



The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 in the Chapel of King's College of Cambridge University, England. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just returned from service as an army chaplain. The choir was all male and included sixteen trebles – as King Henry VI had required by statute! – and men's voices provided by Choral Scholars and by older Lay Clerks. The backbone of the service – the lessons and the prayers – has remained virtually unchanged since that time.

Almost immediately after that first service, other churches adapted the service for their own use, and it has become public property. From time to time King's College has received copies of services held, for example, in the West Indies and Asia, and these show how widely the tradition has spread. The radio and television broadcasts of the King's College service also have become part of Christmas for many who live far from Cambridge. One correspondent wrote that he heard the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, busy about their own preparations for Christmas.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted – whether the music is provided by choir or congregation – the pattern and strength of the service derive from the lessons and not the music. The main theme of that original service and of our service tonight is the development of the loving purposes of God, as seen through the 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.



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Supply MinisterThe Rev. Dr. Leslie R. Stacks
 Organist/Choir Director.....Janice Chandler
 Secretary.....Jan Taylor
 Treasurers Vera Trexler
 Assistant Treasurers..... Peggy Trexler, Emily Patterson,
 & Dianne Deese
 Custodians..... Alan James & Dot Marsh

Weekly Schedule

Cherub Choir Sunday 9:45 a.m.
 Church School for all ages Sunday 10:00 a.m.
 Worship Service Sunday 11:00 a.m.
 Wired Word Study Group..... Tuesday 6:00 p.m.
 Wired Word Study Group..... Wednesday 5:00 p.m.
 Handbell Choir..... Wednesday 6:00 p.m.
 Chancel Choir Practice Wednesday 7:00 p.m.
 Session2nd Sunday of each month

The Session

Moderator: The Rev. Dr. Stacks
 Clerk: Anne Hyatt

CLASS OF 2011

Jim Boylin
 Ed Emory
 Anne Hyatt
 Frank Trexler

CLASS OF 2012

Calvin Catoe
 Foyle Hightower
 Jeanne Price
 Robin Trexler

CLASS OF 2013

Ross Huntley
 Kaye Ratliff
 Bob Stowe
 Pam Vernon

Session Ministries

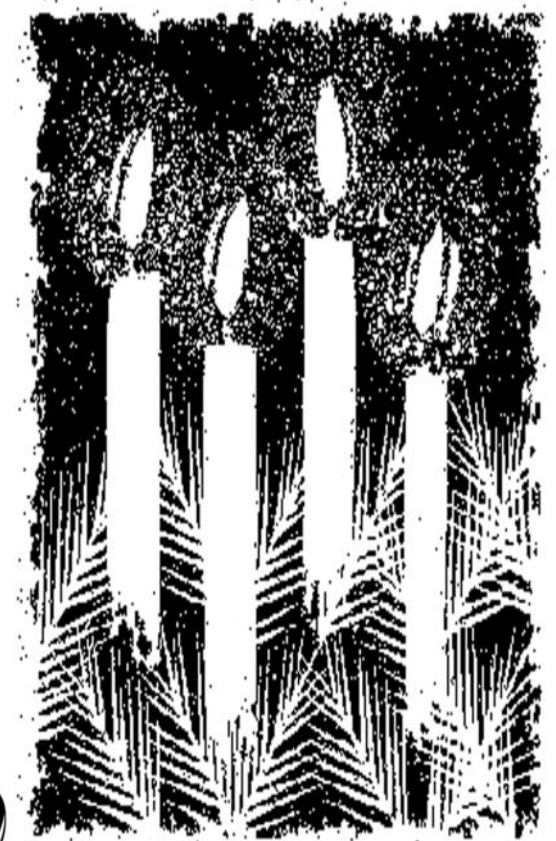
Finance/Property/Admin.....Ed Emory, Calvin Catoe, & Bob Stowe
 Christian Education/Worship.....Anne Hyatt, Foyle Hightower, & Pam Vernon
 Member CareJim Boylin, Jeanne Price, & Ross Huntley
 Mission.....Frank Trexler, Robin Trexler, & Kaye Ratliff



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the light shines



in the DARKNESS

CHRISTMAS EVE

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

Festival of Lessons and Carols

December 24, 2011



*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness did not overcome it.*
John 1:5

PREPARATION FOR A KING

PRELUDE
WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
SERVICE OF THE ADVENT WREATH..... Eddie & Ellen Huntley

LITANY (responsive)

To us a Child has been born!

We have seen a great light, the light has dawned.

To us a Son has been given.

**The child of light will be called Mighty God, Prince of
Peace, Wonderful, Counselor.**

To us a King has given his Kingdom.

The King will rule with justice and love.

Glory to God for this Child born!

All: May his light shine in us for evermore! Amen!

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

PRAYER

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of grace and truth, in Jesus Christ you came among us as light shining in darkness. We confess that we have not welcomed the light, or trusted good news to be good. We have closed our eyes to glory in our midst, expecting little, and hoping for less. Forgive our doubt, and renew our hope, so that we may receive the fullness of your grace, and live in the truth of Christ the Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF PARDON

A NEW KING FOR THE THRONE OF DAVID

*HYMN NO. 41 O Come, All Ye Faithful
FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

A KING FROM BETHLEHEM

ANTHEM/CAROL O Little Town of Bethlehem
SECOND LESSON Micah 5:2-5

A KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

*HYMN NO. 49 (verses 1 & 2) Once in Royal David's City
THIRD LESSON Isaiah 11:1-9

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE TO MARY

*HYMN NO. 31 (verses 1 & 2) Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
FOURTH LESSON Luke 1:26-38

THE MAGNIFICAT

ANTHEM/CAROL What Child Is This
FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:39-55

THE BIRTH OF JESUS

CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

OFFERTORY Away in a Manger
SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7

ANGELS SUMMON SHEPHERDS

*HYMN NO. 23 Angels We Have Heard on High
SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-14

THE SHEPHERDS SEE A SAVIOR

*HYMN NO. 60 (verses 1,2, & 3) Silent Night, Holy Night
EIGHTH LESSON Luke 2:15-20

THE LIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE

During the reading of the Ninth Lesson, the light will be passed from the Christ Candle to an usher, then to the first person in each pew. Carefully pass the light along to others who sit with you.

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-5
*HYMN NO. 40 Joy to the World!

After the Charge and Benediction, please leave the Sanctuary in silence, taking your lighted candle with you as a remembrance of the Light of the World.

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION (responsive)

In the midst of darkness, candles shine.

Glory to God in the highest!

In the midst of darkness, we see the light of Christ.

Glory to God in the highest!

In the midst of darkness, we receive the promise of peace and good will.

Glory to God in the highest!

In the midst of darkness, we go forth to be the light of Christ.

All: Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Amen!

*POSTLUDE



**Those who are able, please stand.
The congregation will read the lines in bold type.*