



A Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

5 PM, Monday, December 24, 2018
First Presbyterian Church, Gainesville, Georgia

A Candlelight Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

THE PRELUDE

The Sleep of the Infant Jesus..... Anonymous
Romanza..... Richard Purvis
Divinum Mysterium Richard Purvis
Carol Rhapsody Richard Purvis

PROCESSIONAL CAROL 140 *Once in Royal David's City*.....IRBY

(The soloist and choir will sing the first two stanzas, the congregation joining on stanzas three, four, and five.)

Michelle Martin, soloist

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.

CHOIR

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.

*CONGREGATION (All stand)

**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;
Where like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.**

*PRAYER Rev. Shon Peppers

*CAROL 133 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELES

WELCOME..... Rev. Lee Koontz

THE FIRST LESSON — Genesis 1:8-15, 17-19 Rev. Dr. Margaret Turney-Ayer

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

Music *Salvation Is Created* Tschesnokoff

THE SECOND LESSON — Genesis 22:15-18 Dallas Thompson

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

Music *Heavenly Light* Alexander Kopylov

THE THIRD LESSON — Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Music *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming* Michael Praetorius

THE FOURTH LESSON — Micah 5:2-4

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Carol 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem* ST. LOUIS

THE FIFTH LESSON — Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel greets the Virgin Mary.

Music *Magnificat* C.V. Stanford

THE SIXTH LESSON — Luke 2:1, 3-7

Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Music *Away in a Manger* arr. Mack Wilberg

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING

OFFERTORY SOLO *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam

THE CHRISTMAS MEDITATION Rev. Koontz

THE SEVENTH LESSON — Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol 113 *Angels We Have Heard on High* GLORIA

THE EIGHTH LESSON — Matthew 2:1-2, 7-11

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Music *Saw You Never in the Twilight?* Harold Friedell

THE NINTH LESSON — John 1:1-14

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

THE ENTRANCE OF THE CHRIST LIGHT

Please stand as the Light of Christ passes your row.

*THE PASSING OF THE LIGHT (Please tilt only the unlit candles.)

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL *Silent Night* STILLE NACHT

**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.**

***THE CHARGE AND BLESSING**

Receive the coming of the Light. **May we discover in the silence a carol's sound.**
A child comes to us this night. **And the love of God abounds.**
Christ the Savior is born! **Hallelujah! Amen!**

***CAROL 119***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 the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

REFRAIN: 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 a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see, hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel. REFRAIN**

**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. REFRAIN**

THE POSTLUDE*Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella*.....arr. Sharon E. Rogers

*All who are able, please stand.

Assisting in worship are Lee Koontz, Senior Pastor; Shon Peppers, Associate Pastor; Margaret Turney-Ayer, Interim Director of Faith Development; Dallas Thompson, Director of Youth Ministry; Sam Marley, Director of Choirs; BJ Maher, Organist; The Chancel Choir; Michelle Martin, Soprano; John Testament, Head Usher; Enow Agborsangaya, Don and Jerri Crane, Roger and Molly Drake, Jeff Nylander, Richie Taylor, Ushers; Erin Taylor, Greeter.



2018 Christmas Joy Offering—The history of the Joy Offering dates back to 1933 when the first "Joy Gift" offering was begun to supplement retirement income and medical insurance for retired ministers, missionaries, and church workers and their spouses. Each contribution to the offering is sharing in a work of love, as we remember older men and women who have given a lifetime of service to the cause of Christ! Please make your check payable to **First Presbyterian Church**, designated "Joy Offering".

Please note all contributions must be postmarked or received in the church office by December 31st in order to be credited to the year 2018 as charitable gifts.