



A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 15th, 2024
6:00 p.m.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Dr. Mantle Nance

***OPENING BIDDING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Leader: Beloved in Christ, 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.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

*Congregational Hymn

225

Once in Royal David's City

You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2. He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,
3. And through all his won - drous child - hood he would hon - or and o - bey,
4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
5. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall:
• love and watch the low - ly maid - en in whose gen - tle arms he lay:
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove,
we shall see him, but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
with the poor, and mean, and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
• Chris - tian chil - dren all must be mild, o - be - dient, good as he.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
when like stars his chil - dren crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

Choral Anthem - *Into the Dark*

Aimee Jobe, orchestration E. George

*Into the dark and shapeless void there spake a still but mighty voice,
and Light broke through that darkness grim. The Word begotten world begins.*

*He rends a great divide between the waters and the heavenly,
and day and night their rhythms start, the light and dark in turn take part.*

*He parts the water's vast expanse that from its depths might hence advance
the land that shall forevermore embrace the waves which grace its shores.*

*But earth would not long barren be, for in their kind the fruitful seeds
He caused to blanket earth in green and sprout forth trees with shade serene.*

*The sun to rule the days and years, to keep the seasons changing here,
and high above in heaven's keep, He hung the moon to guard our sleep.*

*He filled the earth with living things, they swim in depths or soar with wings,
created by the Master's hand, in kind to dwell upon the land.*

*Then fashioned from the dust of earth, a creature of a higher worth,
than beast of field or sky or sea, IMAGO DEI Man would be!*

*In Eden's paradise of bliss, the one command of God was this:
"All but one tree is your supply, or on that day you'll surely die."*

*Seduced by Satan's twisted lies and fruit so pleasing to the eyes,
they ate and death then entered in, and with it fell the curse of sin.*

*Frightened, naked, full of shame, toil and pain by sin enslaved.
Banished we from Eden fled, helpless man in sin is dead.
Just, the wrath, the curse we bear!*

*But God within the curse foretold a promise that would soon unfold:
A mighty seed would surely crush the serpent's head to ransom us.*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

*Into the darkness of our world, born of a lowly virgin girl,
the Light made flesh came down to dwell, to break the curse, Emmanuel.*

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Instrumental Anthem *O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam

*Congregational Hymn

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196

Waiting for the consolation of Israel. Luke 2:25

1. Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2. Joy to those who long to see thee, Day-spring from on high, ap - pear;
3. Come to earth to taste our sad - ness, he whose glo - ries knew no end;
4. Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
come, thou prom - ised Rod of Jes - se, of thy birth we long to hear!
by his life he brings us glad - ness, our Re - deem - er, Shep - herd, Friend.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,
O'er the hills the an - gels sing - ing news, glad tid - ings of a birth:
Leav - ing rich - es with - out num - ber, born with - in a cat - tle stall;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

dear De - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.
"Go to him, your prais - es bring - ing; Christ the Lord has come to earth."
this the ev - er - last - ing won - der, Christ was born the Lord of all.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it, raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

THIRD LESSON

Instrumental Anthem *For Unto Us A Child Is Born*

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

G. F. Handel

Choral Anthem - *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

*Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming, From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming, As men of old have sung,
It came, a flow'ret bright, Amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.*

*Isaiah 'twas foretold it, The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it, The Virgin mother kind.
To shew God's love aright She bore to men a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.*

FOURTH LESSON

Choral Anthem - *O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Micah 5: 2-4

Timothy Kile

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.*

*O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer
Our spirits by Thine advent here.
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
And death's dark shadows put to flight.*

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to Thee, O Israel!

*O come, O Bright and Morning Star,
And bring us comfort from afar!
Dispel the shadows of the night
And turn our darkness into light.*

*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
God with us, Emmanuel.*

*Congregational Hymn

201

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Bethlehem Ephrathah, though you are small ... out of you will come for me one who will be ruler over Israel, whose origins are from of old, from ancient times. Mic. 5:2

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie;
2. For Christ is born of Mar - y; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is giv'n!
4. O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

a - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by:
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day.

yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
And prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
where meek souls will re - ceive him still, the dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el.

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Choral Anthem – *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* Basque Carol, arr. J. Leavitt

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, His wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame:

“All hail,” said he, “thou lowly maiden Mary,”

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

For known a blessed Mother thou shalt be, All generations laud and honor thee,

Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold,”

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, “To me be as it pleaseth God,” she said,

“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name,”

Most highly favored lady, Gloria!

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2: 1, 3-7

Children’s Choral Anthem – *O Come, Little Children*

Arr. by D. Giardiniere

Incorporating *Wachet Auf* by J.S. Bach

*O come, little children, O come, one and all;
To Bethlehem, haste, to the manger so small.
Come see what the Father in heaven this night
has sent down to earth for our joy and delight.*

*Come see in the stable: ‘mid oxen and sheep,
a Babe in a manger lies gently asleep.
As Mary and Joseph look on Him in love,
a chorus of angels is singing above.*

*The shepherds are kneeling in silence to pray,
and dimly the light flickers over the hay.
The stars in the heavens shine down and adore Him;
the stars in the heavens shine down and adore Him.*

*Dear Jesus, what gifts can we children bestow
to tell our affection, our gladness to show?
You seek neither treasure nor wealth from the earth,
but hearts of devotion this night of your birth.*

*Congregational Hymn

Away in a Manger

204

She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7

Unison F B \flat F

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, but lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay close by me for -

F

Je - sus laid down his sweet head; the stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes; I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
ev - er, and love me, I pray; bless all the dear chil - dren in

B \flat F C 7 F B \flat C 7 F

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky, and stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
thy ten - der care, and fit us for heav - en, to live with thee there.

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2: 8-16

Choral Anthem – *Angels' Carol*

John Rutter

*Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
To the humble shepherds who have waited long?
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Hear the angels sing their joyful song.*

*He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light.
He is come in love as the child of Mary;
In a simple stable we have seen his birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Hear the angels singing 'Peace on earth.'*

*He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
Like a bright star shining in the stars above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
When he comes to reign in purity and love.
Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming;
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Hear the angels singing
'Christ is born.'*

*Congregational Hymn

It Came upon the Midnight Clear

200

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them.
Luke 2:9

1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, with peace - ful wings un - furled,
3. And ye, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
4. For lo, the days are has - t'ning on, by proph - et bards fore - told,
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow,
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years comes round the age of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heav'n's all - gra - cious King";
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,
look now! for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,
the world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing.
and the whole world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Edmund H. Sears, 1850

CAROL C.M.D.
Richard S. Willis, 1850

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2: 1-11

Choral Anthem – *Sing Gloria, Sing Noel*

J. Raney

*Tiny baby was born this day-o. Sing gloria, sing noel!
See him lying there in the hay-o. Sing gloria, sing noel!
Stars are shining up in the sky-o, Mary's singing a lullaby-o.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Sing gloria, sing noel!*

Late at night when the world's asleep-o. Sing gloria, sing noel!
 Shepherds tend to their flocks of sheep-o. Sing gloria, sing noel!
 Saw an angel and heard his voice-o, went to Bethlehem to rejoice-o.
 Gloria in excelsis Deo! Sing gloria, sing noel!

See the wise men on their way-o. Sing gloria, sing noel!
 To the manger now, don't delay-o. Sing gloria, sing noel!
 Choirs of angels join to sing-o, hear the bells of heaven ring-o.
 Sing gloria, sing noel!

NINTH LESSON

John 1: 1-14

HOMILY

Dr. Mantle Nance

“O Come, Dayspring from on High”

*Congregational Hymn (*Lighting of the Candles*)

Silent Night! Holy Night!

210

They hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. Luke 2:16

Capo 1: F Bb(A) 7 F7(E7) Bb(A) Eb(D)

1. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! All is calm, all is bright round yon
 2. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Shep- herds quake at the sight! Glo - ries
 3. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Son of God, love's pure light ra - dian
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

Bb(A) Eb(D) Bb(A)

vir - gin moth - er and child. Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild,
 stream from heav - en a - far, heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
 an - gels let us sing al - le - lu - ia to our King;

F7(E7) Bb(A) F Eb(D) F7(E7) Bb(A) 7

sleep in heav - en - ly peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! Christ, the Sav - ior, 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

We are so very thankful to our choir and all of our instrumentalists. It has been a joy working together to prepare this service of Lessons and Carols to the glory of God and for all who are able to join us. This year we are also so thankful for Aimee Jobe, our dear friend and church pianist, who composed the anthem for our first lesson. It was a labor of love and a gift for our congregation, and we are so grateful. We are also thankful to our friend, Elliot George, who prepared the string and harp parts for us. Soli Deo Gloria!

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Tuesday, December 24th, 6 p.m.

WEEKLY SERVICES AT BPC

Prayer Meeting – Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.

Sunday School – 10 a.m.

Sunday Morning Worship – 11 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship – 6 p.m.

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