

*Festival Service of  
Nine Lessons and Carols*  
St. Andrews Presbyterian Church

December 18, 2022

6:30 PM



The Rev. Camille LeBron Powell, Pastor  
Ashley Lewis, Coordinator of Congregational Vitality  
David Lukens, Director of Music  
Edward Weaver, Associate Director of Music and Organist  
Pat Baker, Director of Older Adult and Caregiver Ministries  
Lonnelle Bruce, Director, St. Andrews School  
Gretchen Perkins, Office Manager  
Helen Hoang, Financial Administrator

## Order of Worship

† When this symbol precedes an element of the service, please rise in body or spirit, as able.

Please help us preserve the dignity of worship by refraining from all flash photography,  
and by silencing all devices.

### Opening Voluntary

*God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*  
18th century English carol  
Chancel Bells

Valerie W. Stephenson (2002)

### Invitatory

*Veni Emmanuel*  
12th century Text ~ 13<sup>th</sup> century Plainsong

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, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood He would honor and obey,  
love, and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms He lay.  
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as He.

For He 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 feeleth for our sadness, and He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him, through His own redeeming love,  
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above.  
And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see Him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.  
When like stars His children crowned all in white, His praise shall sound.

## Bidding Prayer

Rev. Camille LeBron Powell

## FIRST LESSON

*God announces in the garden of Eden that the  
seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head*  
Reader – Carol Gordon

Genesis III

## Carol

*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*  
Chancel Choir

Text: Johann Olearius (1611-1684)  
Music: Claude Goudimel (1514-1572)  
Arranged: Howard Helvey (2015)

## SECOND LESSON

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his  
seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed*  
Reader – Judy Cook

Genesis XXII

## †Congregational Carol

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega; he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

By his Word was all created; he commanded; it was done:  
heaven and earth and depths of ocean, universe of three in one,  
all that sees the moon's soft shining, all that breathes beneath the sun,  
evermore and evermore!

O, that birth forever blessed when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race,  
and the babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!

This is he whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord,  
whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word.  
Now he shines, the long-expected. Let creation praise its Lord,  
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven, adore him. Angel hosts, his praises sing.  
Powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King.  
Let no tongue on earth be silent; every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be.  
Honor, glory, and dominion, and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore! Amen.

<b>THIRD LESSON</b>	<i>Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah</i> Reader – Gretchen Turner	Isaiah IX
<b>Carol</b>	<i>One Perfect Flower</i> 16 <sup>th</sup> century German text Chancel Choir ~ David Westbrook, Flute	Garry A. Cornell (1985)
<b>FOURTH LESSON</b>	<i>The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem</i> Reader – Kim Rometo	Micah V
† <b>Congregational Carol</b>	<i>O Little Town of Bethlehem</i> 19 <sup>th</sup> century American carol <b>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.</b> <b>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 on earth.</b> <b>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.</b> <b>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!</b>	ST. LOUIS
<b>FIFTH LESSON</b>	<i>The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> Reader – Ashley Lewis	Luke I
<b>Carol</b>	<i>Mary, Did You Know?</i> 20 <sup>th</sup> century American carol Women's Ensemble	Mary Lowery & Buddy Greene (1991) Arranged by Jack Schrader
<b>SIXTH LESSON</b>	<i>Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus</i> Reader – Jane Thomas	Matthew II
† <b>Congregational Carol</b>	<i>Away in a Manger</i> 19 <sup>th</sup> century American carol	Vs 1 & 3 William Kirkpatrick Vs 2 James R. Mueller
	<b>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.</b> <b>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 side until morning is nigh.</b> <b>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.</b>	
<b>SEVENTH LESSON</b>	<i>The shepherds go to the manger</i> Reader – Michael Rometo	Luke II
† <b>Congregational Carol</b>	<i>The First Noel</i> 19 <sup>th</sup> century English carol	THE FIRST NOEL
	<b>The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay, In fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!</b> <b>They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far; And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!</b>	

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,  
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught, and with his blood man-kind hath bought:  
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel!

Carol	<i>Shepherd's Jubilee</i> Chancel Bells	Michael Hellman (2011)
EIGHTH LESSON	<i>The wise men are led by the star to Jesus</i> Reader – John Lukens	Matthew II
Offertory Carol	<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i> Chancel Choir Jenny Coker, Soloist	Text Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music Harold Darke (1888-1976)
NINTH LESSON	<i>John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation</i> Reader – David Westbrook	John I
Carol	<i>Jesus Child</i> Chancel Choir	John Rutter (1974)
†Recessional Carol	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing 18 <sup>th</sup> century English carol 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!” Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.” 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. Hark, the herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.” Hail, the heaven 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.”	MENDELSSOHN
Choral Ascription	<i>Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht</i> 19 <sup>th</sup> century German carol Louis Todd, Guitar	Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) Music: Franz Gruber (1787-1863)
Blessing and Benediction		Rev. Camille LeBron Powell
Benediction in Music	<i>Il Est Né Le Divin Enfant</i> 17 <sup>th</sup> century French carol	Arranged by Noel Goëmanne (1926-2010)

*Please join us for a Christmas Cookie Celebration in Jeffner Hall*

Cover Image: *Ponder* by Hannah Garrity © A Sanctified Art sanctifiedart.org



Scan this code for a link to our website with information about our Christmas Eve services and a brief history of the origin of Lessons and Carols.