

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	Kjrsten Henriksen	Sue Spencer
Debbie Eggebraaten	Flo Dickenson	Peggy Wright
Sofia Gannaoui	Connie Zeigler	Margot Almond
Sandy Wiggin	Jo Ellen Brown	Casey Fernandes
Barbara Bauldree	Doris Henderson	Stephanie Corry
Mary Carefoot	Cindy Bennett	Jackie Tribble
Gary Eggebraaten	Russell Almond	Brandon LaReau
Dennis Lee	Doug Garthwait	Ed Holmes
Rollen Thomas	Michael Dobson	Mike Zeigler
	Stacy Joiner	

Se'lah

Tammy Schubin	Peggy Wright	Debbie Eggebraaten
Kjrsten Henriksen	Emily Andrews	Mary Dekle
Dora Thomas	Taylor Verheyen	Lyn Shoffstall
Tamara Verheyen	Casey Fernandes	
Gary Eggebraaten	Justin Ward	Rollen Thomas

Handbell Choir

Jo Ellen Brown	Nancy Moss	Kjrsten Henriksen
Freddie Schrader	Cynthia Prescott	Liane Giroux
Sandy Barlow	Brian Burton	Debbie Dodd
Jill Merryday	Crill Merryday	Ed Holmes

Youth Choir

Caroline Cox	Julia Cox	Hartley Bryant
Alyssa Griesheimer	Annie Wilde	Kylea Verheyen
Elizabeth Fugate	Autumn Amort-Murphy	Molly Burton
Makaylah Verheyen	Lenna Gayhart	Zac Prasse
Devin Starnes		

**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