



# A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2025  
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.**

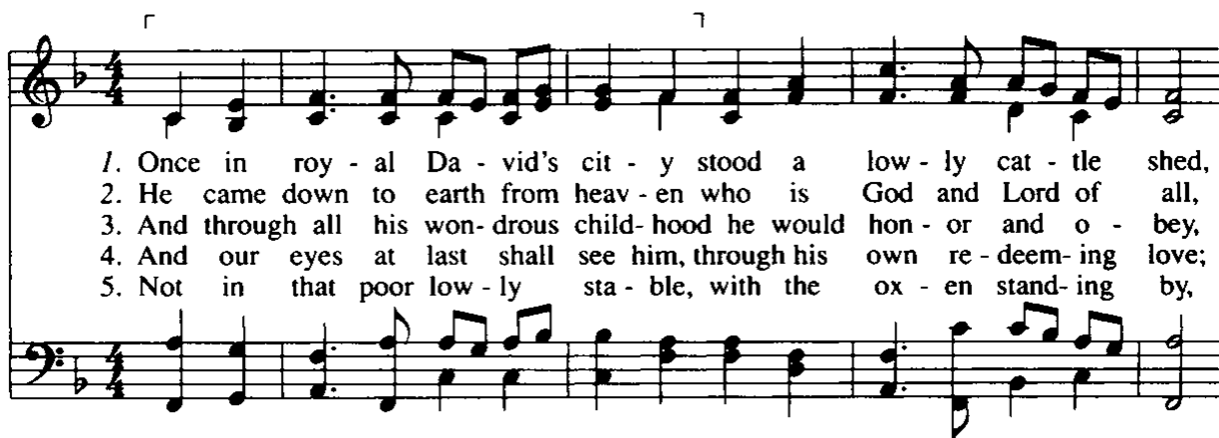
PROCESSIONAL HYMN

\*Congregational Hymn

225

Once in Royal David's City

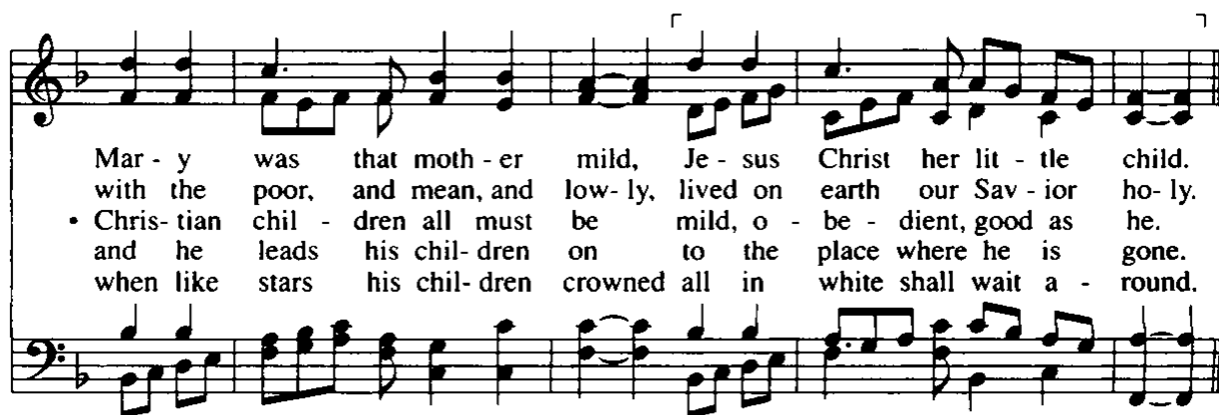
*You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger. Luke 2:12*



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 – *The Lord at First Did Adam Make*

Arr. David Willcocks

*The Lord at first did Adam make Out of the dust and clay,  
And in his nostrils breathed life, E'en as the Scriptures say.  
And then in Eden's Paradise He placed him to dwell,  
That he within it should remain To dress and keep it well.*

### **Chorus**

*Now let good Christians all begin  
An holy life to live,  
And to rejoice and merry be,  
For this is Christmas Eve.*

*And then within the garden he Commanded was to stay,  
And unto him in commandment These words the Lord did say:  
The fruit which in the garden grows To thee shall be for meet,  
Except the tree in the midst thereof, Of which thou shalt not eat. **Chorus.**  
For in the day that thou shalt eat, Or do it them come nigh;  
For if that thou doth eat thereof Then surely thou shalt die.  
But Adam he did take no heed Unto that only thing,  
But did transgress God's holy law, And so was wrapt in sin. **Chorus.**  
Now mark the goodness of the Lord Which he for mankind bore,  
His mercy soon he did extend, Lost man for to restore;  
And then for to redeem our souls From death and hellish thrall,  
He said his own dear son should be The Saviour of us all. **Chorus.***

## SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

Choral Anthem -*Emmanuel, Expected Jesus*

Ruth Elaine Schram

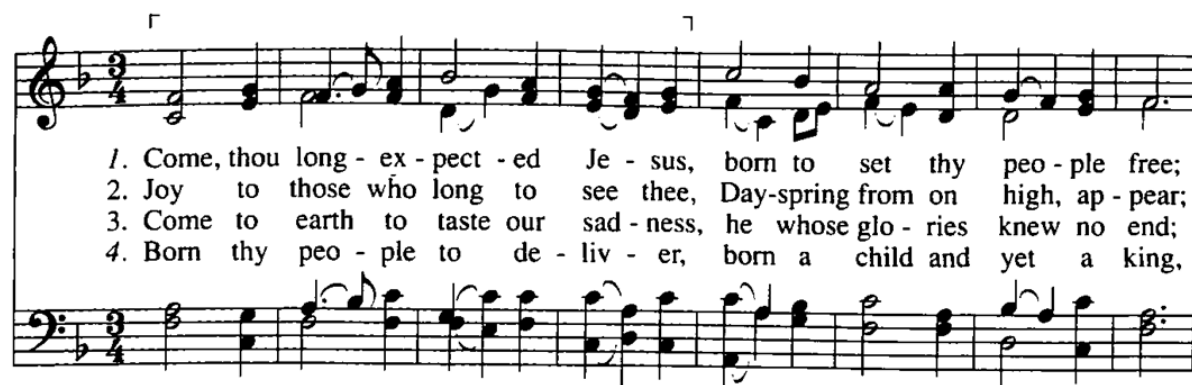
*O Come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*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 ev'ry nation, hope of ev'ry longing heart.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

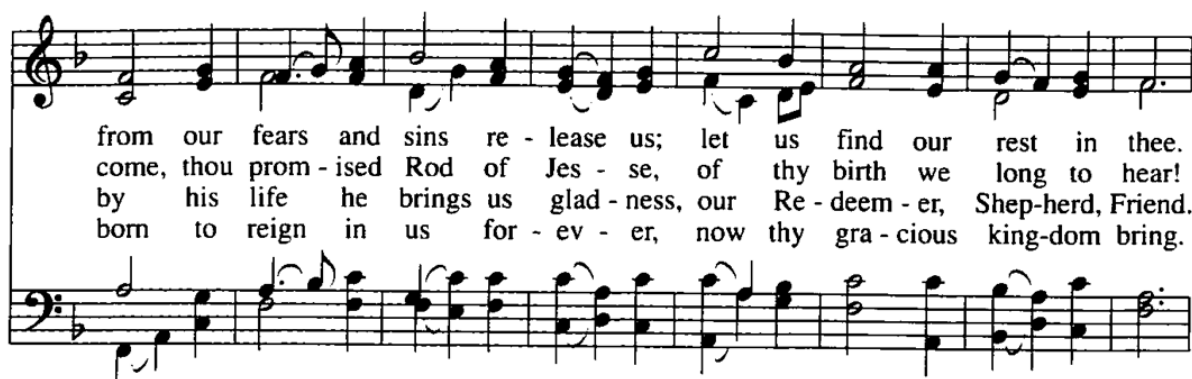
## Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

196

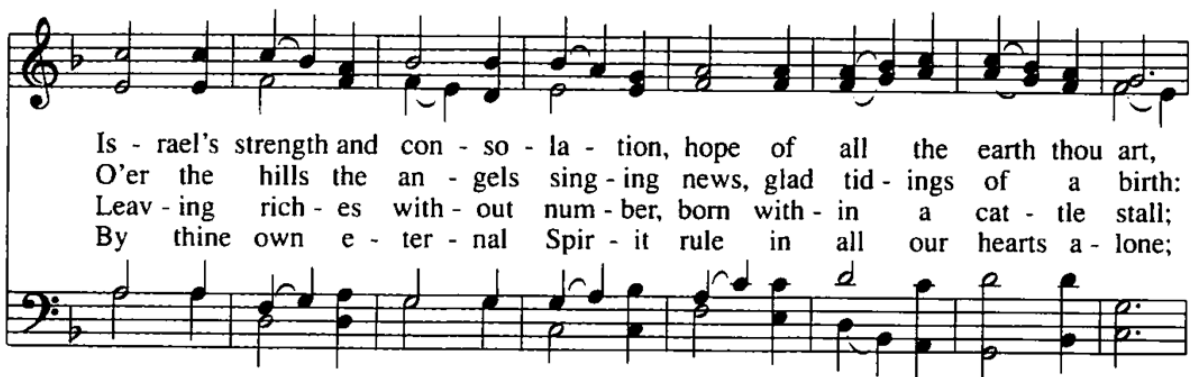
*Waiting for the consolation of Israel. Luke 2:25*



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

### FOURTH LESSON

Instrumental Anthem - *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Micah 5: 2-4

Philip Brooks

Choral Anthem – *Wexford Carol*

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

*Good people all, this Christmas time,  
Consider well and bear in mind  
What our good God for us has done,  
In sending His beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray  
To God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem upon the morn  
There was a blest Messiah born.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
To whom God's angels did appear  
Which put the shepherds in great fear.  
Prepare and go, the angels said,  
To Bethlehem, be not afraid;  
For there you'll find, this happy morn,  
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born.*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind,  
The shepherds went the babe to find,  
And as God's angel has foretold,  
They did our Savior Christ behold.  
Within a manger He was laid,  
And by His side the virgin maid  
Attending to the Lord of Life,  
Who came on earth to end all strife.*

**FIFTH LESSON****Luke 1:26-38**Choral Anthem – *O Come, All You Unfaithful*

Kauflin &amp; Clow

*O come, all you unfaithful, Come, weak and unstable  
Come, know you are not alone. O come, barren and waiting ones  
Weary of praying, come, See what your God has done.*

*Christ is born, Christ is born**Christ is born for you*

*O come, bitter and broken, Come with fears unspoken  
Come, taste of His perfect love. O come, guilty and hiding ones  
There is no need to run, See what your God has done*

*Christ is born, Christ is born**Christ is born for you*

*He's the Lamb who was given, Slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace, For those who believe  
He's the Lamb who was given, Slain for our pardon  
His promise is peace, For those who believe*

*So come, though you have nothing**Come, He is the offering**Come, see what your God has done**Christ is born, Christ is born**Christ is born for you**Christ is born, Christ is born**Christ is born for you***SIXTH LESSON****Luke 2: 1, 3-7**Choral Anthem – *In the Bleak Midwinter*

C. Rosetti, H. Darke

*In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen,  
Snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter,  
Long ago.*

*Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
Nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When he comes to reign;  
In the bleak midwinter  
A stable place sufficed  
The Lord God incarnate,  
Jesus Christ.*

*Enough for him, whom Cherubim  
Worship night and day  
A breast full of milk  
And a manger full of hay.  
Enough for him, whom angels  
Fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore.*

*What can I give him,  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would bring a lamb,  
If I were a wise man  
I would do my part,  
Yet what I can I give Him —  
Give my heart.*

\*Congregational Hymn

199

See, amid the Winter's Snow

*Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ... being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself. Phil. 2:5, 8*

1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,  
2. Lo, with - in a man - ger lies he who built the star - ry skies:  
3. Say, ye ho - ly shep - herds, say— what's your joy - ful news to - day?  
4. "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a won-drous light;

see the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.  
he who, throned in height sub - lime, sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.  
Where - fore have ye left your sheep on the lone - ly moun - tain steep?  
an - gels sing - ing, 'Peace on earth,' told us of the Sav - ior's birth."

REFRAIN

Hail, thou ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

5. Sacred infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!

6. Teach, O teach us, holy child,  
by thy face so meek and mild,  
teach us to resemble thee,  
in thy sweet humility.



## \*Congregational Hymn

## Angels We Have Heard on High

214

*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.*  
 Luke 2:14

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.  
 Say what may the tid - ings be, which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,

glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Traditional French carol

GLORIA 7.7.7.7.ref.  
 Traditional French melody  
 Arr. by Edward S. Barnes, 1937

Instrumental Anthem – *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*

## EIGHTH LESSON

**Matthew 2: 1-11**

Choral Anthem – *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*arr. Dan Forrest*

*Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth.*

*Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.*

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

*Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night.*

*God with us is now residing, Yonder shines the infant light.*

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

*Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter visions beam afar.*

*Seek the great Desire of Nations, Ye have seen His natal star.*

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

*All creation join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son.*

*Evermore your voices raising, to th'eternal Three in One!*

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the newborn King!*

## NINTH LESSON

**John 1: 1-14**

## MEDITATION

Dr. Mantle Nance

# 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: ♭ B♭(A)      ♯ F<sup>7</sup>(E<sup>7</sup>)      B♭(A)      E♭(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 - diant  
 4. Si - lent night! Ho - ly night! Won - drous star, lend thy light; with the

B♭(A)      E♭(D)      B♭(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;

F<sup>7</sup>(E<sup>7</sup>)      B♭(A)      ♯ F<sup>7</sup>(E<sup>7</sup>)      B♭(A)      ♯

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. Soli Deo Gloria!*

## **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE**

Wednesday, 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