

A SERVICE *of*  
Nine Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2017

## About Nine Lessons and Carols

The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols tells the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus in nine Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books, and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choral music.

The format was based on an order drawn up by Edward White Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury but at that time Bishop of Truro, in Cornwall, for use on Christmas Eve 1880. Tradition says that he organized a 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral and that a key purpose of the service was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve.

The original liturgy has since been adapted and used by other churches all over the world. The best-known version has broadcast annually from King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve since 1918. It features carols sung by the College's famous choir. Our tradition at Second Presbyterian Church is based on this service.

## Christmas Flowers

*The following is a list of donations to the Chancel Guild Fund, given to the glory of God.*

### In Memory of:

*John and Margaret Whittemore and Russell and Rachel Schulte by John and Marilyn Whittemore; Mary Lawrence Allen by Jean C. Massey; John Evans McKee by his wife, Martha Ann McKee, and Family; Dorothy L. Davis and Harry "Skip" Sharp by Glenda D. Sharp; Jim Wilson and Mary Lawrence Allen by Marilyn Wilson; Edgar Hull Bailey by Ann Bailey and Family; Mr. Duane Sichveland by Mr. and Mrs. Carter Campbell and family; Dr. Allen Boyd by Janis Boyd, Dr. Dan and Teresa Boyd, and Lundy, Steve, and Joseph Carpenter; Russ Billings and Sara Misner by Janet Misner; Dr. W. Kimbrough Boren, Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. House, Sr., Mr. Charles House, Jr., Mrs. Lucy Boren, Mr. and Mrs. Sam House, Sr., and Mr. Jimmie C. Smith, Jr. by Mrs. W. Kimbrough Boren; Betsy H. Graham and Nancy B. West by Wade, Katie, Will, and Graham West; Mr. Ed Eleazer, III, Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Eleazer, Mr. and Mrs. James K. Dobbs, Jr., and Mr. John Collier Dobbs by Katie and Ed Eleazer; Mr. J. Fred Tarkington, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Walter Anderson, and Mr. and Mrs. J. Fred Tarkington, Sr. by Ferrin T. Mavar; Wilton Hazelwood by Sandy Hazelwood; Cindy Garner Stanfill by Orin and Mary Davidson; Janet Tinnin and Harry Frazer by Preston, Ashley, Katie, Bennett, and Chase Frazer; Forrest McCord Ruffin and Lindy Sparks Ruffin by Eileen, Dan, Daniel, and Ruffin Wood; Henry C. Pitts, Jr. by his family; Emily Smith Britton, William J. Britton III, Elizabeth Cross, George Cross, and Louise and Frank Smith by Mike, Cynthia, and William Cross, Annie, and Michael Cross; Charles D. Akins, M.D. by Janice and David Wooley; Bucky Shappley by Pat Shappley; James E. Boone and Helen Boone by Mrs. James E. Boone; John Arthur Newton and Courtney and Daniel Shores by the Wepfer family; Steve Rhea, Ann Shoaf, Wyatt Aiken, Jody Bellott, Wilton Hazelwood by John and Lucy Wepfer; Ellen Griffin Malvezzi and Jasmine Lou-Ellen Malvezzi by Goodwyn Heard Bell, Lizy Heard, and Griffin Heard; Roland Guest Stetler III by Mrs. Carrie C. Riedmeyer; John Shanks by Betty Shanks and Family; Milla Gieselmann by The Emmaus Class; Bettye and Lewis Taliaferro by their daughters, Elizabeth and Mary; Rufus Ivan Jones by Brad and Nicole Jones; Jim McCormick by*

*his wife and family; Dino Casali and Larry Peebles by Chip, Dina, Quinn, and Emma Peebles; Mr. Mark Rogers Coleman, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Flint Sawtell, Mr. Bo Nance, Mrs. Lucille Carter Tansey, and Mrs. Priscilla Harris by Bob, Deborah, Caroline, and Carter Coleman; Dorothy and Bill Carpenter by their Family.*

### In Honor of:

*Lee and David Bowen, The Music Ministry, and The Caring Ministry by Janet Misner; Mr. Richard D. Boren, Mr. Robert H. Boren, and Miss Helen Patricia Boren by Mrs. W. Kimbrough Boren; Our Missionaries by Ron and Sarah Sadlow; The Children's Ministry Staff and First Grade Sunday School and Choir Leaders and Teachers by The Elmer Stout Family; Dr. and Mrs. George Robertson by Kemp, Anne, Kemp Jr. and Coco Conrad; Ruth M. Morrison and Dial Boyle Jackson by their children and grandchildren; Carita Crump by son Rob Crump; The Shine Ministry and its members by Vicki Gore; Beverly and Carl Anderson by their grandchildren Witt, Pender, and Georgianna Wells; Gaye Carter and Tim Russell by Katherine Russell; Shepherd Group 4 by John and Lucy Wepfer.*

### In Gratitude for:

*Pastor Robertson by Jan Franks; Mary Lynn Bellott, Dot Hammons, and Becky Maddux by Mary Jane Hamlett; Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Campbell by Mr. and Mrs. Carter Campbell and Family; John Alexander by The Diaconate; The Leaders of the Walk Bible Study, Yvonne Hardin, and Rachel Gasser by Lisa Colcolough; Lou Anne Anderson by Rob Crump; Donny Plunk and Marco Island by Eileen and Dan Wood; Shine Ministry Volunteers by Walker Bush; Jane Cash by Dee Walker; Mary Lawrence Flinn by Christy Paganoni; Mrs. Linda Rhea and Family and Justin, Amanda, Charlie, and Sophie Jane Joy by Janice and David Wooley; Sandy Hazelwood by the Wepfer family; Thursday Morning Prayer Group by Lucy Wepfer; Yvonne Hardin, Ann Wilson, and WIM Disciples and Proteges by Debbie Perkins; Samuel Metzger by Anonymous.*

# Order for the Public Worship of God

ORGAN PRELUDE: Variations on "Good Christian Men Rejoice" . . . . . Denis Bédard  
*Samuel Metzger, organ*

LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE . . . . . Sarah and Owen Mercer (8:15)  
Beth Kontrim, Blanche Tosh, and Sue Williams (11:00)

CALL TO WORSHIP . . . . . D. Todd Erickson (8:15)  
Richard G. Cain (11:00)

✦ PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 225 "Once in Royal David's City" . . . . . IRBY  
*Stanza 1: Christy Young, soloist*  
*Stanzas 2-5: Congregation*

✦ INVOCATION (*please raise hands*)

## The First Lesson

*God announces that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.*

GENESIS 3:8-19

**A**nd they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CAROL: "Remember, O Thou Man" . . . . . Thomas Ravenscroft

Remember, O thou man, O thou man, O thou man, remember, O thou man, thy time is spent.  
Remember, O thou man, how thou art dead and gone, and I did what I can. Therefore repent.

Remember Adam's fall, O thou man, O thou man, remember Adam's fall from heaven to hell.  
Remember Adam's fall, how we were condemned all in hell perpetual, there for to dwell.

Remember God's goodness, O thou man, O thou man, remember God's goodness and His promise made.  
Remember God's goodness, how He sent His Son doubtless, our sins for to redress. Be not afraid.

The angels all did sing, O thou man, O thou man, the angels all did sing upon the shepherds' hill.  
The angels all did sing praises to our heavenly King, and peace to man living with a good will.

# The Second Lesson

*Abraham's Son shall be a blessing to all the nations.*

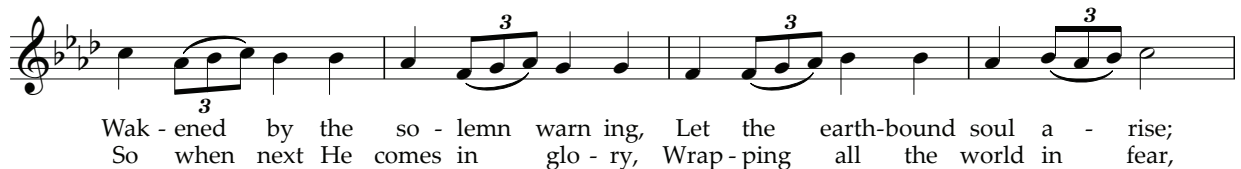
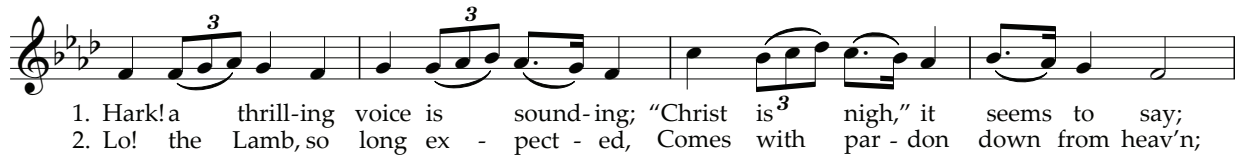
GENESIS 22:9-18 ..... Lynn L. Erickson (8:15)  
Sarah S. Sadlow (11:00)

**W**hen they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided." And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

♠ CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: "Hark, a Thrilling Voice Is Sounding" ..... EBENEZER



# The Third Lesson

*God promises a Child King who liberates from terrorizing darkness.*

ISAIAH 9:2-7 ..... Dan G. Burns (8:15)  
Gerry A. Peak (11:00)

**T**he people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CAROL: "Arise, Your Light Has Come" ..... David Danner

Awake, my spirit, Awake, lute and harp; I will awake at the dawn of day.  
I will confess You, O Lord among the nations. I will raise a psalm to You, for Your love,  
Your love is wide as the heavens, and Your truth reaches to the skies!

Wake, awake, for night is flying, the watchmen on the heights are crying; awake, Jerusalem at last.

Midnight hears the welcome voices, and at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Come forth, you maidens!  
Night is past. The bridegroom comes: Awake; your lamps with gladness take!" Alleluia!  
Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord, whose light has stirred the waiting guard.

Now let all the heav'ns adore You, and saints and angels sing before You. The harps and cymbals all unite.

Of one pearl each shining portal, where, dwelling with the choir immortal we gather round Your dazzling light.

No eye has seen, nor ear has yet been trained to hear. What joy is ours!  
Crescendos rise; Your halls resound; hosannas blend in heav'nly sound.

Arise, O Jerusalem! Arise clothed in light! Your light has come,  
And the glory of God upon your hearts will shine. Alleluia!

*Beth Fischer, Fred Flinn, Mary Lawrence Flinn, handbells*

# The Fourth Lesson

*The Prophet speaks of One who is capable of changing the world.*

ISAIAH 11:1-4. .... Catherine S. Burns (8:15)  
Jill A. Peak (11:00)

**T**here shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: No. 221 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" ..... ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN

# The Fifth Lesson

*The angel Gabriel salutes the blessed Virgin Mary.*

LUKE 1:26-38 ..... Heidi J. Stokke (8:15)  
Scottie A. Cain (11:00)

**I**n the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: "Song of Mary" ..... CANONBURY

**My soul does magnify the Lord, rejoicing in my saving God,  
For God has shown regard to me, a lowly, humble handmaiden.**

**From now on generations all will say that I am truly blessed,  
For God has done great things for me. Holy and righteous is God's name.**

**God shows to generations all mercy to all who fear God.  
He has stretched out a mighty arm and scattered proud ones with their plans.**

**God brings down rulers from their thrones, and raises up the lowly ones;  
God fills the hungry with good things, but sends the rich empty away.**

**Rememb'ring to be merciful, God has helped servant Israel  
As promised to our ancestors, to Abraham's family always.**

# The Sixth Lesson

*Luke recounts the birth narrative of our Lord.*

LUKE 2:1-16 ..... Michael G. Stokke (8:15)  
T. Barton Kimbro (11:00)

**I**n those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And

an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

CAROL: "Star Carol" ..... John Rutter

Sing this night, for a boy is born in Bethlehem, Christ our Lord in lowly manger lies;  
Bring your gifts, come and worship at His cradle, hurry to Bethlehem and see the Son of Mary!

*See His star shining bright in the sky this Christmas night!  
Follow me joyfully; hurry to Bethlehem and see the Son of Mary!*

Angels bright, come from heaven's highest glory, bear the news with its message of good cheer:  
"Sing, rejoice, for a King is come to save us, hurry to Bethlehem and see the Son of Mary!"

See, He lies in His mother's tender keeping; Jesus Christ in her loving arms asleep.  
Shepherds poor come to worship and adore Him, offer their humble gifts before the Son of Mary.

Let us all pay our homage at the manger, sing His praise on this joyful Christmas night;  
Christ is come, bringing promise of salvation, hurry to Bethlehem and see the Son of Mary!

# The Seventh Lesson

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.*

MATTHEW 2:1-11 ..... Joshua D. Yates (8:15)  
Lee S. Bowen (11:00)

**N**ow after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet: "'And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: "While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks" . . . . . CHRISTMAS

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground,  
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around, and glory shone around.  
"Fear not," said he — for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind —  
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind, to you and all mankind."  
"To you, in David's town this day, is born of David's line,  
The Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be the sign, and this shall be the sign:  
The heav'nly babe you there shall find to human view displayed,  
All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid, and in a manger laid."  
"All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace;  
Good will henceforth, from heav'n to men, begin and never cease, begin and never cease!"

## The Eighth Lesson

*Behold the glory and receive the grace of our incarnate Lord.*

JOHN 1:1-14 . . . . . L. Brett Wynne (8:15)  
David A. Bowen (11:00)

**I**n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to Christ.**

✦ CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: "Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates" . . . . . TRURO

Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates! Behold, the King of glory waits;  
The King of kings is drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.  
Fling wide the portals of your heart; make it a temple, set apart  
From earthly use for heav'ns employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.  
Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to Thee; here, Lord, abide!  
Let me Thy inner presence feel; Thy grace and love in me reveal.

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*A special offering is being collected today for the Caring Ministry Fund which assists those in need in our church and community. If you would like to contribute, please use the special envelope in the pew rack or mark your check "Caring Ministry Fund."*

OFFERTORY CAROL: "Gesú Bambino" ..... Pietro Yon

When blossoms flower e'er 'mid the snows, upon a winter night,  
Was born the child, the Christmas rose, the King and love and light.  
The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced;  
And at the blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.

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

Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night,  
That gave the world its Christmas rose, let ev'ry voice acclaim His name.  
The grateful chorus swell; from paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.

*Katie Polloreña, soloist*

✦ CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE ..... GLORIA

**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.**

✦ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

✦ GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

✦ PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (*please stand*)

## The Ninth Lesson

*Jesus promises to come and make all things new.*

✦ REVELATION 21:1-6 ..... George W. Robertson

**T**hen I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment."

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

ADVENT HOMILY ..... "A New Resolve"

✠CONGREGATIONAL CAROL: “The First Noel” . . . . .THE FIRST NOEL

The first Noel, 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.

*Noel, noel, noel, noel. 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.

And by the light of that same star three wisemen came from country far;  
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.

Then entered in those wisemen three, full rev’rently upon their knee,  
And offered there in His presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav’nly Lord,  
That hath made heav’n and earth of naught, and with His blood mankind hath bought.

✠BENEDICTION (*please raise hands*)

✠CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE . . . . .VENI EMMANUEL

**Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel, shall come to Thee, O Israel.**

ORGAN POSTLUDE: “Un Flambeau, Jeanette, Isabelle” . . . . .Denis Bédard

✠Indicates congregation standing | CCLI License #252778

**A New Resolve | George Robertson**

December 24, 2017

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## **I. Identification of Fears**

A. Regret

B. Pain

C. Death

## **II. Implications of Fearlessness**

A. Regret

B. Pain

C. Death

## Welcome

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If you are visiting with us today, we welcome you to Second Presbyterian. Please sign our Friendship Pad, which will be passed during the Greetings time of the service.

**Breakfast Reception:** Following the 8:15 a.m. service, all are invited to the Fellowship Hall for breakfast and visiting. Sunday School/CCs are not meeting today, and the nursery will be closed during this hour.

**Children in Worship:** We consider it a privilege for children to worship with us. If your children become restless and vocal, feel free to visit the “soundproof” Cry Room at the back of the Sanctuary. Worship bags including material specifically designed for children are available at the Nursery desk.

## Christmas Eve Worship

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We invite you to worship with us tonight. At 4:00 p.m., the Family Service will feature our annual Christmas video and children’s message. At 6:00 p.m., our Chancel Choir will accompany a beautiful candlelight communion service. Our Westminster Singers will lead the candlelight communion service at 11:00 p.m. Nursery will be available for ages 4 and under at the 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. services.

## Weekly Focus on Missions

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**World Missions:** In late October, Laura celebrated her one-year anniversary serving the Lord in the Middle East. She sends her love to her Second family and thanks you for partnering in her ministry teaching missionary children. She spends a great deal of time in the school instructing and loving her students. The local fellowship Laura participates in is committed to praying for revival in their land. Please join them in prayer that many in their area will become aware of their sin and need for a Savior. Laura asks we pray for fathers and husbands to learn from the Lord what a man is truly meant to be and for the Christians to show Christ’s love by boldly loving their neighbors of another faith. Lastly, pray for Laura as she spends Christmas away from her family and friends.

**Mission Memphis:** Since our CityServe conference this fall, our Volunteer Ministries team has made a great effort to introduce our church to ministry partners through “Second in the City” events. Please pray that God will bless and use the planned monthly events with selected ministry partners to broaden connections of our members with serving opportunities in our city. Pray also that the events will be well-attended and that members will get a meaningful view of the ministry and how volunteers are used.

## Caring Ministry

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**In the Hospital (as of 12/19/17):**

Ann Spurbeck, Allen Morgan Rehab

Maryanna Popper, Allen Morgan Rehab

Olin Morris, Memphis Jewish Home (*no visitors*)

Mike Albert, St. Francis

## General News

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**Year-End Giving Reminders:** Per IRS regulations, year-end gifts not mailed to the church must be placed in the offering plate during worship or delivered to the church office no later than Sunday, December 31, 2017 in order to qualify as a charitable gift for the 2017 tax year. Contributions mailed to the church must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by December 31, 2017 in order to qualify as a charitable gift for the 2017 tax year. (If your mailing envelope is postmarked after December 31, 2017, your gift must be reported as a 2018 gift, regardless of the date on your check.) You may also give online at [2pc.org/giving](http://2pc.org/giving). In addition, if you have or intend to donate stock, please contact the business office at 901-454-0034.

**CLC 2018:** Save the date for our annual Christian Life Conference, January 19-21, 2018. This year we are excited to welcome guests Mika Edmondson and H.B. Charles, Jr., who will speak on the theme “Making Sense of Suffering.” Stay tuned in the coming weeks for more information.

**New Church Hymnals:** For the last few years, our music department has been working to select our church’s most loved hymns to include in the next generation of hymnals for Second. That work is now complete and soon, with your help, we’ll be ready to print. Hymnals may be “gifted” in honor of or in memory of someone for \$25 each. A bookplate will be placed inside the front cover. Visit [2pc.org/hymnal](http://2pc.org/hymnal) or fill out one of cards in the pew rack to participate.

## December Flowers

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**The flowers in the Sanctuary for the month of December are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:** *Bernice and George Flinn* by their sons George, Jr., Fred, Carl, and their families; *Brad and Marcia Baker* by the Housholder family; *Mabel L., Forrest P. and James W. Morgan* by Forrest and Joan Morgan; *Mr. and Mrs. William D. Nicholson* by their children and grandchildren; *Lillian and Thomas Patton* by Claude and Susan Crawford, John and Elizabeth Holmes, and their grandchildren.

## Getting Connected at Second

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A pastor will be available after the service to pray for you in the Gathering Room, located on the left as you exit the southwest door of the Sanctuary. To find out more about who we are and how you can become part of our church community, or for help with specific concerns, contact Pastor Todd Erickson at [todd.erickson@2pc.org](mailto:todd.erickson@2pc.org).

## General Fund Giving Update

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July 1, 2017 through November 30, 2017

|                  | November  | YTD         |
|------------------|-----------|-------------|
| <b>Actual:</b>   | \$903,020 | \$3,245,658 |
| <b>Budget:</b>   | \$810,772 | \$3,245,586 |
| <b>Variance:</b> | \$92,248  | \$72        |

