

**A Service of Lessons and Carols**  
**December 15, 2024, 9:30 a.m**  
**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**

**Welcome** Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven  
**Prelude** *Noel: Laissez paître vos bêtes* J.J. Beauvarlet-Charpentier  
**Lighting of the Candles** Maria Alexander & Kaia Martin  
**Bidding Prayer** Rev. MaryAnn Piccioni

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmas-tide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing, which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this Holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all His people; for unity and brotherhood within the church He came to build, and especially in this community.

And because this would greatly rejoice His heart, let us remember, in His name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, upon another shore, and in a great light, that multitude which cannot be numbered, whose hope is in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore. These prayers and praises we do humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

Mary Jo Batailles	Harber Herndon	William Miller
Blair Andrews	Henry Alexander	Frankie Batailles
Maria Alexander	Mackenzie Cook	Livia Nystrand
Kaia Martin	Amelia Fugate	Riley Preston
James Fernandes	Seamus Fernandes	Cora Fernandes
Wren Thacker	Wyatt Beekman-Dowell	John Woodward
Ethan Avery	Izzy Chan	Bliss Amort-Murphy
Cayle Bryant	Mac Martin	Adriana Combs
Grayson Leach	Jackson Quinton	Matthew Cook

**The Service of Lessons and Carols**

The Service of Lessons and Carols originated in 1880 at the Cathedral of Truro in Cornwall, England. Designed as a worship service for Christmas Eve with readings from Scripture and carols sung by the choir, this format has become one of the greatest Christmas musical traditions in all parts of the English-speaking world. Bishop E.W. Benson, Archbishop of Canterbury, shaped the service as we know it today: the lessons, beginning with the Fall of Man, were chosen to illustrate the story of redemption, from Old and New Testaments. Readers of the lessons formed a sequence of rank from a member of the choir to the bishop himself.

In 1918, the service was modified for use in the King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. At this time the service was shortened and the Christmas Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer were introduced. In an effort to strengthen the ties between the college and the community, the readers of the lessons included representatives from the college, the church, and the community. Almost immediately, other churches adapted the service for their own use. On Christmas Eve, 1928, the British Broadcasting Company first broadcasted the service throughout the world. In 1954 a special service was prepared for television.

In the words of Dean Milner-White, planner of the 1918 King's College service, "the main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God as seen throughout the windows and words of the Bible. The center of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads."

**Grades K-5 Kids@Art Choir**

**Covenant Chancel Choir**

Kathy Tully	Kjrsten Henriksen	Sue Spencer
Debbie Eggebraaten	Flo Dickinson	Madison Riley
Connie Zeigler	Cynthia Jordan	Jo Ellen Brown
Casey Fernandes	Barbara Bauldree	Doris Henderson
Stephanie Corry	Mary Carefoot	Cindy Bennett
Jackie Tribble	Gary Eggebraaten	Russell Almond
Brandon LaReau	Dennis Lee	Doug Garthwait
Al Brown	Rollen Thomas	Michael Dobson
Mike Zeigler	Jonathan Leach	

**Se'lah**

Tammy Schubin	Peggy Wright	Debbie Eggebraaten
Kjrsten Henriksen	Emily Andrews	Mary Dekle
Dora Thomas	Lyn Shoffstall	Tamara Verheyen
Casey Fernandes	Taylor Verheyen	Gary Eggebraaten
Justin Ward	Rollen Thomas	Jonathan Leach

**Handbell Choir**

Jo Ellen Brown	Nancy Ross	Kjrsten Henriksen
Freddie Schrader	Amy Leach	Liane Giroux
Sandy Barlow	Brian Burton	Debbie Dodd
Jill Merryday	Crill Merryday	Ed Holmes
	Chris Morris	

**Youth Choir**

Caroline Cox	Julia Cox	Hartley Bryant
Annie Wilde	Elizabeth Fugate	Avery Buchanan
Autumn Amort-Murphy	Molly Burton	Lenna Gayhart
Abigail Courtemanche	Andrew Cox	Sarah Strickland
Makaylah Verheyen	Casey Fernandes	

**Saint Paul's Dancers**

Caroline Cox	Julia Cox	Maria Alexander
	Livia Nystrand	

**Ensemble**

Laura Alexander	Emily Andrews	Stephany Nystrand
Melanie Quinton	Casey Fernandes	Jacob Alexander
Brandon LaReau	Johnathan Leach	Rollen Thomas

**All: 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. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from all evil; for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

**The Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Melanie, Nick, John Robert and Jackson Quinton

**The Offering**

**Prayer**

Rev. Piccioni

**Offertory**

*What Child Is This?*

J.A. Behnke

\*Congregational Response after each scripture: **Thanks be to God**

**First Lesson          Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19\*          Adriana Combs**  
**God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

arr. M. Ijames

**Se'lah**

**Second Lesson          Genesis 22: 15-18\*          Amelia Fugate**  
**God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall the nations of the earth be blessed.**

*Night of Silence*

arr. R. Ward

**Handbell and Youth Choirs/Saint Paul's Dancers**

**Third Lesson          Isaiah 9:2, 6-7\*          Caroline Cox**  
**Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and kingdom.**

*Celtic Advent Carol*

M. Barrett/J. Martin/D. Angerman

**Covenant Chancel Choir**

**Fourth Lesson          Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9\*          Ed Holmes**

**The peace that Christ will bring is foretold.**

*Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain* C. Jennings  
**Ensemble/Kids@Art Choir**

**Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-35, 38\* Amy Leach**  
**The angel Gabriel salutes Blessed Virgin Mary.**

*Breath of Heaven* setting by L. Larson  
**Se'lah/Emily Andrews, soloist**

**Sixth Lesson Matthew 1:18-23\* Peggy Wright**  
**The angel of the Lord tells Joseph of his son to be.**

*Gesu Bambino* arr. J. Martin  
**Covenant Chancel Choir**

**Seventh Lesson Luke 2:1, 3-7\* Stephanie Corry**  
**St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.**

*Gloria in Excelsis Deo* B. Talley  
**Se'lah**

**Eighth Lesson Luke 2:8-16\* Brandon LaReau**  
**The shepherds go to the manger.**

*The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy* arr. D. & T. Christopherson  
**Kids@Art Choir**  
**Grayson Leach & Matthew Cook, percussion**

**Ninth Lesson Matthew 2:1-12\* Rev. MaryAnn Piccioni**  
**Herod summons the Wise Men.**

*Carols for Seekers* arr. J. Martin  
**Covenant Chancel Choir**

**Tenth Lesson John 1:1-14\* Rev. Dr. Latricia Scriven**  
**St. John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.**

*There's a Pretty Little Baby* arr. Andre Thomas  
Soloists: Stephany Nystrand, Jonathan Leach, Peggy Wright,  
Jacob Alexander, Emily Andrews,  
Madison Riley, Laura Alexander  
**Adult Choirs**

**Benediction Rev. Dr. Scriven**

**Cynthia Prescott, Adult Choirs Director**  
**Stephany Nystrand, Grades K-5 Kids@Art Choir Director**  
**Saint Paul's Dancers Director**  
**Jill Merryday, Youth Choir and Ensemble Accompanist**  
**Gaye Herndon, Director of Music and Worship Arts/Organist**