

The First Presbyterian Church *in the City of New York*

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE

Service for the Lord's Day

December 19th, 2021 | 4 p.m.

The Session and members of First Church extend a sincere welcome to all persons regardless of race, nationality, gender, or sexual orientation. This includes an open invitation to membership, the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, memorial services, and service as an officer of the church.

PRELUDE

“In dulci jubilo”

arr. Sterling Procter

“The Blessed Son of God, from *Hodie*”

Ralph Vaughan Williams

arr. Sterling Procter

PEALING OF THE CARILLON

INTROIT

David Willcocks; after Palestrina

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep. Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come to reign over thy people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?

—First Responsory of Advent Sunday in the Office of Matins, early medieval Roman rite

WELCOME

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL "Once in Royal David's City"

IRBY

Please stand in body or spirit.

arr. David Willcocks

Solo 1. *Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly*
 Choir 2. *He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and*
All 3. *Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like*
All 4. *And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re -*
All 5. *Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en*
cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a
Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his
us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and
deem - ing love; for that child so dear and gen - tle is our
stand - ing by, we shall see him; but in hea - ven, set at
man - ger for his bed: Mar - y was that moth - er
cra - dle was a stall; with the poor and meek and
smiles like us he knew; and he feels for all our
Lord in heaven a - bove; and he leads his child - ren
God's right hand on high; when like stars his child - ren
mild; Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
on to the place where he is gone.
crowned all in white shall wait a - round.

FIRST LESSON

A great light in the darkness

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

"The First Nowell"

THE FIRST NOWELL

Please stand in body or spirit.

arr. David Willcocks

All 1. *The first Now - ell the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor*
 Upper voices 2. *They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the*
 Lower voices 3. *And by the light of that same star three wise men*
All 4. *Then let us all with one ac - cord sing prais - es*



shep-herds in fields as they lay, in fields where they lay
 east be - yond them far; and to the earth it
 came from coun - try far; to seek for a king was
 to our heav - enly Lord, that hath made heaven and



keep-ing their sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 gave great light, and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 their in - tent, and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain



All Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,



born is the King of Is - ra - el.

SECOND LESSON

A little child will lead them

Isaiah 11:1-3a; 4a; 6-9

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

And he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: but with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. And he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.

The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

CHOIR CAROL

Elizabeth Poston, 1967

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green; the trees of nature fruitless be, compared with Christ the Apple Tree. His beauty doth all things excel, by faith I know but ne'er can tell the glory which I now can see, in Jesus Christ the Apple Tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought; I missed of all but now I see 'tis found in Christ the Apple Tree. I'm weary with my former toil - here I will sit and rest awhile, Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the Appletree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.

-Anonymous

THIRD LESSON

An angel appears to Mary

Luke 1:26-35, 38

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou

shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.

CHOIR CAROL

Joanna Forbes L'Estrange, 2019

My soul doth magnify the Lord. And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden: For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

-Luke 1:46-55

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: world without end. Amen.

-Lesser Doxology

FOURTH LESSON

Mary gives birth in Bethlehem

Luke 2:1, 3-7

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

CHOIR CAROL

Will Todd, 2010

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels: No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven; No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come. His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me. Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels; No place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

-Will Todd

FIFTH LESSON

Angels announce the Messiah

Luke 2:8-16

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

“What Child Is This?”

GREENSLEEVES

Please stand in body or spirit.

arr. Charles E. Perry



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, one and all, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
 Nails, spear, shall pierce him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Hail, hail, the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

SIXTH LESSON

Magi come from the East

Matthew 2:1-12

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

Christmas Joy Offering

CHOIR CAROL AT THE OFFERTORY

Harold Darke, 1909

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan; earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak mid-winter 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 mid-winter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty—Jesus Christ. Enough for Him, whom Cherubim worship night and day, a breastful of milk and a mangerful of hay; enough for Him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore. 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.
 —Christina Rossetti

PRAYERS

SEVENTH LESSON

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

ADESTE FIDELES

Please stand in body or spirit.

arr. David Willcocks



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; O
2. True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye; O come ye to Beth - - le - hem!
 born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
 sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee be all glo - - - ry given;



Come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels!
 ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed!
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!



O come, let us a - dore him; O come, let us a - dore him;



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

BENEDICTION

May the Christ, who, by his incarnation,
 gathered into one the things of heaven and earth,
 fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill,
 and the blessing of God Almighty,
 the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
 be upon you and remain with you always.

Alleluia!

Go forth in peace and joy.
Thanks be to God! Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

MENDELSSOHN
arr. David Willcocks



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born king.
2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with the an - gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King"

POSTLUDE

“Final, from *Symphonie No.1, Op.14*”

Louis Vierne
arr. Andrew Senn

*Following the postlude, you are warmly invited to join us for caroling
and fellowship, with hot cider and hot chocolate on the North Lawn.*

LEADING THIS AFTERNOON

Amalie Flint, *Student*

Bridget Doyle, *Participant – Progressive Student Ministry Downtown (PRiSM)*

Ashleigh Roscishewska, *Director of Enrollment and Advancement – First Presbyterian Church Nursery School*

Ryan Tirre, *Member*

Katie Adams, *Teacher – P.S. 226*

Larry Tallamy, *Clerk of the Session*

Hannah Faye Allred, *M.Div., Staff Associate for Mission and Social Justice*

Rev. Dr. Greg Stovell, *Pastor/Head of Staff*

The First Church Choir

Michael Shake, *Organist and Director of Music*

David Krauss and Joshua Frank, *Trumpet*

Jeffrey Scott, *French Horn*

Michael Powell, *Trombone*

Taylor Peterson, *Bass Trombone*

Barry Centanni, *Timpani*

Welcome to First Church!

We are so glad you are here.

Scan to make a donation toward the
PC (USA) Christmas Joy Offering.



More about Advent and Christmas
at First Church!



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