

**A Service of Lessons and Carols**  
**December 10, 2023, 9:30 a.m**  
**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**

**Welcome** Rev. Becky Rokitowski  
**Prelude** *Sing We Now of Christmas* arr. D.E. Wagner  
**Lighting of the Candles** Izzy Chan and Andrew Cox  
**Bidding Prayer** Rev. Rokitowski

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:

**Grades K-5 Kids@Art Choir**

Blair Andrews	Henry Alexander	Frankie Batailles
Adelaide Fischer	Lillian Droessler	Eloise Mansell
Maria Alexander	Jack Mansell	Livia Nystrand
Kaia Martin	Amelia Fugate	Emma Apthorp
James Fernandes	Seamus Fernandes	Cora Fernandes
Wren Thacker	Wyatt Beekman-Dowell	John Woodward
Ethan Avery	Cleveland Fischer	Aelix Edd
Izzy Chan	Bliss Amort-Murphy	Cayle Bryant
Andrew Cox	Mac Martin	Charlotte Droessler
Abigail Courtemanche		Maggie Dodson

**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."

**Covenant Chancel Choir**

Kathy Tully  
Debbie Eggebraaten  
Sofia Gannaoui  
Sandy Wiggin  
Barbara Bauldree  
Mary Carefoot  
Gary Eggebraaten  
Dennis Lee  
Rollen Thomas

Kjrsten Henriksen  
Flo Dickenson  
Connie Zeigler  
Jo Ellen Brown  
Doris Henderson  
Cindy Bennett  
Russell Almond  
Doug Garthwait  
Michael Dobson  
Stacy Joiner

Sue Spencer  
Peggy Wright  
Margot Almond  
Casey Fernandes  
Stephanie Corry  
Jackie Tribble  
Brandon LaReau  
Ed Holmes  
Mike Zeigler

### Se'lah

Tammy Schubin  
Kjrsten Henriksen  
Dora Thomas  
Tamara Verheyen  
Gary Eggebraaten

Peggy Wright  
Emily Andrews  
Taylor Verheyen  
Casey Fernandes  
Justin Ward

Debbie Eggebraaten  
Mary Dekle  
Lyn Shoffstall  
Rollen Thomas

### Handbell Choir

Jo Ellen Brown  
Freddie Schrader  
Sandy Barlow  
Jill Merryday

Nancy Moss  
Cynthia Prescott  
Brian Burton  
Crill Merryday

Kjrsten Henriksen  
Liane Giroux  
Debbie Dodd  
Ed Holmes

### Youth Choir

Caroline Cox  
Alyssa Griesheimer  
Elizabeth Fugate  
Makaylah Verheyen  
Devin Starnes

Julia Cox  
Annie Wilde  
Autumn Amort-Murphy  
Lenna Gayhart

Hartley Bryant  
Kylea Verheyen  
Molly Burton  
Zac Prasse

**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

Andy and Sarabeth Snuggs

### The Offering

#### Prayer

Rev. Becky Rokitowski

#### Offertory

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

arr. D. Lasky

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

**First Lesson          Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19\*          Maria Alexander**  
**God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman  
shall bruise the serpent's head.**

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

arr. C. Young

### Youth Choir

**Second Lesson          Genesis 22: 15-18\*          Andrew Cox**  
**God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the  
nations of the earth be blessed.**

*Veni Emmanuel*

J. Klein/arr. P. Drennan

### Covenant Chancel Choir

**Third Lesson          Isaiah 9:2, 6-7\*          Autumn Amort-Murphy**  
**Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and kingdom.**

*The People Who Walk in Darkness*

M. Barrett/D. Angerman

### Se'lah

**Fourth Lesson          Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9\*          Zac Prasse**  
**The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.**

*Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying* arr. R. Mallory  
**Handbell Choir**

**Fifth Lesson**      **Luke 1:26-35, 38\***      **Lyn Shoffstall**  
**The angel Gabriel salutes Blessed Virgin Mary.**

*Room in My Heart*      M. Burrows  
**Kids@Art Choir**

**Sixth Lesson**      **Matthew 1:18-23\***      **Justin Ward**  
**The angel of the Lord tells Joseph of his son to be.**

*Emmanuel! God with Us!*      M. McDonald  
**Covenant Chancel Choir**

**Seventh Lesson**      **Luke 2:1, 3-7\***      **Connie Zeigler**  
**St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.**

*Gonna Find that Baby*      R. Aspinall/P. Drennan  
**Se'lah**

**Eighth Lesson**      **Luke 2:8-16\***      **Brandon LaReau**  
**The shepherds go to the manger.**

*The Wexford Carol*      Trad. Irish Carol/arr. S. Paul  
**Se'lah**

**Ninth Lesson**      **Matthew 2:1-12\***      **Rev. MaryAnn Piccioni**  
**Herod summons the Wise Men.**

*Noel Sing We Here!*      arr. L. Shackley  
**Covenant Chancel Choir**

**Tenth Lesson**      **John 1:1-14\***      **Rev. Becky Rokitowski**

**St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.**

*Hallelujah: from The Messiah*      G.F. Handel  
**Adult Choirs**

**Benediction**      **Rev. Rokitowski**

**Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director**  
**Stephany Nystrand, Grades K-5 Kids@Art Choir Director**  
**Jill Merryday, Youth Choir Accompanist**  
**Gaye Herndon, Director of Music and Worship Arts/Organist**