

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

41st Annual Service of Lessons & Carols

The Lord's Day, December 11, 2016

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Fanfare and Variations on Noël Nouvelet Raymond H. Haan
Jon Hopkins and Evan Thompson, Trumpet
Selections from Concerto Grosso, Opus 6, No. 8 Arcangelo Corelli
(Christmas Concerto)
Taylor Spring Quartet

WELCOME

Reverend Nick Cheek

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

INTROIT

Divinum Mysterium Jacqueline Taylor Hendricks, Cello
Plainsong, 13th century

✘ THE PROCESSIONAL CAROL

Congregation and Choir

O Come, All Ye Faithful ADESTE FIDELES

***O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant;
O come ye; O come ye to Bethlehem!
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels!***

***Refrain: O come, let us adore him; O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

***Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given;***

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! Refrain.

***Sing, choirs of angels; sing in exultation;
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above!***

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! Refrain.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Phil and Landee Roth

One: In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's joy. We trust that Christ is coming, to bring healing and wholeness to the world. When we gather for worship it is a celebration, an opportunity to rejoice in all that God is doing among us and beyond us.

One: Our lives are marked by laughter and friendship, as we love our neighbors with wide smiles and open arms. Even when we face difficulty and trouble we sing a song of faith, confident that Jesus is able to redeem our suffering world.

People: Together, we are a sign of God's joy for the world.

BIDDING PRAYER

Reverend Nick Cheek

✘ GLORIA 113

GLORIA

(Congregation) ***Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

✘ PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

THE FIRST LESSON

God tells Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise.

Susan Price

Genesis 3:8-19

THE FIRST CAROL

Keep Silence

Chancel Choir

Setting by John Helgen

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
Ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in his hand
Christ our God to earth descending come our homage to demand.*

*King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth he stood;
Lord of lords in human vesture, in the body and the blood,
He will give to all the faithful His own self for heavenly food.*

THE SECOND LESSON

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

Amy Spivey

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

THE SECOND CAROL

Morning of Promise (Veni Emmanuel)

Chancel Choir

Joseph Martin

*The people who in darkness walked will see a wondrous light.
For morning gilds the sky with gold and shines away the night.
For many years the stars were dim, the candles burning low.
See now the time is drawing near, and hearts are filled with hope.*

Veni, veni, come, O come, Emmanuel.

Veni, veni, come, O come, Emmanuel, come.

Let joyful music awake the dawn, let alleluias soar.

Proclaim to the world a joyful song, the coming of the Lord.

THE THIRD LESSON

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Dee Dailey

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6

THE THIRD CAROL

Pastoral Symphony from "The Messiah"

Taylor String Quartet

George Frederic Handel

THE FOURTH LESSON

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

Ann Geddings

Luke 1:26-38

✘ THE FOURTH CAROL 82

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Congregation and Choir

HYFRYDOL

CHILDREN'S TIME 115

Reverend Ashley Cheek

***Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.***

THE FIFTH LESSON

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Reverend Ashley Cheek

Luke 2:1-7

THE FIFTH CAROL

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy

Chancel Choir

Arr, by Robert DeCormier

*The Virgin Mary had a baby Boy, an' they said that his name was Jesus.
He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh yes, believer, Oh yes, believer.*

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

The wise men saw there the Baby was born, an' they said that His name was Jesus.

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

Oh yes, believer, Oh yes, believer.

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

The angels sang when the Baby was born, an' they said that his name was Jesus.

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

Oh yes, believer, Oh yes, believer.

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom.

THE SIXTH LESSON

The shepherds go to the manger.

Valerie James

Luke 2:8-20

THE SIXTH CAROL

Noel We Sing

Chancel Choir

L. C. Daquin

*Angels of the Lord they came from the heavens singing,
Called the shepherds forth by name while the bells were ringing,
Told the shepherds where they lay, Jesus Christ was born today,
Noel we sing, noel, noel we sing, Christ is born a King.*

*Leave your ewes and leave your rams, leave the watch you're keeping,
Leave your sheep and leave your lambs on the hillside sleeping,
Rise up, shepherd, follow me to the manger lowly.
Noel we sing, noel, noel we sing, Christ is born a King.*

*To the manger, straight they came, there they knelt before Him,
Singing praises to His name, thus they did adore Him,
Echoing their sweet amen, Christ is born in Bethlehem,
Noel we sing, noel, noel we sing, Christ is born a King.*

*Trumpets sound and angels sing, join in celebration,
To us all good tidings bring of a new creation.
For today a Child is born, Jesus son of Mary,
Noel we sing, noel, noel we sing, Christ is born a King.*

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Mayes DuBose (10:30), Bland Cooper (3:00)

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus. Matthew 2:1-12

✘ THE SEVENTH CAROL 151 (V. 1 and 2)

We Three Kings of Orient Are CONGREGATION AND CHOIR

SERVICE OF GIVING

Call to Giving

All we have and all we are is God's. Let us give thanks for the Lord's provision and joyfully give back to the one who has given so much to us.

The Giving of Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory Anthem

Michelle Blassengale, Soprano

He Shall Feed His Flock

George Frederic Handel

✘ Song of Dedication 144

CRANHAM

What can I give Him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a Lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him: give my heart.

✘ The Offertory Prayer

THE EIGHTH LESSON

The great mystery of the Incarnation.

Alexander Blum

John 1:1-5

THE EIGHTH CAROL

All Praise to Thee

Chancel Choir

Elaine Hagenberg

*All praise to Thee, eternal God, Who, clothed in garb of flesh and blood,
Dost take a manger for Thy throne, while worlds on worlds are Thine alone. Alleluia.*

*Thou comest in the darksome night to make us children of the light,
To make us in the realms divine, like Thine own angels, round Thee shine. Alleluia.*

*A little Child, Thou art our Guest that weary ones in Thee may rest,
Forlorn and lowly is Thy birth that we may rise to heaven from earth. Alleluia.*

THE NINTH LESSON

Jesus gives the Great Commission.

Sofia Smith

Matthew 28

❖ **THE NINTH CAROL**

Hallelujah from "The Messiah" George Frederic Handel
Hallelujah! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigneth. Hallelujah!
The kingdom of this world is become the Kingdom of our Lord,
And of His Christ; and He shall reign forever and ever.
KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS! Hallelujah!

❖ **THE BENEDICTION**

Reverend Nick Cheek

❖ **THE RECESSIONAL CAROL** 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing MENDELSSOHN

❖ **THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY**

Fantasy on "In Dulci Jubilo" Hamilton Stoddard, Organ
Johann Sebastian Bach

WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor: Reverend Nick Cheek

Director of Music: Joni Brown

Organ and Piano: Hamilton Stoddard

Soloist: Michelle Blassengale

Violin: Mary Lee Taylor Kinoshian (10:30), Nancy Langley (3:00)
and Jessie Kinoshian

Viola: Chris Cordé

Cello: Jacqueline Taylor Hendricks

Trumpet: Jon Hopkins and Evan Thompson

Handbells and Percussion: Kayleigh Jordan and Kenny Jordan

Crucifer: Grey Holler

Beadle: Chuck Fienning

Chancel Choir

Soprano

Michelle Blassengale
Lauren Decker
Claudia Hopkins
Suzanne Jackson
Debby Williams

Tenor

Chuck Fienning
Alex Leasure
Clete Norris
Phil Roth
Bob Smith
Evan Thompson

Alto

Lee Craig
Dee Dailey
Mary Jean Dowling
Sue Fienning
Janet Kuhlmann
Lande Roth
Sarah Tindal

Bass

Les Carpenter
Marion Carter
Jon Hopkins
John Jackson
Frank Moses
Ted Williams

The Taylor String Quartet has been graciously sponsored by a special gift to the FPC Music Department.

The offering at the 3:00 p.m. service has been allocated to United Ministries.

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Please join us for a reception in the Fellowship Hall following the 3:00 service.

WELCOME

Our service today unites scripture and music to tell the extraordinary story of Jesus' birth. It is modeled after the traditional Lessons and Carols first held on Christmas Eve in 1918 at King's College Chapel in Cambridge, England. We pray that this service will be a worthy offering to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, one that will reflect His glory. Receive it as a gift and become the flesh and blood of the story, so that His light will continue to break into the world, and the love of God may be known by all people.

A warm and cordial welcome to all our guests today. We hope you will attend our other services scheduled during this special time of Advent and Christmas! If you are in search of a church home in Sumter, we invite you to consider becoming a part of our church family here at First Presbyterian Church.

**SERVICE OF COMFORT, HOPE AND JOY
Wednesday, December 14 ~ 5:30 p.m. in the Chapel**

A meditative service of Scripture readings, prayer, and song
Music by Kipper Ackerman, harp

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

Saturday, December 24 in the Sanctuary

Candlelight Services with Communion

4:00 p.m. ~ Family Service with Children's Nativity

6:00 p.m. ~ Traditional Service

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CHURCH**



**41st Annual Service
of
Lessons and Carols**

December 11, 2016

9 West Calhoun (at the corner of Main)

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A Stephen Ministry Congregation