

First Presbyterian Church  
Kingsport, Tennessee



Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2022  
5:30 p.m.

# A Service of Lessons & Carols

Christmas Eve 5:30pm

December 24, 2022

(Please enter in the stillness of awe and expectation; in silence, listen for whispers of the miraculous!)

In the beginning, the WORD sang - M. Davis  
Through endless dark of space it rang, infusing songs of limitless Light -  
Colors splashing all corridors of night;  
Cosmic harmony quasars ignite, as Ultimate Wisdom arranges the stars.  
Then dust from those stars was gathered by breath -  
All galaxies' light rounded into One star;  
Creation stood hushed as that light touched the stall, where life overcomes death  
Birthing peace in each heart, and hope for us all.

PRELUDE (5:15) **Musical Selections for Meditation** Various composers  
Alice Brooks Sanders - piano, harpsichord, organ

THE PROCESSIONAL CAROL "Once in Royal David's City" IRBY

Choir, Stanza 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.*

(please stand if able)

**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 savior holy.**

**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 shall wait around.**

**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.**

(please be seated)

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE Mark and Grace Plemmons  
Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps. [All candles are lit.]

We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries, his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

CHORAL RESPONSE "While We Are Waiting, Come"

PRAYER  
**Amazing God, you have confounded the wisdom of this world by coming to us in the form of a baby, frail and vulnerable. Help us to comprehend the great love with which you open yourself as a human to our world, that we, too, might risk opening ourselves in love to all your children, and bring light to your people. Amen.**

Director of Music Mark Owen Davis  
Organist Alice Brooks Sanders  
Trumpets Joe Long  
Horn Maria Long  
Trombone Hunter Mullins  
Tuba Preston Light  
Ushers The Lively Family

## Christmas Day Combined Service

December 25 ~ 10:00 a.m.

An informal service on Christmas morning, with hymn singing and scripture reading.

## New Year's Day Combined Service

January 1 ~ 10:00 a.m.

## Holiday Schedule

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2. The Clothes Closet will be closed on Tuesday, December 27 and Tuesday, January 3.

## Poinsettias

If you placed a poinsettia in the church in memory or honor of someone this Christmas season, the Worship Committee thanks you for adding to the beauty of our church. Those who purchased poinsettias may take them home after the service.

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All: **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 BENEDICTION

Mike Shelton

*(Please extinguish candles and place in the containers provided in the Narthex and Foyer.)*

CAROL *(please stand if able)*

“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”

VENI EMMANUEL

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here.  
Disburse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

**O come, Desire of nations, bind all peoples in one heart and mind;  
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease. Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.**

*(please be seated)*

THE FIRST LESSON

**Christ's Birth and Kingdom are Foretold by Isaiah**

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Reader ~ Caroline Pearson

ANTHEM

“Gloria in Excelsis”

A. Vivaldi

*Chancel Choir*

THE SECOND LESSON

**The Peace that Christ will Bring is Foreshown**

Isaiah 11:1-9

Reader ~ Richard Meyer

CAROL *(please remain seated)*

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

ST. LOUIS

**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.**

**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.**

**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!**

THE THIRD LESSON

**The Angel Gabriel Salutes Mary**

Luke 1: 26-35, 38

Reader ~ Kim Plemmons

CAROL *(please stand if able)*

“Angels We Have Heard On High”

arr. J. N. Beck

**Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echo back their joyous strains.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?  
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**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!**

*(please be seated)*

THE FOURTH LESSON

**Luke Tells of the Birth of Jesus**

Luke 2: 1, 3-7

Reader ~ Tammie Davis

ANTHEM "Christmas Sanctus" L. Dengler

CAROL (please remain seated) "Away in a Manger" MUELLER

**Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord  
Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky looked  
down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on 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 FIFTH LESSON **John Unfolds the Mystery of the Incarnation** from John 1  
Reader ~ Jim Amstutz

CAROL (please stand if able) "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 earth! the Savior reigns; Let all their 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.**

(please be seated)

THE SIXTH LESSON **The Shepherds Go to the Manger** Luke 2:8-16  
Reader ~ Claudia Mihovk

CAROL (please stand if able) "O Come, All Ye Faithful" ADESTE FIDELES

**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! O come let us adore Him  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

**Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation! Sing, all ye citizens of Heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest! 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.  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!**

(please be seated)

THE SEVENTH LESSON **Jesus, our High Priest, Became like Us** Hebrews 2:10-18  
Reader ~ Mike Shelton, *Pastor*

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE "He Has Been There and Done That" Mike Shelton

CAROL (please stand if able) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" MENDELSSOHN

**All, Stanza 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**Stanza 2, Women Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Men join Veiled in flesh, the Christ now see, Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel,  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

**All, Stanza 3 Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King!"**

(please be seated)

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS  
Mike Shelton, *Pastor*

**Leader:** The Lord be with you.  
**People:** **And also with you.**  
**Leader:** Let us pray.

OFFERTORY "Were You There on that Christmas Night?" N. Sleeth/L. Larson  
*Tammie Davis, contralto; Mark Davis, baritone*  
(Offering to benefit the Kingsport City Schools Homeless Education Program.)

(please stand when prompted)

CANDLE LIGHTING CAROL "Silent Night, Holy Night" arr. H. Hopson  
(Candles will be lit at the end of rows; please light your neighbor's in turn.)

**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.**

Choir only: *Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!  
Alles schläft, einsam wacht  
nur das traute, hochheilige Paar,  
Holder Knabe mit lockigem Haar,  
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,  
schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.* *(Silent night, holy night!  
All are asleep, yet awake  
Only the dear, holy couple,  
Beloved boy with locks of hair,  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.)*