

SUN 11 AM
DECEMBER 15, 2024

Worship Service for THE LORD'S DAY
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

FOX CHAPEL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*As a community of Christ's disciples, we joyfully participate
in Christ's mission of love and peace, transformation and hope.*

Welcome to Worship

Words printed in **bold** are for the congregation to speak in unison.

* An invitation to rise in body or spirit.

PRELUDE

Christmas Song Medley

Gray Ziek

WELCOME AND INVITATIONS

Rev. Ginger Thomas

INTROIT

E'en So, Lord Jesus Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be
Sing Holy, Holy to our Lord the Lord, Almighty God
Who was, and is, and is to come sing Holy, Holy Lord

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell within
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below
For Christ is coming, is coming soon
For Christ is coming soon

E'en so Lord Jesus, quickly come and night shall be no more
They need no light nor lamp nor sun for Christ will be their All!

LIGHTING THE ADVENT WREATH

Megan, Toby, Will & Violet Eberhart

No matter what troubles overwhelm us today, Isaiah reminds us that in all of our preparation and passionate pursuit of God's coming kingdom, we must not forget that God's salvation has come and is coming. "With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation" (Isaiah 12:3). With joy you will remember that God's salvation is already present among us.

Faced with the troubles and the suffering of the world, we choose to live in joyful presence to God and one another. We will not turn away from the pain and the hurt in our world, and we will not stop rejoicing in God, whose salvation fills us to overflowing that God's love might flow through us and flood our troubled world with hope, peace, and joy.

We light this candle of joy as a sign of our commitment to be present to ourselves, our friends, our families, and our neighbors that in sharing our vulnerable lives we might share in the glorious joy of God's salvation together.

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN 140

Once in Royal David's City

IRBY

Congregation, please sing bold print

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 meek and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

Jesus 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 feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all 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.

BIDDING PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Rebecca DePoe

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

+++

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 (OT, pg. 3)

Brian Sackett

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit always green: The tree of life my soul hath seen, Laden with fruit always green: The trees of nature fruitless be Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell, His beauty doth all things excel: By faith I know, but ne'er can tell. The glory which I now can see In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought; For happiness I long have sought, And pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: I'm weary with my former toil, Here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be, Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive: This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, It keeps my dying faith alive: Which makes my soul in haste to be With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

+++

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 2:15-18 (OT, pg. 18)

Lena Sweringen

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 121**

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.

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.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessing 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

Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9 (OT, pg. 640)

Mary Minor

ANTHEM

Lo, How a Rose/The Rose
Anna Lahti, soloist

arr. Craig Hella Johnson

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung. Some say love, it is a river that drowns the tender reed; Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung. Some say love, it is a razor that leaves your soul to bleed; It came, a flow'ret bright; Some say love, it is a hunger, an endless aching need; Amid the cold of winter; I say love, it is a flower, and you, its only seed. When half-spent was the night. It's the heart afraid of breaking that never learns to dance; It's the dream afraid of waking that never takes the chance; It's the one who won't be taken who cannot seem to give; And the soul afraid of dying that never learns to live. This Flow'r, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, When the night has been too lonely and the road has been too long; Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness ev'ry where. And you think that love is only for the lucky and the strong; True Man, yet very God, Just remember in the winter far beneath the bitter snow; From sin and death He saves us, Lies the seed that with the sun's love, in the spring becomes the rose. And lightens ev'ry load.

+++

THE FOURTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-35, 38 (NT, pg. 56)

Gigi Mettenburg

ANTHEM

O Come All Ye Faithful

Mack Wilberg

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.

True God from true God, Light from light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal he comes; very God, begotten, not created! 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; O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

+++



+++

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7 (NT, pg. 58)

Katie Walker

ANTHEM

Festival First Nowell

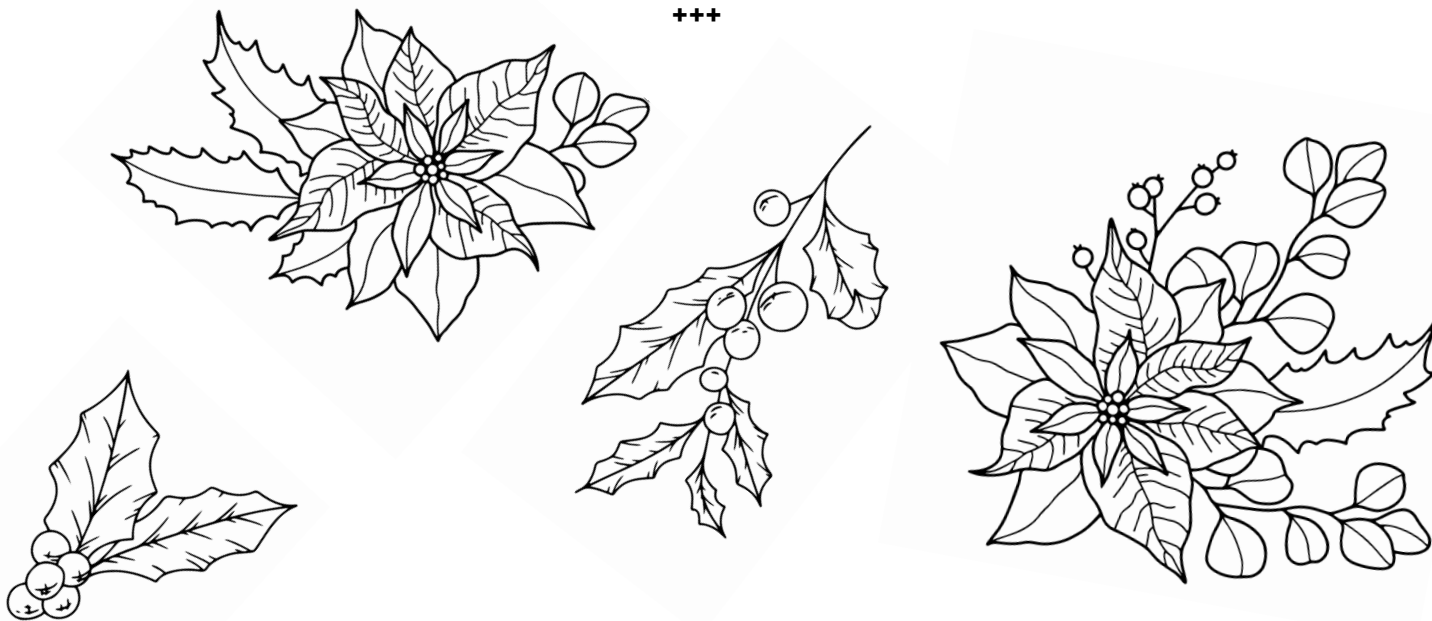
Dan Forrest

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.

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.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
That hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.

+++



+++

THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20 (NT, pg. 58)

Siena Trabant

*CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 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!" 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, off spring 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!"

+++

+++

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12 (NT, pg. 2)

Rev. Ginger Thomas

OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

What Child is This?

Trans. Darius McBride

What Child is this, who laid to rest on Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king to own Him,
The King of Kings, salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the virgin sings her lullaby:
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

+++

THE EIGHTH LESSON

John 1:1-14 (NT, pg. 91)

Rev. Roger Owens

REFLECTION

The Gift of Joy

Rev. Roger Owens

***CONGREGATIONAL HYMN 134**

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.

***BENEDICTION**

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

He Came Down

Traditional Cameroon Melody

*He came down that we may have joy;
Hallelujah forever more.*

POSTLUDE

"March" from *The Nutcracker*

arr. Gary Ziek



Music Participants

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

**Asterisk to denote FCPC Festival Choir members*

Sally Allan, *Ann Boyd, Ann Bradley, Margaret Groninger, *Helen Houggy, June Hurh, *Dale Filstrup, Fran Jetcyk, *Kay Marshall, *Cate Mettenburg, *Karen Miller, Barbara OConnell, Takako Petek, Wilberta Pickett, *Diane Rogers, *Linda Thier, Polly Swanson, *Connie Phillips, *Nikki Rosswog, Joanne Welsh, *Stacie Ewald, Linda Everhart, Dee Hoyt, Zelene Hutchison, Beth Lockwood, Geneva Martin, Gwen Minshall, Louise van Mook, *Venessa Schwigter, Amy Stabingas, Kitty Telep, Andrew Boag, Steve Bradley, *Dave Houggy, Nicholas Graef, Jeff Gross, AJ Koval, Brian Miller, Ray Overmyer, Terry Thompson, Don Boyd, Bill Calder, Craig Everhart, Ron Martin, Jerry Minshall, Logan Newman, Jack Oehrle, *Larry Rogers, *Jim Stark, Tommy Walters

West Virginia Brass Quintet

Dave Porter, Trumpet
Joel Cotter, Trumpet
Andrew Scott, Horn
Brian Plitnik, Trombone
Logan Lyndsey, Tuba

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church Children's Choir

Bennet Link, Gretchen Oberlin, Evelyn Oberlin, Evie Gourley, Eliza Gourley, Emery Trabandt, Siena Trabandt, Violet Eberhart, Maya Trammell, Isabella Sackett, Madelyn Bloom, Claire Rocha, Annie Minor, Mary Minor, Will Eberhart, Brian Sackett, Jacob Bloom



Participants Today

Rev. Ginger A. Thomas, Co-Senior Pastor (ginger@fcpc.us)

Rev. Dr. L. Roger Owens, Co-Senior Pastor (roger@fcpc.us)

Rev. Rebecca DePoe, Designated Associate Pastor (rebecca@fcpc.us)

Rev. Lori Bass-Riley, Minister of Children and Families (lori@fcpc.us)

S.C. Toe, Minister of Music (sc@fcpc.us)

Megan, Toby, Will, and Violet Eberhart, Advent Candle Lighting and Reading

Fox Chapel Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir

Howard Havlicsek, Audio Engineer

Jenny Clark, Livestream Producer (jenny@fcpc.us)

Don Moyer, Caretaker (don@fcpc.us)

Scripture Readers:

Brian Sackett, Lena Sweringen, Mary Minor, Gigi Mettenburg, Katie Walker, and Siena Trabant

Chancel Flowers

The chancel flowers today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dr. George Gilmore, Janet Gilmore, and George H. Gilmore III by Anne Reid.

For Children and Families during 11:00 AM Worship

Children age 3 to 5th grade are encouraged to stay in the service to enjoy the music but are also welcome to join Pastor Lori at any time during the service in the chapel for nativity crafts. Parents must escort their children to the chapel.

Nursery care is available for ages 0-3 in Room 109 (near the main entrance).

The Comfort Space is available in Room 107 (next to the Nursery) to comfort or feed a child and watch the worship service via livestream.

HEARING DEVICES are available in the Sanctuary. Ask an usher for assistance.

If you have a hearing aid that has the T-Coil activated, please ask for a T-Coil neckloop receiver.

LICENSES CCLI License # 1238538; Streaming License # CSPL091436; One License # 737738-A