



A FESTIVAL OF
*Nine Lessons
& Carols*

CHRIST CHURCH
DECEMBER 16, 2018

WELCOME *to* CHRIST CHURCH

Thanks for joining us for worship this morning! We gather each week because we believe Jesus Christ is the one true hope for our tired and broken world. So, wherever your walk is with God, we are glad you are here to be part of our celebration of God's generosity to us in Jesus.

Christ Church is an inter-generational congregation rooted in our common faith in Christ and commitment to serving His kingdom. These commitments propel us into the future as we continue our congregation's thirty-year tradition of joyful and reverent worship, dedication to spiritual growth, and passion for advancing the Gospel in Jacksonville and around the world.

If you have any questions about Christ Church, please don't hesitate to ask an usher, a friendly face with a name tag in the lobby, or seek out one of our pastors. Our congregation has a long history of welcoming newcomers and assisting them in making Christ Church home.

A FESTIVAL *of* NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

The Church has always held special services to celebrate the incarnation of our Lord. However, in the late 19th century, a unique tradition was born in the Nine Lessons & Carols service.

The service was first celebrated in an English barn on Christmas Eve in 1881. A pastor, concerned that his congregation was missing the story of the Incarnation, designed the service to share the loving purposes of God for his world through a fusion of Scripture lessons and Christmas carols.

Today the service is best known for the performance at the King's College in Cambridge by their famous boy choir. The first Lessons and Carols there was held in 1918. Owing to the service's simplicity and beauty, the celebration grew from its humble origins to circulate the globe. Today millions of Christians gather in their own congregations to mark the birth of Jesus Christ with this service.

It is our prayer that you will find yourself swept up with the praise of the angels and shepherds from that first Christmas as they witnessed events that changed the world. Enter in with us and celebrate the miraculous coming of our Lord, the King of Kings.

CHRIST CHURCH STAFF

Chuck Colson | Pastor | ccolson@christchurchmandarin.org

John Lawler | Assistant Pastor | jlawler@christchurchmandarin.org

Charlotte Reeves | Administrative Assistant | admin@christchurchmandarin.org

Alec Cotton | Youth Director | acotton@christchurchmandarin.org

Allison Ristau | Children's Ministry Coordinator | aristau@christchurchmandarin.org

Andy Zipf | Director of Music | azipf@christchurchmandarin.org

ORDER of WORSHIP

Third Sunday in Advent, 10.30 AM

PRELUDE

Music Ensemble

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chuck Colson

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Richard & Barbara Day

Please take a moment of silence to prepare your heart for worship.

⊕ INTROIT

Once in Royal David's City

Alexander

Soloist, Melody Barber

Soloist sings first verse, then the congregation stands and joins for the remaining verses.

INTERCESSION & THE LORD'S PRAYER

After our congregational supplications, we say the prayer our Savior has taught us.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3.8-19

Reader, Allison Ristau

And 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 for your husband, and 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."

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

⊕ HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Coffin

⊕ *Indicates that the congregation stands.*

SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22.15-18

Reader, Henry Morris

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."

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

CAROL

Of the Father's Love Begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

Music Ensemble

*Of the Father's love begotten
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!*

*O ye heights of heaven, adore Him;
Angel-hosts, His praises sing
Powers dominions, bow before Him
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!*

*This is He whom seers and sages
Sang of old with one accord,
Whom the writings of the prophets
Promised in their faithful word;
Now He shines the long-expected,
Let creation praise its Lord,
Evermore and evermore!*

THIRD LESSON

Psalms 132.11-18

Reader, Jim Dickenson

The LORD swore to David a sure oath from which he will not turn back:
"One of the sons of your body I will set on your throne.
If your sons keep my covenant and my testimonies that I shall teach them,
their sons also forever shall sit on your throne."
For the LORD has chosen Zion; he has desired it for his dwelling place:
"This is my resting place forever; here I will dwell, for I have desired it.
I will abundantly bless her provisions; I will satisfy her poor with bread.
Her priests I will clothe with salvation, and her saints will shout for joy.
There I will make a horn of sprout for David; I have prepared a lamp for my anointed.
His enemies I will clothe with shame, but on him his crown will shine."

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 9.2-7

Reader, Kathy Magee

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. 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.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

CAROL

The Wexford Carol

WEXFORD CAROL

Music Ensemble

*Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done,
In sending his beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn'
There was a blessed Messiah born.*

*Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear/
"Arise and go," the angel said,
"To Bethlehem, be not afraid,
For there you'll find this happy morn',
A pricely Babe, sweet Jesus born."*

*With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went that Babe to find,
And as God's angel had foretold,
They did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger He was laid,
And by His side the virgin maid
As long foretold upon that morn',
There was a blessed Messiah born.*

FIFTH LESSON

Isaiah 11.1-10

Reader, Josh Shuck

There 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. Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, 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. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They 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. In that day the root of Jesse, who shall stand as a signal for the peoples--of him shall the nations inquire, and his resting place shall be glorious.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

⊕ HYMN

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

GOD REST YE MERRY

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 1.26-38

Reader, Gail Lowe

In 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.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

CAROL

Music Ensemble

Thou Who Wast Rich

Houghton

*Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor;
Thrones for a manger didst surrender,
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendor,
All for love's sake becamest poor.*

*Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man;
Stooping so low, but sinners raising,
Heav'nwards by Thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
All for love's sake becamest man.*

*Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King, we worship Thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
Make us what Thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Savior and King we worship Thee.*

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2.1-7

Reader, John Lawler

In 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.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

John Lawler

OFFERTORY

Son of Man

Zipf

Advent Choir

*Son of Man, our Savior come, by the virgin mother born
in the Spirit conceived, glory shone in the east
and men laid down such gifts, only fit for a king
and the broken became whole and the earth woke to sing,
Emmanuel! God with us! God with us!
And His name shall be called Emmanuel!*

*Begotten One prophesied, holy King from David's line,
only He could die our death, conquer darkness and ascend,
come bearing pain asking, "What can I bring?"
Let our hearts be made whole, let our souls wake to sing,
Emmanuel! God with us! God with us!
And his name shall be called Emmanuel!*

*And a root will come from Jesse's tree.
And his kingdom will be glorious!
And his name shall be called Emmanuel! God with us!
Emmanuel! God with us! God with us! God with us!
And his name shall be called Emmanuel!*

EIGHTH LESSON

Luke 2.8-16

Reader, Alec Cotton

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 fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a 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.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

INSTRUMENTAL

The First Noel

Mailloux

Violin, Emily and Julia Magee

HOMILY

Full of Grace, Full of Truth

Chuck Colson

⊕ HYMN

Good Christian Men, Rejoice!

Neale

NINTH LESSON

John 1.1-14

Reader, Aldo Mondin

In 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 over come 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 enlightens 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.

After the lesson, we respond:

This is the Word of the Lord!
Thanks be to God!

⊕ HYMN

Joy to the World!

Handel

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Music Ensemble

MUSIC ENSEMBLE

Guitar | Andy Zipf

Cello | James Garand

Bass | Jack Ferguson

Guitar | Stephen Craig

Percussion | Alex DaCruz

Piano | Victor Galeskas

Violin | Desiree Colvin

Vocals | Melody Barber

Vocals | Lisa Meisburg

CHOIR

Alto | Bess Abare, Mo Dickenson, Lisa Meisburg, Allison Ristau, Pat Scott, Cari Van Wieren

Soprano | Melody Barber, Desiree Colvin, Linda Fish, Barb Moore, Eunice Ng, Shannon Scott, Isabelle Smith, Debbie Yates

Tenor | Stephen Craig, Reed Webb, Andy Zipf

Baritone | Jack Brede, Jim Dickenson, Cannon Simpson, Lee J Webb



ADVENT
at CHRIST CHURCH