



Service of Lessons & Carols

December 24, 2025

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Still, Still, Still"

arr. Joseph M. Martin

Call to Worship

All Singing: 87 "Once in Royal David's City"
Soloist singing verse 1, choir singing verses 2 and 3
* **All standing and singing verses 4 and 5**

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Reader: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

All: **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Reader: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

All: **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

Reader: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

All: **In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

OPENING PRAYER

Minister: Beloved in Christ, this Christmas Eve be it our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go to Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build. And because this would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the

poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who do not know the Lord Jesus, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

People: Our Father, which 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Proclamation

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19
THE SEPARATION FROM PARADISE

* **All Singing: 34 “What Adam’s Disobedience Cost”**
Choir singing verse 1, people singing verses 3 – 5

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18
GOD’S PROMISE TO FAITHFUL ABRAHAM

Choir: “O Come Redeemer of the Earth” by Brian L. Hanson

O come, Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin-birth.
Let every age in wonder fall: such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will but of the Spirit, Thou art still
the Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.

O, Morning Star, come and our night, cast out our sin and shed Your light.
The darkness of our mortal state with endless beams illuminate.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee, whose advent sets Thy people free,
whom, with the Father, we adore, and Holy Ghost, for evermore.

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7
THE PROPHET FORETELLS THE COMING OF THE SAVIOR

* **All Singing: 91 “God Reigns! Earth Rejoices” (Noel Nouvelet)**

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9
THE PEACE THAT CHRIST WILL BRING IS FORESHOWN

Choir: “Before the Marvel of This Night” by Carl Schalk

Before the marvel of this night
Adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light
And with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace,

That fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace.
Sing peace, sing gift of peace.

Awake the sleeping world with song,
This is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng,
In royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss,
A teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss.
The love that we have always known,
Our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown,
Now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love,
That rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love.
Sing love, sing God is love.

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38
THE ANGEL GABRIEL & MARY

* **All Singing: 68 “Told of God’s Favor”**
Women singing verse 1, men verse 2, all singing verses 4 – 5

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1-7
THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Duet: “What Child is This”

What child is this who laid to rest on Mary’s lap is sleeping
Whom angels greet with voices sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste, haste to bring him praise, the babe the Son of Mary

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh, come peasant king to praise him
The King of King all glory brings let loving hearts enthrone Him.
Raise, raise the song on high let singing fume the earth and sky
Joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe the Son of Mary

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-20
THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER

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

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

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.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

* **All Singing: 80 "Hark the Herald Angels Sing"**

**EIGHTH LESSON: Matthew 2:1-11
THE MAGI FOLLOW THE STAR**

Choir: "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" by Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain,
Joyous tidings proclaim to the world,
Lift up your voice, shout the good news:
Behold, your Lord comes to you.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd,
He will carry the lambs in his arms,
He will never keep them safe from harm.
Behold your Lord comes to you.

He who made stars in the heaven,
He who fashioned the earth and the sea,
From time eternal he was God,
The Alpha and Omega, He.

Behold, your Lord!
He will come in power and glory,
He will rule with mercy and truth,
Hope of all the nations, Light of all the world.

He will love the little children
He will hold them in his arms,
Love him and trust him as a child,
Behold your Lord comes to you.

* **NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14
THE MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION**

* **All Singing: 76 "O Come All Ye Faithful"**

Dedication

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. Restoration Ministries

Choir: "A Christmas Blessing" by Philip Stopford

May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds,
the worship of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas;
May Christ by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly,
all things heavenly, and fill you with joy, and peace.
And the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you and remain with you always. Amen.

* **All Singing: 81 “Angels, from the Realms of Glory”**

Sending

* Minister: Now to him who is able to establish you in accordance with the gospel of Jesus Christ, in keeping with the revelation of the mystery hidden for long ages past, but not revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all might come to faith and obedience –

All: to the only wise God be glory forever through Jesus Christ.

Romans 16:25-27 adapted

* **All Singing: 85 “Silent Night, Holy Night”**

Postlude: “What Child is This”

arr. Karen Ball

Worship Leaders

Organist / Pianist:	Dora Diephouse	Christ Candle:	Roozeboom Family
Choir Director:	David Baar	First Lesson:	Steven Evenhouse
Choir Accompanist:	Anna Triezenberg-Sims	Second Lesson:	Tyler & Molly Hughes
Vocal Soloist:	Evelyn Evenhouse	Third Lesson:	Eileen Meier
Duet:	Marjie & Molly Coleman	Fourth Lesson:	Betty Vander Laan
Youth Ensemble:	Karis Dykstra	Fifth Lesson:	Evelyn Evenhouse
	Moriah Dykstra	Sixth Lesson:	Dorothy Wassenaar
	Lily Post	Seventh Lesson:	Aron Reppmann
	Elizabeth van den Brink	Eighth Lesson:	Karis Dykstra
Minister:	Roger Nelson	Ninth Lesson:	Roger Nelson

Hymns are from *Lift Up Your Hearts* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013)
CCLI Copyright License 813746 | CCLI Streaming License 20253780 | OneLicense A-704612



5825 W 151st Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452
www.hope-crc.org