

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

Third Sunday in Advent

17 December, 2006

Prelude
Manz *Wake, Awake for Night is Flying* Paul

Words of Welcome
Lighting of the Advent Candle

* Call to Worship

Leader: Let us worship God.
O praise the Lord with me.

People: Let us exalt God' name together.

* Prayer of the Day

Leader: Let us pray.

People: Almighty God, you have made us and all things to serve you, now prepare the world for your rule. Come quickly to save us, so that wars and violence shall end, and your children may live in peace, honoring one another with justice and love; through Jesus Christ, who lives in power with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Offertory
Manz *What God Ordains is Always Good*

* Doxology

Carol Prelude

O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE
FIDELES
A Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15 Brenda
Thaxton

Adam and Eve rebel against God

God Walked in Eden's Garden CONDITOR ALME
SIDERUM

God walked in Eden's garden fair, such beauty there none could compare,
It soon became a place of shame; there Adam's sin disowned God's name. Kyrie eleison.

A world of peace was swept away when Adam chose to disobey.
We too are marked by Adam's fall; we still refuse to hear God's call. Christe eleison.

The tale of Adam is our own. Like him we see God's love made know;
yet we rebel and go our way. The bitter cost we then must pay. Kyrie eleison.

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

David

Foutch

*God promises to faithful Abraham that his descendants
will be a blessing to all the nations of the earth.*

The God of Abr'am Praise

LEONI

The God of Abram praise, sing praises to God's name, who was and is and is to be, fore'er the same!
The one eternal God, before what now appears: the First, the Last: beyond all through timeless years!

God's spirit freely flows, high surging where it will; God spoke of old in prophet's word; that word speaks
still.

Established is God's law, and changeless it shall stand, deep written on the human heart, in every land.

God has eternal life implanted in the soul; God's love shall be our strength and stay while ages roll.
All praise the living God! All laud that hallowed name, who was and is, and ever shall be still the same!

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Bill

Hamby

Christ's birth and rule of peace and justice are foretold by Isaiah.

Comfort, Comfort, O My People

from the *Genevan*

Psalter

Comfort, comfort, O my people, tell of peace, now says our God:
Comfort those who sit in darkness bowed beneath oppression's load.
Speak unto Jerusalem; speak of peace that waits for them;
Tell all their sins I cover; tell that warfare now is over.

Hark, the herald's voice is calling in the desert far and near,
bidding us to make repentance since the kingdom is now here.
O that warning cry obey: Now prepare for God away;
let the valleys rise to meet him; let the hills bow down to greet him.

O make straight what long was crooked, make the rougher places plain;
let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign.
See the glory of the Lord now o'er earth is shed abroad;
all the world shall see this token, God's own word is never broken.

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-4a. 6-9

Lesley

Jacobson

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
ROS'

ES ITS EIN'

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from stem hath spring! Of Jesse's lineage coming, by prophets sung.
It came, a flow'ret bright, a mid the cold of winter, half was spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind; with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mary kind.
To show God's love a right, she bore for us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-35. 38

Lori

Lester

The angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus.

There Is No Rose

Hopson

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu; Alleluia.
For in this rose contained was heav'n and earth in little space; Res mirandia.
By that rose we may well see there be one God in persons three, Pares forma.
Then leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyous birth;
Transeamus. Pares forma. Res miranda. Alleluia.

Sixth Lesson: Matthew 1:18-23
Farris

Mary Margaret

Saint Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice
JUBILO

IN DULCI

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye head to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today! Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today.

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever more.
Christ was born for this. Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with hear and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and call you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save. Christ was born to save!

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

Mary Ellen O'Neil

The shepherds go to Bethlehem

Angels We Have Heard on High
Carol

French

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

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

Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come adore on bended knee, Christ the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

See him in a manger laid, who the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11
Howell

David

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

From a Distant Home
carol

Traditional Puerto Rican

From a distant home the Savior we come seeking, using as our guide the star so brightly beaming.
Lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning, heaven's wondrous light, O never cease your shining!
Glory in the highest to the Son of Heaven, and upon the earth be peace and love to all.

Glowing gold I bring the babe, the newborn babe so holy, token of his power to reign above in glory.
Lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning, heaven's wondrous light, O never cease your shining!
Glory in the highest to the Son of Heaven, and upon the earth be peace and love to all.

Frankincense I bring the child of God's own choosing, taken of our prayers to heaven every rising.
Lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning, heaven's wondrous light, O never cease your shining!
Glory in the highest to the Son of Heaven, and upon the earth be peace and love to all.

Bitter myrrh have I to give the infant Jesus, token of the pain that he will bear to save us.
Lovely eastern star that tells us of God's morning, heaven's wondrous light, O never cease your shining!
Glory in the highest to the Son of Heaven, and upon the earth be peace and love to all.

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-4

Suanne

Bone

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

* Closing Prayers

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

Postlude
Hancock

Fanfare on 'Antioch'

This Week at First Presbyterian Church

Today	8:45 am	Contemporary Service
	9:45 am	Church School
	11:00 am	Worship Service
Tuesday	9:00 am	Pre-School
Wednesday	5:00 pm	Bell Choir
	7:15 pm	Choir Practice
Thursday	6:00 pm	Contemporary Practice

Last Sunday's Record

Contemporary Service	51	Offering	\$ 11,704.15
Sunday School	43	Weekly Need	5,354.00
Sanctuary Service	95	Through Nov.	213,760.90

Lighting of the Advent Candle The Walker Family

This morning's symbol is the Angel, representing the annunciation to Mary. Today we light the third Advent candle. This is the candle which reminds us of the joy that Mary felt when the angel made that wonderful announcement to her. May the light of Christmas love bring joy into our hearts during the Advent and Christmas season, and always.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:30-31

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus."

Deepest Sympathy: We extend our deepest sympathy to Joe Adams and family upon the death of Joe's uncle, Lex Cook, who died on Wednesday, December 5th.

Church Secretary on Vacation: Kristy will be on vacation from December 18th – 22nd.

Congregational Meeting: There will be a congregational meeting immediately following the 11:00 worship service today for the purpose of electing officers for the Class of 2009.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

7:00 p.m., Sunday, December 24th

Invite your family and friends to this annual service of worship and celebration. Please bring cookies for the reception to Fellowship Hall by 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday Night Fellowship Dinners will resume on January 10th, 2007. Volunteers are needed to help set tables, serve, and collect money. If you are

interested in helping, sign up on the volunteer sheet in Fellowship Hall.

Alternative Gift Market
Give a Gift that Matters

Celebrate the season with gifts that are truly different. Honor your friends and family with meaningful gifts that really make a difference. Give the life-changing gift of a Heifer International animal. The **Living Gift Market** will be held in Fellowship Hall **today**.

Worship notes: Lessons and Carols had its origin at Truro Cathedral (England) on Christmas Eve 1880, when a service of scripture and supporting carols was developed by the Bishop of Truro, F.W. Benson. Some 38 years later in 1918, this format was adapted for Christmas Eve at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. The BBC broadcast from King's College helped to popularize the Service of Lessons and Carols, and it was quickly duplicated by cathedrals and small churches throughout the world. The heart of the service continues to this day as the retelling of the Christian's story of faith from the fall of Adam to the coming of the Word Incarnate.

"The Festival of Lessons and Carols" presented by the Chancel Choir and Bell Choir today was written by Hal H. Hopson, a former music director at Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville.