

Under Wraps

THE GIFT WE NEVER EXPECTED

Lessons and Carols Christmas Eve Service with Communion and Candlelight

December 24, 2018

11:00 PM

*This year marks the 100th anniversary of the well-known King's College chapel Christmas Service, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, which originated in Cambridge, England and was first broadcast to the world in 1928. Our tranquil and peaceful service is an adaptation of this Anglican tradition which has helped millions of Christians to celebrate the birth of Christ. We've included the lyrics but you can also sing them in parts using our hymnal. **Please stand as you are able at the asterisks*.***

OUR ORGANIST PLAYS MUSIC FOR US AS WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

Noël No. 10 – Full Organ and Duos

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

“When God was born at Christmas in the land of Judaea, that solemn day was bathed in joy.
There was no man, great or small, who did not bring his present
And did not offer ceaselessly all his wealth and riches.”
— Provençal Christmas Carol

THE LIGHT OF CHRIST COMES IN

Jordan Roane, Carter Roane

WELCOME AND BIDDING PRAYER

Pastor Mike

*CAROL

Once in Royal David's City, vv. 1, 2

UMH No. 250

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, the scorned, the lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-5

Marsha Germek

The peace that Christ shall bring is foreshown.

Bethany United Methodist Church

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ANTHEM *Here Comes the Light* Joseph M. Martin

SECOND LESSON Luke 1: 26-35 Pastor Mike
The angel Gabriel visits the Blessed Virgin Mary.

CAROL *Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*, v. 1 UMH No. 223
Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light and usher in the morning. O shepherds, shrink not with affright, but hear the angel's warning. This child, now weak in infancy, our confidence and joy shall be, the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

THIRD LESSON Luke 2: 1-6 Marsha Germek
St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

CAROL *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly* UMH No.229
Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing, Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the babe was born for you.

THE CHRIST CANDLE Luke 2:7, 9-14
Jesus is Born and Angels Appear.

***WE STAND TOGETHER**

Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given!
God has brought light into every darkness.
The promises of God are fulfilled! Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God!
Everlasting Father! Prince of Peace!
We hear, even today, a chorus of angels bringing good news of great joy to all the people.
We light the Candle of Christ. Witness to the Savior who is Christ the Lord.
Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on Earth peace among those He favors.

***CAROL** *Joy to the World*, vv.1,2 UMH No. 246
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 nature sing!
Joy to the world, 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 the sounding joy!

FOURTH LESSON Luke 2: 15-21 Marsha Germek

CAROL *O Holy Night* Steve Wike

WE PRAY THIS PRAYER, THEN GIVE OUR OFFERING TO JESUS

Thank you, God, for giving us your Son Jesus through Mary; and thank you Jesus for showing us God's heart and ways. Thank you for our families, the church, and friends who guide us. We bring our gifts tonight because, well, this is your birthday; and we pray our gifts will help others know and trust your love and salvation. In Jesus' name. Amen.

OFFERTORY *Chorale Prelude on "Silent Night"* Samuel Barber (1910-1981)
Celebrating the 200th anniversary of UMH No. 239

PASTOR MIKE'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND INVITATION TO COMMUNION

WE PRAY OUR PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, in this time of great excitement and happiness, we praise you that in the fullness of time you sent us your Son to save us from our sins and from ourselves and to bring us your joy. How easy it is in this wonderful life you've given us to see the holiday lights but miss the True Light. As we come to Your table, draw us closer to you and renew our spirits.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

RECEIVING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

*Please come to one of the stations to receive the bread and the cup.
If you would like to receive in your pew, please inform one of our Ushers.
Gifts of money left at the altar are designated to assist people in crisis in our church family and our community through the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.*

Music during Communion

Footprints in the Snow and *The Snow is Dancing* Claude Debussy (1862-1918)
Transcribed for organ by Rudy Shackelford

***CAROL** *Silent Night, Holy Night* UMH No. 239

We light our candles, sing stanza 1, and leave with peace and joy.
Please leave your candles in the pew.

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

We wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas, and invite you to worship with us on Sunday, December 30th at our 8:30am or 11:00am services.
The church office will reopen Thursday, December 27th from 9a.m. to 3p.m.