



**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025**

PRELUDE

Prelude in C Major BWV 531
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Ruth Pfister, Organ

WELCOME

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

INTROIT

"In the Bleak Midwinter"
Gustav Holst

IPC Singers

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

van Stee Family

***CAROL**

"Once in Royal David's City"

Congregation

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

THE LORD'S PRAYER (in English or the language of your choice)

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

CAROL

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"
English folk melody; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

IPC Singers

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Johanna Lindenstruth

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

⁸ Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

¹⁰ He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

¹¹ And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?"

¹² The man said, "The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it."

¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"
The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this,
"Cursed are you above all livestock
and all wild animals!
You will crawl on your belly
and you will eat dust
all the days of your life.

¹⁵ And I will put enmity
between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and hers;
he will crush your head,
and you will strike his heel."

¹⁷ To Adam he said, "Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, 'You must not eat from it,'

"Cursed is the ground because of you;
through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you,
and you will eat the plants of the field.

¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow
you will eat your food
until you return to the ground,
since from it you were taken;
for dust you are
and to dust you will return."

CAROL

"O Holy Night"
Adolphe Adam

Zacharie Fogal, Tenor

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

John Cherukara

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

¹⁵ The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time ¹⁶ and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, ¹⁸ and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

***CAROL**

"Away in a Manger"

Congregation

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Liliane Altermatt

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

²The people walking in darkness
have seen a great light;
on those living in the land of deep darkness
a light has dawned.

⁶For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.

And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the greatness of his government and peace
there will be no end.

He will reign on David's throne
and over his kingdom,
establishing and upholding it
with justice and righteousness
from that time on and forever.

The zeal of the LORD Almighty
will accomplish this.

CAROL

"Gabriel's Message"

IPC Singers

Traditional Basque Carol

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6

Reto Kurmann

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

² The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

³ and he will delight in the fear of the LORD.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes,
or decide by what he hears with his ears;

⁴ but with righteousness he will judge the needy,
with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth.

He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth;
with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

The wolf will live with the lamb,
the leopard will lie down with the goat,
the calf and the lion and the yearling together;
and a little child will lead them.

***CAROL**

“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Congregation

INTERLUDE

“Angels We Have Heard on High”
French Carol; arr. Danny Gokey

Heather & Claire Altermatt, Vocals
Sebastian Pazmandi, Piano

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Tessa Henne

The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary

²⁶ In the sixth month of Elizabeth’s pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, ²⁷ to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸ The angel went to her and said, “Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you.”

²⁹ Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. ³⁰ But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. ³¹ You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.”

³⁴ “How will this be,” Mary asked the angel, “since I am a virgin?”

³⁵ The angel answered, “The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

³⁸ “I am the Lord’s servant,” Mary answered. “May your word to me be fulfilled.” Then the angel left her.

***CAROL**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Congregation

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

Peter Chen

Luke’s record of the birth of Jesus the Messiah

² In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

CAROL

“The Coventry Carol”

Vocal Octet

Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors (15th C.)

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

Daria Müller

The shepherds go to the manger

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

***CAROL**

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” (verses 1-3)

Congregation

EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Pepijn Cobben

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler
who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷ Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸ He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹ After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹ On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

CAROL

"As with Gladness Men of Old"
Conrad Kocher (1786-1872)

IPC Singers

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Bemi Okorodudu

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was with God in the beginning.

³ Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. ⁴ In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. ⁸ He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. ⁹ The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. ¹¹ He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. ¹² Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— ¹³ children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

***CAROL**

“Joy to the World”

Congregation

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

***CAROL**

“Silent Night, Holy Night”

Congregation

BENEDICTION

Rev. Mark W. van Stee

CHORAL RESPONSE

“Carol of the Bells”

IPC Singers

Traditional Ukrainian; Mykola Leontovych (1877-1921)

POSTLUDE

Da Capo from Sinfonia II from the Christmas Oratorio
Johann Sebastian Bach

Ruth Pfister, Organ

**Please stand if you are able.*

Soloists: Deborah Fogal and Sylwia Salamońska, Soprano
Amy Farnell and Dominika Stefanska, Alto
Zacharie Fogal and Loïc Paulin, Tenor
Randal Turner and Michał Bączyk, Bass
Choir Leader: Chandler Cudlipp
Organ: Ruth Pfister

Today's bulletin cover art is by Zaara Cherukara.

*This evening's offering will be received at the door at the end of the service.
Proceeds will go to Chrischtehüsli. Please include “IPC Christmas” when giving.*

Post Finance



TWINT

