service will inspire a joyous celebration of Advent as we prepare our hearts and minds to commemorate Christ's first coming and as we are reminded of God's people who long ago awaited the Messiah's arrival.

If you have never considered the true meaning of Christmas, the claims of Jesus Christ, and what it means to come to Jesus for forgiveness of sins and eternal life, I would love to talk with you.

God bless and may you have a wonderful Christmas.

Dr. Mantle Nance, Pastor

Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24th, 6 p.m.

Weekly Services at BPC

Mid-week Prayer Meeting – Wednesdays at 6 p.m.

Sunday School – 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship – 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship – 6 p.m.



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

*Sunday, December 19th, 2021
6:00 p.m.*

*Ballantyne Presbyterian Church
9925 Providence Road West, Charlotte, NC 28277
www.ballantynepres.com*