

“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.

¹⁵I 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.”

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
Hymnal 194

THE SECOND LESSON AND CAROL

THE LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

LeeAnn DeStefano

A Reader from the Hospitality Ministry

God promises to faithful Abraham that through his seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the LORD, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷I 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, ¹⁸and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus (vv. 1-3)
Hymnal 196

THE THIRD LESSON AND CAROL

THE LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Rich Jackson

A Reader from the Pacesetters Ministry

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
on them has light shined.

⁶For 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.

⁷Of 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.

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

What Child Is This?
Hymnal 213

THE FOURTH LESSON AND CAROL

THE LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

Ginny Bremer

A Reader from the Women’s Ministry

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.

²And 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.

³And 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,

⁴but 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.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.

⁶The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder’s den.

⁹They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;

for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem
Hymnal 201

THE FIFTH LESSON AND CAROL

THE LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

Todd Bayley

A Reader from the Diaconate

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” ²⁹But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³²He 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, ³³and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

³⁴And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

³⁵And 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be

impossible with God.” ³⁸And 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.

Thanks be to God.

† THE CAROL

The Magnificat
Congregation

My soul will magnify the Lord; I rejoice in God my Savior, in the wonder of his favor. For he has done great things for me; he was mindful of his servant. Every age shall call me blessed. The Hope of Abraham come in the giving of a Son; for he who promised is mighty in remembering his mercy.

My soul will magnify the Lord for his grace to those who fear him through every generation. The proud He scatters to the wind as the ruler’s strength is broken, and the rich are left with nothing. The humble lifted high, and the hungry satisfied; our Portion and our Treasure, our Hope and Help forever.

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THE SIXTH LESSON AND CAROL

THE LESSON

Matthew 1:18-23

Joan Kosanovich

A Reader from the Women’s Bible Study

Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” ²²All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet:

²³“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall call his name Immanuel.”

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

Away in a Manger
Hymnal 204

THE SEVENTH LESSON AND CAROL

LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

Bill Jeffries

A Reader from CE&F

The shepherds go to the manger.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace among
those with whom he is pleased!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had

been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

Our God With Us
Worship Choir

THE EIGHTH LESSON AND CAROL

THE LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

Melissa Noel
A Reader from the Office

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

¹Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, ²saying, "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." ³When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

⁶ "'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.'"

⁷Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. ⁸And 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." ⁹After 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. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. ¹¹And 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.

Thanks be to God.

† THE CAROL

As with Gladness Men of Old
Hymnal 226

THE NINTH LESSON AND CAROL

THE LESSON

John 1:1-14

Rev. James Nichols
A Reader from the Pastoral Staff

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the Light.

⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹²But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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.

Thanks be to God.

THE CAROL

Joy to the World
Dare to Declare

THE MEDITATION 

What Is Christmas All About?
Rev. Freddy Fritz

THE OFFERING

Offering for PCA Retired Pastors
Please make checks payable to: "PCA Ministerial Relief"

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

THE FIFTH CANDLE: CHRIST'S BIRTH

When you light your candle, dip the unlit candle to the flame so that the lit candle can remain upright. This will prevent wax burns and spills.

THE CAROL


Silent Night! Holy Night!
Hymnal 210

† THE BENEDICTION

† THE POSTLUDE

†Ushers may assist latecomers find their seats.
Please refrain from applause and flash photography during the service.
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Pianist: Debi Hensley

 Copies of Rev. Fritz's meditation are available at the Information Center.

Announcements:

- Welcome to the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church! We wish you a very blessed and Christ-centered Christmas this year.
- Please silence all communication devices. Thank you.
- Children are invited to stay in the sanctuary during the service. However, should your child become restless, a staffed nursery is available for infants and toddlers in Room 13.
- An offering will be received this evening for the PCA Pastors Retirement fund. Please make the check out to "PCA Ministerial Relief."
- Purchased poinsettias may be taken home following the Christmas Eve Service.
- Please pick up a free copy of *A Very Different Christmas* as our gift to you this Christmas Eve.
- There will be no Sunday Scholl or Adult Christian Education & Fellowship this coming Sunday.
- Come worship with us on Sunday, December 27, at 10:30 a.m.
- Please sign a Welcome Card if you would like to learn more about the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church.



Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church (PCA) Christmas Eve Service

A Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2015, 7:00 p.m.

Archbishop Benson first developed the Service of Lessons and Carols in the late nineteenth century for use in the King's College Chapel in Cambridge. The Service, which has as its focal point the coming of Christ, is characterized by a very simple pattern. It is ordered around Scripture readings that pertain to Christ's advent, followed by carols.

† Please stand as you are able

PRELUDE

Joy to the World
Kids of the King Hand Bells

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Freddy Fritz

THE OPENING HYMN

Once in Royal David's City
Hymnal 225
Soloist, Zach Tomasello

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.

Congregation

†**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 mean, and lowly lived on earth, our Savior holy.**

Congregation

†**And our eyes at last shall see Him through his own redeeming love; for that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heav'n above. And He leads His children on to the place where He is gone.**

TEXT: Cecil F. Alexander IRBYMUSIC: Henry J. Gauntlett.

† THE INVOCATION

Rev. Freddy Fritz

THE FIRST LESSON AND CAROL

THE LESSON

Genesis 3:8-15

Earl Myers
A Reader from the Music Ministry

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the Seed of the woman shall bruise the Serpent's head.

⁸And 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. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,