

CHRISTMAS EVE • 9 PM



WAITING *for the*  
Light  
ADVENT 2025

DECEMBER 24

Christmas Eve

Service of Lessons and Carols



A welcoming community of faith where Jesus Christ transforms lives

## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Rev. Christopher A. Henry  
*Senior Pastor*

Rev. Karen L. Lang  
*Executive Pastor*

Rev. Michael M. Samson  
*Associate Pastor for Adult Faith Formation*

Rev. Gracie H. Payne  
*Associate Pastor for Engagement*

Rev. Audrey F. Thorne  
*Lake Fellow in Parish Ministry*

## **MUSICIANS**

Festival Brass and Percussion  
Julie Beckel, *Horn*  
John Rommel, *Trumpet*  
Daniel Lewis, *Trumpet*  
Ryan Miller, *Trombone*  
Jared Rodin, *Trombone*  
Steve Hanna, *Timpani*  
Murray Mast, *Percussion*

Sanctuary Choir

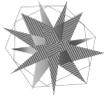
Dr. Michelle Louer  
*Director of Music and Fine Arts*

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

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## **VISUAL AND HEARING ASSISTANCE**

Please speak to an usher if you need a large print bulletin,  
large print hymnal, or an assistive listening device.



# 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

*Magnificat, I*

Jonathan Willcocks

Sanctuary Choir, Organ, Festival Brass and Percussion

(b. 1953)

*Magnificat anima mea Dominum,  
et exultavit spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo;  
quia respexit humilitatem ancillae suae,  
ecce enim ex hoc beatam  
me dicent omnes generationes*

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.

*Quia fecit mihi magna,  
qui potens est et sanctum nomen eius.*

For he that is mighty  
hath magnified me and holy is his Name.

*Les enfants de Dieu (from La Nativité du Seigneur)*

Olivier Messiaen

Organ

(1908-1992)

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. - *John 1:12-13*

*What Child Is This?*  
Festival Brass, Organ

Trad. English  
arr. Don Gillis (1912-1978)

*Fughetta on "People, Look East"*  
Organ

Richard Shephard  
(1949-2021)

*O Holy Night!*  
Sanctuary Choir and Kristin Shaffer, soloist

Adolphe Adam  
(1803-1856)

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

*Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born;  
O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

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 the Orient land.  
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our friend.

*He knows our need, He guardeth us from danger;  
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!  
Behold your King, Before Him lowly bend!*

Text: J.S. Dwight

\* Call to Worship

Rev. Karen L. Lang

One: The prophet's words are true:

**All: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness,  
on them, light has shined.**

One: This will be a sign for you:  
you will find a child wrapped in cloth  
and lying in a manger.

**All: Unto us a child is born;  
he is named Immanuel,  
"God with us."**

One: Tonight there is good news of great joy for all people.  
Christ has come. Light is breaking. Hope is dawning.

**All: Let us join our voices, singing with the angels.**

\* Opening Hymn

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELIS  
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

**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***

## Lighting of the Christ Candle

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.**

## Response of Praise

*Christ, be our Light!*

Bernadette Farrell



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.

Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

## Prayer for Christmas Eve

Rev. Gracie H. Payne

## Service of Lessons and Carols

### First Lesson

*In the Beginning, Light*  
Genesis 1:1-5

Rev. Audrey F. Thorne

### Carol

*Seek Him that Maketh the Seven Stars*

Jonathan Dove  
(b. 1959)

Seek him that maketh the seven stars and Orion  
and turneth the shadow of death into the morning.  
Alleluia, yea, the darkness shineth as the day, the night is light about me.  
Amen.

Text: Amos 5:8; Psalm 139

### Second Lesson

*Mary's Yes*  
Luke 1:26-35, 38

Rev. Karen L. Lang

**Carol**

*There Is No Rose (from Magnificat, IV)*  
 Kristin Shaffer, soloist

Jonathan Willcocks

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu;  
 For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space.  
 By that rose we may well see that he is God in persons three.  
 The angels sungen the shepherds to: Gloria in excelsis deo:  
*Magnificat anima mea Dominum.* [My soul doth magnify the Lord.]

**Third Lesson**

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

Rev. Michael M. Samson

**\* Hymn #38**

*It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

CAROL  
 arr. Canadian Brass

**Call for Offering & Prayer of Gratitude and Dedication**

Rev. Karen L. Lang

**Offertory**

*His Light In Us*

Kim André Arnesen  
 (b. 1980)

God's distant call flares in the night,  
 so long expected, so longed for;  
 and all my life, Christ called my name,  
 and now at last, I'll answer Him.

*Refrain:*  
*Renewed, his Hope, His light in us,*  
*incarnate, fragile, our Lord appears,*  
*alleluia, alleluia!*  
*Eternal, so perfect,*  
*His cry of changeless love.*

Alive, awake, His call is here:  
 it is the crying of the Child;  
 I know Christ's call, its hidden flame,  
 it makes my spirit flare with hope!

*Refrain*

This root, this stem, this flowering Love,  
 this mustard seed, it grows to the greatest tree,  
 the birds of souls have nested there.  
 The light of the night now blazes at dawn!

You've led me here, O little child,  
 your being singing with God's life.  
 The kingdom sings, it choirs with earth,  
 all creation lives Christ's peace.

*Refrain*

Text: Euan Tait (b. 1968)

**Fourth Lesson**

*The Angels Appear to Shepherds*  
Luke 2:8-20

Rev. Audrey F. Thorne

\* **Hymn #27**

*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*

TEMPUS ADEST FLORIDUM  
arr. John Allegar (b. 1984)

**Fifth Lesson**

*The Light Shines in the Darkness*  
John 1:1-5

Rev. Gracie H. Payne

**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

**The Christmas Eve Meditation**

*"Just Enough Light"*

Rev. Christopher A. Henry

\* **Hymn**

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT  
arr. Canadian Brass

*As the light of Christ is passed through the church, please hold the lighted candle upright  
and then tip the unlighted candle to receive the flame.*

**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**

*Joy to the World!*

ANTIOCH  
arr. Robert Hobby (b. 1962)

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**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**

*Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella*

French Carol  
arr. Keith Chapman (1945-1989)

*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.**

