



CANDLELIGHT LESSONS AND CAROLS

DECEMBER 14, 2025 - PRELUDE 5:45 P.M. - WORSHIP 6:00 P.M.

Where there is an asterisk, we are invited to stand together in God's Spirit.

PRELUDE

Une Jeune Pucelle

Pierre Dandrieu

Two Quiet Carols

arr. Michael Montgomery

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

arr. Linda Lamb

PROCESSION

*CAROL 140

Once in Royal David's City

Stanza 1 soloist

*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.*

Stanza 2 choir

*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 meek and lowly
Lived on earth our Savior holy.*

Please stand at the organ interlude and join to sing the remaining stanzas.

3.Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern; day by day like us he
4.And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing

grew; He was lit - tle, weak and help - less; tears and smiles like us he
love; For that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a -

knew; And he feels for all our sad - ness and he shares in all our glad - ness.
- bove; And he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone! -

PRAYER OF ADORATION

FIRST LESSON

Christ and Creation

Colossians 1:15-19

ANTHEM

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

Text by Rev. R. Hutchins

The tree of life my soul has seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be compared to Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, But ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the Apple Tree.

CAROL 108

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Divinum Mysterium

1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. By his Word was all cre - a - ted; he com-mand-ed it was done:
3. This is he whomseers in old - time chant-ed of with one ac - cord,

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the source, the end - ing he,
heav'n and earth and depths of o - cean, u - ni - verse of three in one,
whom the voic - es of the proph - ets prom-ised in their faith - ful word.

of the things that are, that have _____ been, and that fu - ture years shall see.
all that sees the moon's soft shin - - - ing, all that breathes be - neath the sun,
Now he shines, the long - ex - pect - - - ed. Let cre - a - tion praise its Lord,

(after last stanza)

e - ver - more and e - ver - more! _____ A - men.

SECOND LESSON**Promise to Abraham and Sarah**Genesis 15:1-6;
17:3-6, 15-16**ANTHEM****Choose Something Like a Star**Randall Thompson
Text by Robert Frost

O Star (the fairest one in sight),
We grant your loftiness the right
To some obscurity of cloud
It will not do to say of night,
Since dark is what brings out your light.

Some mystery becomes the proud.
But to be wholly taciturn in your reserve
is not allowed.
Say something to us we can learn by
heart
And when alone repeat.
Say something! And it says "I burn."
But say with what degree of heat.
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.
Use language we can comprehend.
Tell us what elements you blend.

It gives us strangely little aid,
But does tell something in the end.
And steadfast as Keats' Eremite,
Not even stooping from its sphere,
It asks a little of us here. It asks of us a
certain height,
So when at times the mob is swayed
To carry praise or blame too far,
We may choose something like a star
To stay our minds on and be staid.

THIRD LESSON**Promise of the Messiah**

Isaiah 9:2,6-7; 11:1-3, 6-9

ANTHEM**Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming**Michael Praetorius
Translation by T. Baker

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming, by faithful prophets sung.
It came a flow'ret bright, amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the rose I have in mind;
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore for us a Savior
When half-spent was the night.

This flow'r whose fragrance ten-der with sweetness fills the air,
Dispels with glorious splendor the darkness everywhere.
Enfleshed, yet very God, from Sin and death He saves us
And lightens every load.

*CAROL 105

People Look East (v.1,2,3)

Besançon

1. Peo - ple look east! The time is near of the
 2. Fur - rows be glad! Though earth is bare, one more
 3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the
 crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
 seed is plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to
 nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
 a - ble; trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple look
 nour - ish, that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple look
 fro - zen God for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple look
 east and sing to - day! Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east and sing to - day! Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east and sing to - day! Love, the Bird, is on the way.

FOURTH LESSON

In Bethlehem of Judah

Micah 5:2-5a

MEDITATION

O Holy Night

arr. Ron Mallory

CAROL 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

1.O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie! A -
 2.For Christ is born of Mar - y and gath - ered all a - bove, while
 3.How si - silent - ly, how si - silent - ly the wond - rous gift is giv'n! So
 4.O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast
 above they deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by. Yet
 mortals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love. O
 God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n. No
 out our sin and en - ter in; be born in us to - day. We

in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light; the
 morn - ing stars to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth, and
 ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin, where
 hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell; O
 hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth.
 meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 come to us; a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

FIFTH LESSON

Angels of Promise to Mary and Joseph

Luke 1:26-33, 38

Matthew 1:18-23

ANTHEM

Breath of Heaven

Chris Eaton and

Amy Grant

Cold and weary with a baby inside, and I wonder what I've done
 Holy Father, You have come and chosen me now to carry Your Son
 I am waiting in a silent prayer, I am frightened by the load I bear
 In a world as cold as stone, must I walk this path alone?
 Be with me now

Breath of Heaven, hold me together
 Be forever near me, Breath of Heaven
 Breath of Heaven, lighten my darkness
 Pour over me Your Holiness
 For you are Holy, Breath of Heaven

Do You wonder as You watch my face?
 If a wiser one should have had my place
 But I offer all I am for the mercy of Your plan
 Help me be strong, Help me be, Help me

Breath of Heaven...

SIXTH LESSON

Jesus is Born

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL 124

Still, Still, Still

1. Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The deep while
 2. Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slum-ber deep.
 virgin's ten-der arms en-fold-ing, warm and safe the child are hol-ding.
 an- gel hosts from heav'n come wing-ing, sweet-est songs of joy are sing-ing.
 1. Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.
 2. Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slum-ber deep.

SEVENTH LESSON

Shepherds in the Field

Luke 2:8-16

MEDITATION

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

arr. Brenda Austin

*CAROL 135

There's a Star in the East

Follow

1. There'sa star in the east on Christ-mas morn. Rise up,shep-herd and fol-low. It will
 2. If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, rise up,shep-herd and fol-low. You'll for-
 lead to the place where the Christ was born. Rise up, shep-herd and fol - low.
 -get your flocks;you'll for - get your herds. Rise up, shep-herd and fol - low.
 Fol - low, fol - low; rise up, shep-herd, and fol - low.
 Fol - low the star of Beth - le - hem. Rise up, shep-herd and fol - low.

EIGHTH LESSON

The Wise Men

Matthew 2:1-11

CAROL 138

Who Would Think That What Was Needed

White Rosettes

1. Who would think that what was need-ed to trans-form and save the earth
 2. Shep-herds watch and wise men won-der; mon - archs scron and an - gels sing;
 3. Cen - tu - ries of skill and sci-ence span the past from which we move;
 might not be a plan or ar - my, proud in pur - pose, proved in worth?
 such a place as none would rec - kon hosts a ho - ly help - less thing.
 yet ex - pe - ri - ence ques - tions whe - ther, with such prog - ress we im - prove.
 Who would think, des - pite de - ri - sion, that a child should lead the way?
 Sta - ble beasts and by - passed strang - ers watch a ba - by laid in hay;
 While the hu - man lot we pon - der, lest our hopes and hu - mor fray,
 God sur - pris - es earth with heav-en, com - ing here on Christ - mas Day.

NINTH LESSON

Christ, the Incarnate Word

John 1:1-5, 9-14, 16-18

ANTHEM

My Lord Has Come

Will Todd

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels:
 No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;
 No place for them but a stable. My Lord has come.

His love will hold me, his love will cherish me, love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see him, sages and shepherds and angels;
 No place for me but a stable. My Lord has come.

TENTH LESSON

Witnessing to Christ in the World

Matthew 28:18-20;

Acts 1:8

BLESSING

*CAROL 119

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er last - ing Lord,
3. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful all ye na - tions rise; Join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail th'in - car - nate de - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that man no more may die,

with th'an - ge - lic host pro - claim: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
please in flesh with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

POSTLUDE

Finale from Sonata no. 1 for Organ

Alexandre Guilmant

WORSHIP LEADERS

The Reverend Chrissy Westbury

The Reverend Dr. Seth Weeldreyer

Mary Wielopolski

Autumn, organist

Michael Montgomery, Director of Music

The Choir of First Presbyterian Church

The Red Door Ringers

Cheryl Fritz, soloist

Marysol Millar, soloist

James VanBennekom, trumpet

Noah Miller, trumpet

Erin Emery-Dumas, horn

Scott Dumas, horn

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