



**Covenant Presbyterian Church
The First Sunday of Christmas
Lessons and Carols
December 26, 2021 – 10:00 AM**

Covenant is an accepting, welcoming community sharing the glory of God's love with all.

PRELUDE "What Child is This?/God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" arranged by Hayes

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS—This service of lessons and carols originates from a 1918 Christmas Eve service at King's College Chapel, University of Cambridge, England.

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Liturgist: Please stand as you are able and join me in the call to worship

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song;

People: sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Leader: Sing to the Lord and bless God's name;

People: tell the good news of salvation from day to day.

Leader: Let us worship God.

***HYMN #140** "Once in Royal David's City"

Ribbon

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild;

Jesus Christ, her little child.
3 Jesus is our childhood's pattern;
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless;
tears and smiles like us he knew;

and he feels for all our sadness,

and he shares in all our gladness.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER—Liturgist

Cross

Our Father who art in heaven... (Hymnal p. 35. We say "debts & debtors.")

Beloved in Christ, it is our duty and delight
to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels,
and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem,
and see this thing which has come to pass,
and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore let us hear again from the holy scriptures
the tale of the loving purposes of God
from the first days of our sin
until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy child;
and let us make this house of prayer
glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart,
let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world,
and all his people;

for peace upon the earth he came to save;
for love and unity within the one Church he did build;
for goodwill among all peoples.

And particularly at this time, let us remember
the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed;
the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved;
the aged and the little children;
and all who do not know of God's great love for them.

Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us,
but upon another shore and in a greater light,
that multitude which no one can number,
whose hope was in the Word made flesh,
and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we forevermore are one.

These prayers and praises
let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven,
in the words that Christ himself has taught us: Our Father . . .

PASSING OF THE PEACE The peace of the Lord, be with you all. **And also with you.**

LESSONS AND CAROLS

1 Adam and Eve disobey God Genesis 3:8–15, 17–19

CAROL #121 "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

1 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.

4 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!

2 A great light in the darkness Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

CAROL #123 “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to all,
from heaven’s all-gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

5 For lo, the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

3 An angel appears to Mary Luke 1:26–35, 38

CAROL #119 “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

1 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 the angelic host proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”

Refrain:

Hark! The herald angels sing,

“Glory to the newborn king!”

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel. [Refrain]

4 Mary gives birth in Bethlehem Luke 2:1–7

CAROL #114 “Away in a Manger”

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

3 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

5 Angels announce the Messiah Luke 2:8–16

CAROL #113 “Angels We Have Heard on High”

1 Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o’er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

6 Magi come from the East Matthew 2:1–11

CAROL #151 “We Three Kings of Orient Are”

1 We three kings of Orient are;
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright,

5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice:
Alleluia! Alleluia!
sounds through the earth and skies.
[Refrain]

7 And the Word became flesh John 1:1–14

CAROL #122 “Silent Night, Holy Night”

1 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.

3 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.

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING † Liturgist: A child is born for us; a Savior, given to us. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offertory

"Jesus, Oh What A Wonderful Child" arranged by Hayes

*Doxology #606

Ribbon

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heavenly host;
Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication † Liturgist

Cross

Gracious God,
Your story is one that forever invites us
to be our full selves,
to take up space,
to go where we feel called,
and to allow this community to feel like home.
So use these gifts to keep building your home here. With gratitude as tall as the ceiling,
we pray. Amen.

*CAROL #134 “Joy to the World”

Ribbon

1 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.

4 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.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION—Liturgist

May the Christ, who, by his incarnation,
gathered into one the things of heaven and earth,
fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill,
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE

“Fum, Fum, Fum” arranged by Hayes

† Prayer by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Assisting in Worship Today:

Linda Gabel—Liturgist

Brian Gray—Vocalist

Cherie Brooks – Director of Music

Katie Wynkoop—Organist/Pianist & Assistant Director of Music

Erin Wise – Director of Children’s & Youth Ministries

Brian Biller – Media Production Specialist

Rev. Joel A. Esala – Pastor