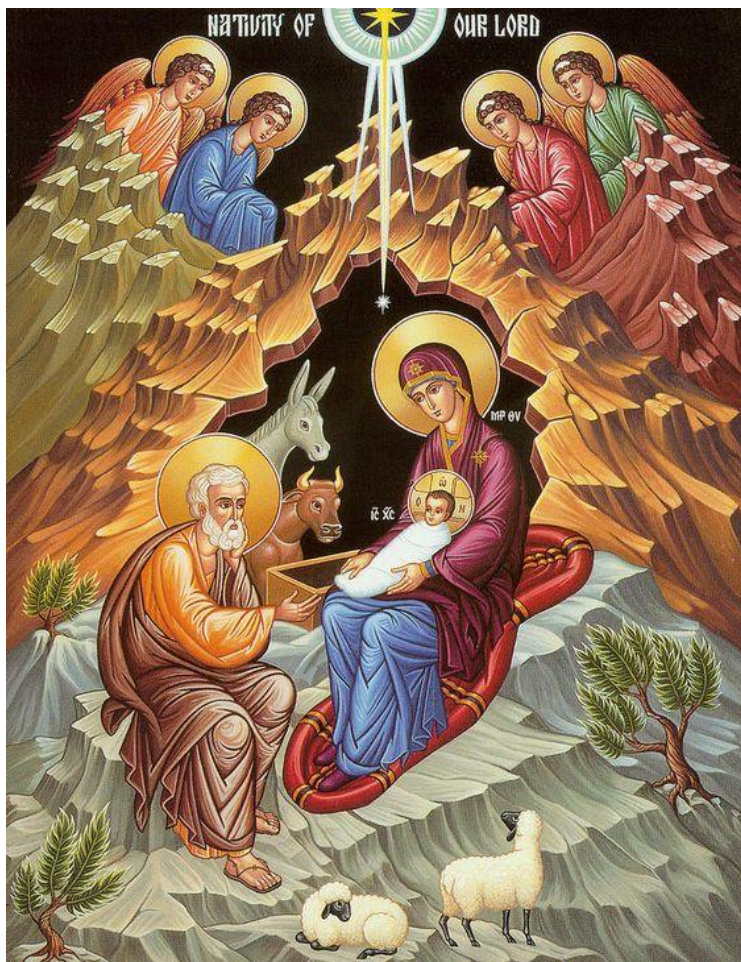


The Village Chapel

Pinehurst, North Carolina

December 29, 2024

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols



Our Mission

As an independent, interdenominational Church, we unify all Christians through the Word of God, worship God in spirit and truth; teach and encourage the Christian faith; support the spiritual needs of our congregation and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through community outreach.

The Order of Service

Organ Voluntary *Il est né, le divin enfant*

Andrew Lloyd

Welcome

Rev. Trey Majure

† Carol (sung by the congregation)

Solo: *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 his mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.*

All: 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 mean and lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

All: For he is our childhood's pattern
day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless,
tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feeleth for our sadness,
and he shareth in our gladness.

All: And our eyes at last shall see him
through his own redeeming love,
for that child, so dear and gentle,
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

(final stanza on next page)

All: Not in that poor, lowly stable
with the oxen standing by
we shall see him, but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
when, like stars, his children, crowned,
all in white shall wait around.

† The Bidding Prayer

Pastor Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas season our care and delight to
prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind
to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the
Babe lying in a manger.

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; and let us make this Chapel glad with our
carols of praise.

But first let us pray for our needs of his whole world; for peace and health
all over the earth; for unity and goodwill within the Church he came to
build, and especially in these United States of America and within this
community.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time
remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold and the hungry, the
abused, the exploited and the oppressed; the sick in body and mind and
them that mourn; the isolated, the lonely and the unloved; the elderly and
the little children; all 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, but upon
another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can

number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

Our Father

All **which 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 evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Pastor The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of all Angels bring us all.

All **Amen.**

Reader: Tucker-Boyd Newman

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.*

Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?"

He answered, "I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid." And he said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?" The man said, "The woman you put here with me – she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "the serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol (sung by the choir)

*The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green;
the trees of nature fruitless be compared with 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 a while:
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.*

Words: English traditional

Music: Mark Schweizer

Second Lesson

Genesis 22: 15-18

Reader: Lisa Kruse

*God promises to faithful Adam that in his seed
shall all nations of the earth be blessed.*

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the LORD, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you obeyed me.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol (sung by the choir)

*Ding! Dong! Merrily on high in heav'n the bells are ringing!
Ding! Dong! Verily the sky is riv'n with angels singing!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*

*E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,
and "io, io, io!" by priest and people sungen!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*

*Pray you, dutifully prime, your matin chime, ye ringers!
May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers!
Gloria! Hosanna in excelsis!*

Words: George Ratcliffe Woodward

Music: 16th century French carol; Mack Wilberg, arr

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2, 6-7

Reader: Levi Majure

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the greatness of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time on and forever. The zeal of the LORD almighty will accomplish this.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

† Carol (sung by the congregation)

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“peace on the earth, goodwill to men, from heaven’s all gracious King”:
the world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when, with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11: 1-4, 6-9

Reader: Janice Cantelou

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him – The Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord – and he will delight in the fear of the Lord.

He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes, or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

† Carol (sung by the congregation)

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straight-way this blessed babe to find;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface;
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Reader: Steve Wurzbacher

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever, his kingdom with never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol (sung by the soloists)

*I sing of a maiden that is makeless; (matchless)
King of all Kings to her son she ches. (chose)
He came all so still there his mother was,
As dew in April that falleth on the grass.
He came all so still to his mother's bower (where she lay)
As dew in April that falleth on the flow'r.
He came all so still there his mother lay
As dew in April that falleth on the spray.
Mother and maiden was never none but she;
Well may such a lady Goddes mother be.*

Words: 15th century English

Music: John Rutter

Sixth Lesson

Luke 2: 1, 3-7

Reader: Bailey Jordan

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to their town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

† Carol (sung by the congregation)

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
the King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby;
joy, joy for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mary!

The shepherds go to the manger

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those whom his favor rests.”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol (sung by the choir)

Torches, torches, run with torches all the way to Bethlehem!

Christ is born and now lies sleeping; Come and sing your song to him!

*Ah, *Roro, Roro, my baby, Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;*

Sleep you well, my heart's own darling, while we sing you our Roro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry, joy and mirth and joy again;

Lo, he lives, the King of heaven, now and evermore, Amen.

Words: Galician; J.B. Trend, translated

Music: John Joubert

**roro = male baby*

Reader: Amita Sherwood

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
Are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
For out of you will come a ruler
Who will shepherd my people Israel.”

Then Herod called the magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I may go and worship him.”

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol (sung by the choir)

*'Twas in the moon of wintertime when all the birds had fled,
That mighty Gitchi Manitou sent angel choirs instead;
Before their light the stars grew dim, and wand'ring hunters heard the hymn:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria.*

*Within a lodge of broken bark the tender babe was found,
A ragged robe of rabbit skin enwrapped his beauty round;
But as the hunter braves drew nigh, the angel song rang loud and high:
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria.*

*The earliest moon of wintertime is not so round and fair,
As was the ring of glory on the helpless infant there.
The chiefs from far before him knelt with gifts of fox and beaver pelt.
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria.*

*O children of the forest free, O sons of Manitou,
The Holy Child of earth and heaven is born today for you;
Come kneel before the radiant boy, who brings you beauty, peace, and joy,
Jesus your King is born, Jesus is born. In excelsis gloria.*

Words: Jean de Brébeuf (1642), translated Jesse Middleton (1926)

Music: Sarah Quartel, arr

Reader: Rev. Dr. Ashley Neil Smith

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all might believe. He himself was not the light, he came only as a witness to the light.

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world, and though the world was made through him, the world did not recognize him. He came to that which was his own, but his own did not receive him. Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Collect and Blessing

Pastor The Lord be with you.

All *And with thy spirit.*

Pastor Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: grant that as we joyfully receive him our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

Amen.

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.

Amen.

† Carol (sung by the congregation)

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:
*O come let us adore him, o come let us adore him,
o come let us adore him Christ the Lord.*

God of God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Only-begotten Son of the Father. *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest. *Refrain*

(final stanza on next page)

Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee, be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

Closing Voluntary *Carillon de Westminster, Op. 54, No. 6*

Louis Vierne

*The congregation is invited to sit for the voluntary.

Ushers: Cam Cantelou, Jeff Holm, George Watterworth, Russell Zumwalt

Acolyte: Tucker-Boyd Newman

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Bill and Jan Cooke in honor of the Christmas season.

Christmas Service Attendance

December 22, 10:30AM: 540

December 24, 5PM: 598

December 24, 9PM: 307

December 25: 112

Wednesday, January 1: New Year's Day

10:00AM – Holy Communion

Sunday, January 5: Feast of the Epiphany

8:00AM – Holy Communion

9:30AM – Family Service

11:00AM – Traditional Service

A history of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held at King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of King's after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist 1876–1929. A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in royal David's city'.

The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 pm on Christmas Eve 1880.

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, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God... seen 'through the windows and words of the Bible.' The center of the service is still found by those who "go in in heart and mind" and who consent to follow where the story leads.

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Sunday Morning Worship Service Times:

8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist;

9:30 a.m. Family Service with Children's
Sermon

11:00 a.m. – Traditional Worship

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Sunday Morning Radio Broadcasts

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

WIOZ at 550 (AM) from 8:00 to 8:30

WLHC at 103.1 (FM) from 8:30 to 9:00

www.tvcpinehurst.com

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