

A Service of Lessons and Carols
December 12, 2021, 11:00 a.m
Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo (J. Benke)

Handbell Choir

Bidding Prayer

Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing, which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity and brotherhood within the church He came to build, and especially in this community.

And because this would greatly rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, upon another shore, and in a great light, that multitude which cannot be numbered, whose hope is in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.

These prayers and praises we do humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from all evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Kevin, Jenni, Katherine, Caroline, Julia, and Andrew Cox

*Congregational Response after each scripture: **Thanks be to God**

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19*

James Fernandes

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

Of the Fathers Love Begotten arr. Molly Ijames

M.A.C. Prudentius/ J.M. Neale/ *Divinum Mysterium*

Covenant Chancel Choir

Second Lesson

Genesis 22: 15-18*

Elizabeth Fugate

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

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus arr. Nancy Raabe

C. Wesley/ *Jefferson*

Youth Choir

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7*

Jacob DeGraw

Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and kingdom.

Come, Messiah! Lloyd Larson/S. Mary of St. Philip
Covenant Chancel Choir

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9*

Katherine Cox

The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.

Bethlehem Skies arr. Roger Emerson
D. Barnes and D. Maclean
Se'lah

Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-35, 38*

Mary Carefoot

The angel Gabriel salutes Blessed Virgin Mary.

Breath of Heaven arr. Lloyd Larson
C. Eaton and A. Grant
Kendall Doty, soloist
Se'lah and Saint Paul's Dancers

Sixth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-23*

Gary Eggebraaten

The angel of the Lord tells Joseph of his son to be.

The Hands that First Held Mary's Child
T. Troeger/D. Forrest
Ensemble/Joshua Korzaan, cello

Seventh Lesson

Luke 2:1, 3-7*

Lyn Shoffstall

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Walk in the Light arr. Andre Thomas
G.D. Elderkin/Charles Wesley/*Jesus the Light of the World*
Grades K-5 Children's Choir/Maria Alexander, soloist

Eighth Lesson

Luke 2:8-16*

Justin Ward

The shepherds go to the manger.

Silent Night, Holy Night arr. Kay Hawkes Goodyear
(Based on *Siciliano* from 2nd Flute Sonata by J.S. Bach)
Covenant Chancel Choir

Ninth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12*

Ed Holmes

Herod summons the Wise Men.

Star of Wonder Greg Gilpin
Se'lah

Tenth Lesson

John 1:1-14*

Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

Here's a Pretty Little Baby (A Christmas Spiritual)
arr. Andre Thomas
Covenant Chancel Choir, Se'lah, Youth Choir,
Grades K-5 Children's Choir,
Soloists: Laura Alexander, Stephany Nystrand,
Jake Alexander, Peggy Wright, Ed Holmes

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Kandace Brooks

Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director
Stephany Nystrand, Grades K-5 Children's Choir Director
Jill Merryday, Youth Choir Accompanist
Gaye Herndon, Music Performance Associate

Covenant Chancel Choir

Kathy Tully	Connie Zeigler	Kjrsten Henriksen
Debbie Eggebraaten	Mary Carefoot	Jackie Tribble
Doris Henderson	Sue Spencer	Stephanie Corry
Becky Rokitowski	Gary Eggebraaten	Russell Almond
Mike Zeigler	Stan Etheridge	Jessie Schrimsher
	Rollen Thomas	

Se'lah

Tammy Schubin	Peggy Wright	Debbie Eggebraaten
Kjrsten Henriksen	Tamara Verheyen	Taylor Verheyen
Lyn Shoffstall	Kendall Doty	Dora Thomas
Gary Eggebraaten	Justin Ward	Rollen Thomas

Handbell Choir

Jo Ellen Brown	Kandace Brooks	Kjrsten Henriksen
Freddie Schrader	Brian Burton	Liane Giroux
Chris Morris	Jill Merryday	Wayne Lambert
Crill Merryday	Ed Holmes	

Youth Choir

Caroline Cox	Julia Cox	Chinonso Okoli
Katherine Cox	Kylea Verheyen	Makayla Verheyen

Saint Paul's Dancers

Hartley Bryant	Julia Cox	Caroline Cox
Makayla Verheyen	Kylea Verheyen	Chinonsa Okoli
Katherine Cox		

Grades K-5 Children's Choir

Maria Alexander	Kaia Martin	Iris Weisbrod
James Fernandes	Ella DeGraw	Miles Dilger
Kai Rudloe	Jayden Min	Betty Weisbod
Hartley Bryant	Jacob DeGraw	Elizabeth Fugate
Mac Martin	Hazel Weisbrod	Cayle Bryant
Andrew Cox	Jake Min	

The Service of Lessons and Carols

The Service of Lessons and Carols originated in 1880 at the Cathedral of Truro in Cornwall, England. Designed as a worship service for Christmas Eve with readings from Scripture and carols sung by the choir, this format has become one of the greatest Christmas musical traditions in all parts of the English-speaking world. Bishop E.W. Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury, shaped the service as we know it today: the lessons, beginning with the Fall of Man, were chosen to illustrate the story of redemption, from Old and New Testaments. Readers of the lessons formed a sequence of rank from a member of the choir to the bishop himself.

In 1918, the service was modified for use in the King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. At this time the service was shortened and the Christmas Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer were introduced. In an effort to strengthen the ties between the college and the community, the readers of the lessons included representatives from the college, the church, and the community. Almost immediately, other churches adapted the service for their own use. On Christmas Eve, 1928, the British Broadcasting Company first broadcasted the service throughout the world. In 1954 a special service was prepared for television.

In the words of Dean Milner-White, planner of the 1918 King's College service, "the main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God as seen throughout the windows and words of the Bible. The center of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads."

Upcoming Events and Services

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

Broadcasting Christmas: Children's Musical Production
6:00 p.m. Sanders Hall

Sunday, December 19, 2021

Children's Christmas Pageant
11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Friday, December 24, 2021

Christmas Eve Services
Candlelight and Carols
5:00 p.m. Sanctuary
7:00 p.m. Outdoor Service

Sunday, December 26, 2021

Christmas Café
9:30 a.m. Sanders Hall
Worship with light breakfast and Blessing of the Toys