

# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA

Sunday, December 27, 2009  
First Sunday After Christmas

Services of Worship for the Lord's Day  
10:00 a.m. — Service of Lessons and Carols



## IN EXCELSIS DEO!

### Service of Lessons and Carols

The "Service of Lessons and Carols" has its roots in the Middle Ages. As a musical form, carols first appeared in the 14th century, partly in response to a widespread desire to inject some gaiety into worship that had become notoriously somber. The first carols were simple folk tunes in which verses were sung by a soloist and the refrains by the congregation or a chorus. In the early 16th century, a "Service of Lessons and Carols" was developed, alternating Scripture readings and carols. It was originally used in place of evening prayer on Christmas Day. Our service today is an adaptation of the earlier form: not all the songs are technically "carols," and there are some elements not found in the 16th century service. We hope you enjoy this service as we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

10:00 a.m.

First Sunday After Christmas

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ORGAN PRELUDE *Adeste Fideles* Noel Rawsthorne

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please sign and pass the friendship pads, noting those worshiping with you so that you may greet them after the service. Guests are invited to fill out a Guest Card and place it in the offering plate during our time of Self-Offering.*

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION *In the Bleak Mid-Winter*  
Malcolm Archer

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 148:1-2, 11-14

\*OPENING CAROL: Hymn 40 *Joy to the World*  
Praise Team & Congregation

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19  
*Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

Invitation to Confession

Prayer of Confession

**God of grace, without you we are like Bethlehem - in a deep and dreamless sleep beneath the silent stars. But by your grace, we are not without you. Our dark streets of hate and injustice are illuminated by your everlasting light. The hopes and fears of all our years are met in the gift of the Christ child. Yet, we confess that despite this gift, we continue to strain for some other kind of consolation. Our priorities revolve around ourselves rather than around the baby Jesus and those who are vulnerable and exposed to the harshness of the world. In repentance, our meek souls long to receive you; by your grace, enter in. May the poverty of the manger teach us about your priorities, and may they take precedence in our lives. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18  
*God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.*

Assurance of Forgiveness Galatians 3:6-9  
*Paul writes that all who have faith in Jesus are blessed with Abraham who believed.*

\*Passing of the Peace

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7  
*The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah*

Carol: Hymn 44 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
Praise Team & Congregation

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9  
*The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.*

Carol: Hymn 48 *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*  
Organ and Congregation

FIFTH & SIXTH LESSONS Luke 1:26-35, 38  
*An angel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.*

Luke 2:1-7  
*Joseph & Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.*

Carol: Hymn 25 *Away in a Manger*  
Organ & Congregation

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16  
*Angels appear to shepherds in the fields and announce the birth of the Messiah.*

Carol: Hymn 31 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*  
Organ & Congregation

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Isabella Sol Zapata Knight, daughter of Andres Zapata and Gini Zapata Knight, granddaughter of Elaine Knight, niece of Jon, Katherine, and Caroline Knight

Presentation

\*Profession of Faith & The Apostles' Creed  
Hymnal, p. 14

Thanksgiving Over the Water & The Baptism

Welcome

Hymn 49 *Once in Royal David's City*

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11  
*Magi from the East come seeking the Messiah and offer gifts to the baby Jesus.*

Invitation to Self-Offering

Carol: Hymn 63 *As with Gladness Men of Old*  
Organ & Congregation

\*The Nowell Doxology

**Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, ye heav'nly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!  
Born is the King of Israel!**

\*Prayer of Dedication

**Generous God, the wise men brought their treasures to you, but you have given us a gift we can never repay. As we dedicate our humble offerings to you, may your self-giving spirit continue to reshape us. May we learn to know joy in sacrifice. May we learn to find our lives by giving them away in love. O holy child of Bethlehem, be born in us today. Amen.**

NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14

Carol: Hymn 53 *What Child Is This?*  
Organ & Congregation

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\*Those who are able are invited to stand.

**Bold** lettering signifies congregational participation.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND  
THE LORD'S PRAYER Hymnal, p. 16

\*CLOSING CAROL: Hymn 23  
*Angels We Have Heard on High*

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE, Hymn 23, refrain

**Gloria in excelsis deo!**  
**Gloria in excelsis deo!**

\*POSTLUDE *Adeste Fideles* Alec Wyton

END OF WORSHIP.....BEGINNING OF SERVICE

### WORSHIP

**Hearing devices and large print hymnals, Bibles, and bulletins** are available from the ushers.

**Welcome Guests!** We invite you to participate in "Worship Plus Two": Please commit to nurturing your faith and serving God in addition to worshipping God. Our staff is available to help you find your place in education and ministry.

**We Warmly Welcome Children in Worship.** Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the Realm of Heaven belongs" (Matt.19:14).

- Children (and parents) are invited to come forward for the Conversation with Children, which is presented during our worship services.
- Worship bags for children 3 to 6 years old and clipboards with a bulletin designed for our young people ages 7 to 11 are available in baskets at the Sanctuary entrances. Please ask an usher if you have trouble finding these worship aids.
- Staffed nurseries are available during the 8:55, and 11:15 services, and during the 10:05 Sunday School hour that cater to infants and toddlers and are equipped with a parent paging system.
- The children's library is located in Room 109 and books are available for self-checkout. Children are encouraged to check out books to bring with them to the service. There is a box in back of the church for easy drop off, or they may be returned to the library.

**Ways to Prepare Your Child for Worship.** Most children can be led to appreciate the privilege of worship if they are helped to do so by parents and teachers. Each week, we will feature a different suggestion for helping your child to have meaningful experiences while at church.

Allow for some "wiggles"; a child can't sit perfectly still; set limits for him and let him know those limits before going into the sanctuary. Turning around and staring at those behind disturbs others, as does constant getting up and down from the pew. He should stretch his legs now and then.

**Serving as Receptionist** in the church office this morning is Caroyl Gooch.

**Signing the Attendance Pad:** Each person is asked to sign his or her name as clearly as possible at all services attended. **This is the only reliable way we have to verify attendance.** It is also a hospitable and courteous way to let your pew mates know who you are and that you welcome knowing them.

### DAILY PRAYERS FOR DECEMBER 28—JANUARY 3

<b>Monday</b>	Psalm 22, Isaiah 49:13-23
<b>Tuesday</b>	Psalm 96, II Samuel 23:13-17b
<b>Wednesday</b>	Psalm 93, John 4:46-54
<b>Thursday</b>	Psalm 98, I Kings 3:5-14
<b>Friday</b>	Psalm 99, Genesis 17:1-12a, 15-16
<b>Saturday</b>	Psalm 48, Hebrews 11:1-12
<b>Sunday</b>	Psalm 20, John 6:41-47

### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

#### Sunday, December 27

10:00 a.m. Service of Lessons and Carols

#### Monday, December 28

Church Offices Closed — Christmas Holiday

#### Friday, January 1

**Happy New Year! Church Offices Closed**

#### Sunday, January 3

8:00 a.m. Contemplative Service

8:55 a.m. Contemporary Service

10:05 a.m. Sunday School

11:15 a.m. Traditional Service

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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