

**THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF GREENLAWN**



**Sunday Service of Worship
December 18, 2022 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent
“A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols”
10:30 a.m.**

**Meeting ID: 890 3017 6533
Passcode: 380295**

Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656

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This Service tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus. It is told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the Prophetic Books, and the Gospels, and is interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and other music.

The original format was based on an Order of Worship for Christmas Eve, 1880, in Cornwall, England. It is said that a key purpose of the Service at that time was to keep men out of the pubs on Christmas Eve!

Our Service is based on the one at The King's College in Cambridge, England, where the nine lessons are read by representatives of the congregation and of the local community.

ORGAN MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE RINGING OF THE BELL

Dan Charnews

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Kathy Fitzgerald
Bob Van Cleef

*HYMN # 49

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

*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.*

*He came down to Earth from Heaven, who is God and Lord of all.
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor, oppressed and lowly, lived on Earth, our Savior holy.*

PRAYER CONCERNS

Elder Betty Chatfield

BIDDING PRAYER (Adapted from The King's Chapel)

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

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; and let us make this Sanctuary glad with our hymns of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of God's whole world; for peace and good will over all the Earth and for unity and love within the Church, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice God's heart, let us remember the poor and the 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, those who have lost faith, and those who by sin have grieved God's heart of love.

Finally, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but on 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 the Lord Jesus, we are one forevermore. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory now and forever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with grace. Christ, give us the joys of everlasting life, and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

HYMN # 42

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELIS

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.*

*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*

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

THE FIRST LESSON

Sevi Regis

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise, and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

HYMN # 22

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

REGENT SQUARE

*Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the Earth.
Ye, who sang Creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.*

*All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son.
Evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ the new-born King.*

THE SECOND LESSON

Jo-Ann Monte

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the Earth be blessed.

MUSICAL SELECTION

The Apple Tree

Leonora Knight,

Soprano

Ann Van Cleef, Flute

*The Tree of Life my soul has seen, laden with fruit and always green.
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the Apple Tree.*

*His beauty does all things excel. By faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree.*

*For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought.
I missed of all but now I see 'tis found in Christ, the Apple Tree.*

*I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile.
Under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree.*

This fruit does make my soul to thrive. It keeps my dying faith alive.

It makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree.

THE THIRD LESSON

Catarina Rasizzi

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The Prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

HYMN # 38

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CAROL

*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.*

*For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years comes round the age of gold,
When peace shall over all the Earth its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song which now the angels sing.*

THE FOURTH LESSON

Olivia Evola

Isaiah 11:1-3a, 4a, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

ANTHEM

Only a Baby Came

The Women's Choir

*They waited for a king with crown of gold to save the world as was foretold.
A Sovereign wise, a ruler bold, but only a Baby came.*

*They waited for a Prince to gain the throne, a Savior sent by God alone,
A Lord with Kingdom yet unknown, but only a Baby came.*

*'Twas a Babe who came that night, the wonder to proclaim,
With brightest star to shed its light and set the world aflame!*

*They waited for a word of truth divine, a Heavenly Dove, a Sacred Sign,
A living branch from Jesse's line, but only a Baby came.*

*Only a Babe to bear the shame. Only a Babe with love His name.
Only a lowly holy Baby came.*

OFFERING SENTENCES

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 44

*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.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Loving God, You have granted us life with such abundant possibilities that we can never do enough to express our gratitude. You have honored us by calling us saints and apostles. Therefore, we offer ourselves and our abundance in that confidence that You will continue to provide for us in whatever circumstances we face. Use us as ministers of Your grace. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE # 53

GREENSLEEVES

What Child Is This?

*What Child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

THE FIFTH LESSON

Marian Adams

Luke 1:25-35, 38

The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Mother, Mary

SOLO

Messiah

Debbie Eitel, Alto

THE SIXTH LESSON

Jane Longstreet

Luke 2:1, 3-7

Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus

ANTHEM

The Women's Choir

Were You There on That Christmas Night?

*Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night
When the Earth was filled with a holy light?
Were you there to behold when the wonder foretold came to Earth?*

*Did you see, did you see how they hailed Him King,
With the gifts so rare that they chose to bring?
Did you see how they bowed as they praised Him aloud at His birth?*

*Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight?
Did you hear how the bells of Heaven rang all through the night?*

*Did you know, did you know it was God's own Son,
The salvation of the world begun?*

*Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the Earth?
Did you know it was love that was sent from above to the Earth?*

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Bill Becker

Luke 2:8-16

The Shepherds Go to the Manger

HYMN # 25

Away in a Manger

MUELLER

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

*The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes,
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until 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.*

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Michelle Perrotta

Matthew 2:1-12

The Magi Are Led by the Star to Jesus

*HYMN # 66

We Three Kings

KINGS OF ORIENT

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

*O – star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*Born a king on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown Him again.
King forever, ceasing never, over us all to reign.*

*Frankincense to offer have I. Incense owns a Deity nigh.
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshipping God Most High.*

*Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom.
Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.*

*Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and Sacrifice.
Alleluia, Alleluia sounds through the Earth and skies.*

*O – star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

SERMON

Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef

“There’s Something About Mary”

THE NINTH LESSON

Jim Dean

John 1:1-12

John Unfolds the Mystery of the Incarnation

ANTHEM

Tell Us ‘Bout a Baby

The Women’s Choir

*There’s a story being told throughout the land
‘Bout a Savior sent down from God’s own hand.
We heard about how the angels sang, how Heaven and Earth with praises rang.
Tell us ‘bout a baby born in Bethlehem.*

REFRAIN: *Tell us ‘bout a baby, glory hallelu! Tell us ‘bout a baby. Amen.
Tell us ‘bout a baby, glory hallelujah. Tell us ‘bout a baby born in Bethlehem.*

*Wise men and shepherds spread the news. (Spread the good news.)
Jesus Christ was born King of the Jews. (King of the Jews.)
Tell us all about His lowly birth, the humble Messiah coming down to Earth.
Tell us ‘bout a baby born in Bethlehem. REFRAIN*

*Tell us, tell us, tell us all about that tiny Stranger.
Tell us, tell us, tell us all about that lowly manger.
Tell us, tell us, tell us all about the shepherd’s kneeling.
Tell us, tell us, tell us all about God’s love revealing.
Heavenly chorus sing out with joy! Fill the skies around us with news of the Boy.
All of God’s Creation with one great voice
Join the angel choir, let the nations rejoice! REFRAIN*

BENEDICTION

*HYMN # 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.*

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 sin and sorrow 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.*

ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

Participants in Today's Service

Readers:

Reader 1: Sevi Regis
Reader 2: Jo-Ann Monte
Reader 3: Catarina Rasizzi
Reader 4: Olivia Evola
Reader 5: Marian Adams
Reader 6: Jane Longstreet
Reader 7: Bill Becker
Reader 8: Michelle Perrotta
Reader 9: Jim Dean

Pastor The Rev. Dr. Ann M. Van Cleef
Worship Accompanist Leonora Knight
Prayer Concerns Betty Chatfield
Greeters at the Door Arlissa Dean and Bob Van Cleef
The Church Bell Ringer Dan Charnews
Coffee Hour Coordinators..... Debbie Eitel and Arlissa Dean

Special Music:

Piano, Soprano, Choral Accompanist..... Leonora Knight
Choir Director, Flute Ann Van Cleef
Alto Soloist and Soloist in Anthem Debbie Eitel

Choir:

SopranosMarian Adams, Barbara Charnews, Kathie Gerlach,
Meg Lawrence, Susan Perrotta
AltosArlissa Dean, Debbie Eitel, Claire Proctor, Jill Wilson

JOYS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today's Service

Thank you to everyone who participated in today's Service. There will be a special reception in the Narthex immediately following our Service, and we invite everyone to stay.

Christmas Offering

We have been asked by the Presbytery to take up a special offering to help needy retired ministers and missionaries with their bills. (Many of them have very low pensions.) There are envelopes in today's bulletin. Even a few dollars will help. Thank you!

Christmas Tree Lighting

This evening at 5:00, we will have a special community event: the lighting of our our new Christmas tree outside. We'll sing a few Christmas carols, then come inside for some hot chocolate, Christmas cookies, more carols, and some Christmas fun. Please plan to attend, and invite a friend.

Christmas Eve Service

Our Christmas Eve Service will take place on Saturday, December 24, at 7:00 p.m. It will be simulcast on Zoom, using the same log-on numbers that we use for our regular Sunday Services.

The Service will end with the traditional lighting of individual candles held by the congregation, while "Silent Night" is sung by those in attendance. We welcome everyone to this Service.

Worship on Christmas Day

We will have a short Zoom-only Prayer Service on Christmas Day at 10:30 a.m. Log-in information is the same as the rest of December:

Meeting ID: 890 3017 6533

Passcode: 380295 Dial in: 1 (646) 558-8656

"Jackets for Jesus"

Once again, Debbie Eitel is spearheading a collection of gently used winter jackets and coats which will be given to the less fortunate in our community. Hats,

scarves, and gloves are welcome as well. There is a large box in the hall where these items may be deposited. Thank you for your generosity.

“God’s Creation” Wall Calendars

The beautiful “God’s Creation” wall calendars have arrived. Every month features a full-color picture and a Scripture verse. Each Sunday has a Scripture verse notated as well. The price is \$8 / calendar; please see Debbie Eitel.

New Year’s Day Celebration

They say that for those of us “of a certain age,” 9 p.m. is the new midnight. Most of us will not be staying up to watch the festivities in Times Square.

But the New Year must be celebrated! So, please join us after our New Year’s Day Service for a special celebration of 2023. We’ll have hors d’oeuvres, some non-alcoholic “bubbly,” and a few surprises. We will also have our annual Holiday Sweater Contest, with a prize for the prettiest and the ugliest.

Don’t miss the fun!