

9 PM SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

A decorative border of various Christmas-themed plants and flowers surrounds the central text. It includes green pine branches, clusters of red berries, large red poinsettias, and sprigs of holly leaves. The background is white.

Christmas  
IN THE GOSPELS

CHRISTMAS EVE  
SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The church logo is a blue shield-shaped emblem with a white cross in the center. The cross has a small white circle at its intersection. The shield is surrounded by green foliage and red berries.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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A welcoming community of faith where Jesus Christ transforms lives

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## WORSHIP LEADERS

Rev. Christopher A. Henry  
*Senior Pastor*

Rev. Sara B. Dorrien-Christians  
*Associate Pastor for Children and Family Ministries*

Rev. Madison M. VanVeelen  
*Associate Pastor of Care*

Rev. Michael M. Samson  
*Associate Pastor for Engagement*

Rev. Karen L. Lang  
*Executive Pastor*

## MUSICIANS

Rob Danforth, french horn  
John Rommel and Joseph Tartell, trumpet  
Ryan Miller and Jared Rodin, trombone  
Steve Hanna, percussion

Sanctuary Choir

Dr. Michelle Louer  
*Director of Music and Fine Arts*

Dr. John Allegar  
*Organist & Assistant Director  
of Music and Fine Arts*

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# Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

As you came in the stillness of night, God, enter our lives this night. Fill us with the light of Christ, that we may clearly recognize the way to go, the truth to speak, and the life to live. As we peer into the face of the child of Bethlehem, may we discover anew a world in need of your love and redeeming grace. Amen.

## **Prelude**

*Variations on "Love Came Down at Christmas,"* no. 4, 6, 8  
Dr. John Allegar, organ

David N. Johnson  
(1922-1987)

*Two Carols for Brass*  
*In Dulci Jubilo* (German Carol)  
*Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly* (Welsh Carol)  
Festival Brass; Dr. Michelle Louer, conductor

arr. Michel Rondeau  
(b. 1948)

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*  
Sanctuary Choir; Dr. Michelle Louer, conductor

arr. David Ashley White  
(b. 1944)

Comfort, comfort ye my people,  
speak ye peace, thus saith our God;  
comfort those who sit in darknes  
mourning 'neath their sorrows' load.  
Speak ye to Jerusalem  
of the peace that waits for them;  
tell her that her sins I cover,  
and her warfare now is over.

Make ye straight what long was crooked,  
make the rougher places plain;  
let your hearts be true and humble,  
as befits his holy reign.  
For the glory of the Lord  
now o'er earth is shed abroad;  
and all flesh shall see the token  
that the word is never broken.

Hark, the voice of one that crieth  
in the desert far and near,  
calling us to new repentence  
since the kingdom now is here.  
O that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God away;  
let the valleys rise to meet him  
and the hills bow down to greet him.

Text: Isaiah 40:1-5; vers. Johann G. Olearious, 1671, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863, alt.

*Wexford Carol* (English Carol)  
Festival Brass

arr. Richard Price

*O Holy Night*  
Will Upham, tenor soloist

Adolphe Adam  
(1803-1856)

1. O holy night, the stars are brightly shining,  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth;  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
'Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn;

*Chorus*

Fall on your knees, Oh hear the angel voices!  
O night divine! O night when Christ was born.  
O night, O holy night, O night divine.

2. Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming;  
With glowing hearts by his cradle we stand:  
So, led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here come the wise men from Orient land,  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend;

*Chorus*

He knows our need, To our weakness no stranger!  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King! your King! before him bend!

Text: Oliver Ditson, 1875

\* **Call to Worship**

Rev. Sara B. Dorrien-Christians

One: Light looked down and saw darkness.

**All: "I will go there," said Light.**

One: Peace looked down and saw war.

**All: "I will go there," said Peace.**

One: Love looked down and saw hatred.

**All: "I will go there," said Love.**

One: So the Lord of Light, the Prince of Peace,  
the King of Love came down and crept in beside us.

\* **Hymn #41**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELIS  
arr. David Willcocks

**1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!  
Come, and behold Him, born the King of angels!**

***Refrain:* O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!**

*2. Choir*

God of God, Light of Light,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God, Begotten, not created: *Refrain*

**3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! *Refrain***

**4. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain***

**Welcome and Christmas Invocation**

Rev. Christopher A. Henry

*If you are new to Second Presbyterian Church, we are so glad you've joined us on this sacred night.  
Please complete a Welcome Card found in your pew rack if you would like to learn more  
about the life of this faith community.*

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

Rev. Madison M. VanVeelen  
and Rev. Michael M. Samson

One: We light candles this holy night.

**All: Candles of joy despite all the sadness.**

One: Candles of hope where despair keeps watch.

**All: Candles of courage where fear is ever present.**

One: Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days.

**All: Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens.**

One: Candles of love to inspire our living.

**All: O Lord, may these candles burn all the year long. Amen.**

## The Service of Lessons and Carols

### First Lesson

*Christ's Birth as Envisioned by Isaiah*  
Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Rev. Karen L. Lang

### Carol

*O Nata Lux*

Morten Lauridsen  
(b. 1943)

*O nata lux de lumine,  
Jesu redemptor saeculi,  
dignare clemens supplicum  
laudes precesque sumere.*

O Light born of Light,  
Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
with kindness deign to receive  
the praise and prayer of supplicants.

*Qui carne quondam contegi  
dignatus es pro perditis,  
nos membra confer effici  
tui beati corporis.*

You who once deigned to be clothed in flesh  
for the sake of the lost,  
grant us to be made members  
of your blessed body.

Text: Anonymous

### Second Lesson

*A Vision of Peace Christ Will Bring*  
Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

O little town of Bethlehem,  
 How still we see thee lie!  
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
 The silent stars go by.  
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth  
 The everlasting light;  
 The hopes and fears of all the years  
 Are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,  
 The wondrous gift is given!  
 So God imparts to human hearts  
 The blessings of His heaven.  
 No ear may hear His coming,  
 But in this world of sin,  
 Where meek souls will receive Him, still  
 The dear Christ enters in.

For Christ is born of Mary;  
 And gathered all above.  
 While mortals sleep, the angels keep  
 Their watch of wondering love.  
 O morning stars, together  
 Proclaim the holy birth!  
 And praises sing to God the King,  
 And peace to all the earth.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
 Descend to us, we pray;  
 Cast out our sin and enter in,  
 Be born in us today.  
 We hear the Christmas angels  
 The great glad tidings tell;  
 O come to us, abide with us,  
 Our Lord, Emmanuel!

**Third Lesson**

*Gabriel's Announcement to Mary*  
 Luke 1:26-35, 38

**Carol**

*Magnificat in D, BWV 243; I*

J.S. Bach  
 (1685-1750)

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum.*

My soul doth magnify the Lord.

Text: Luke 1:46

**Offering and Prayer of Gratitude and Dedication**

**Offertory**

*A Christmas Blessing*

Phillip Stopford  
 (b. 1977)

May the joy of the angels,  
 the gladness of the shepherds,  
 the worship of the wisemen  
 and the peace of the Christ child  
 be yours this Christmas.

And the blessing of God the Father  
 and the Son and the Holy Spirit  
 be with you and remain with you always.  
 Amen.

May Christ, who by his incarnation  
 gathered into one all things earthly,  
 all things heavenly, and fill you with joy,  
 fill you with joy and peace.

Text: adapted from the Church of Ireland Book of Common Prayer

**Fourth Lesson**

*Jesus is Born in Bethlehem*  
 Luke 2:1-7

**Carol**

*Away in a Manger*

arr. Mack Wilberg

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,  
And fit us for Heaven to live with Thee there.

Text: Anonymous

**Fifth Lesson**

*The Angels Announce the Birth of Christ*  
Luke 2:8-20

**\* Hymn #31**

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

**Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies,  
With th'angelic host proclaim:  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that we no more may die,  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Christ by highest heav'n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail th'incarnate Deity,  
Pleased in flesh with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King!"**

**Sixth Lesson**

*The Word Becomes Flesh to Live Among Us*  
John 1:1-14

**The Christmas Eve Meditation**

*"Not Without Us"*

Rev. Christopher A. Henry

*After you receive candlelight, please light your neighbor's candle.*

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright,  
Round yon virgin mother and child! Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, Heavenly hosts sing: "Alleluia;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born."**

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

**Silent night, holy night! Wondrous star, lend thy light;  
With the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!**

\* Charge and Benediction

\* Hymn of Response #40

*Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns:  
Let us our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,  
And makes the nations prove  
The glories of His righteousness,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders of His love,  
And wonders, wonders of His love.**

\* Postlude

*Variation on "Love Came Down at Christmas," no. 9*

David N. Johnson  
(1922-1987)

*At the end of the service, please return your candles and holders to the large containers at the doors.*

**On this holiest of nights, the staff of Second Presbyterian Church  
wishes you a joyful Christmas season,  
and a year full of the light and love of our Savior.**

