

Cornerstone Presbyterian Church

Lessons and Carols

December 29, 2024 9:00 a.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Melinda Merkley King

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them, light has shined.

All: For to us a child has been born; to us a son has been given.

One: Authority shall rest upon his shoulders, and he shall be called

All: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

One: His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore.

All: Let us worship God.

*HYMN #49

"Once in Royal David's City" v. 1, 2, & 4

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Ellen Kennedy, Lay Leader

First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-5

Hymn #9 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" v. 1-2

Second Lesson: Isaiah 11: 1-9

Hymn #48 "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming"

Third Lesson: Isaiah 40:1-11

Hymn #36 "In the Bleak Midwinter" v. 1-2

Fourth Lesson: Luke 1:26-33, 35b

"To A Maid Engaged to Joseph" (instrumental)

Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

Hymn #44 "O Little Town of Bethlehem" v. 1, 2, & 4

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:8-20

"Infant Holy, Infant Lowly" (instrumental)

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:21-32

Hymn #22 Angels, from the Realms of Glory v. 1, 3, & 4

Eighth Lesson: John 1:1-14

Hymn #40 Joy to the World! v. 1 & 4

OFFERING

*DOXOLOGY

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

SHARING JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE CONCLUDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER

Ninth Lesson: Matthew 28:18-20

*Hymn #29 "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

*Please stand if you are able.

LESSONS AND CAROLS

The tradition of a worship service of Lessons and Carols comes from England. Though often associated with King's College in Cambridge, the origin was likely Truro Cathedral in Cornwall on Christmas Eve in 1880. The cathedral had not been completed and the service was held in a temporary outdoor structure. In 1928 the British Broadcasting Corporation broadcast the King's College service and it's been broadcast every year since except for 1930. In 1954, Lessons and Carols began to be televised too. Popularity of the service spread from the Church of England to the wider Anglican community and then to Roman Catholic churches too. Today, many different Protestant denominations have also adopted the service as part of their Christmas celebrations.

Initially, the service told the story of the fall of humanity, the promise of the Messiah, and the birth of Jesus in 9 readings. Modern adaptations offer many different variations of Scripture readings. Typically, a choir sings the carols and congregations sing hymns, however, that varies too. The service in 1918 began with "Once in Royal David's City" and that has not changed since.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Joann McMenamin and family on the death of Ron McMenamin

Carol Abrahamson, Baby Lily (Joann Minor's friend), Karin Baxter (JoAnn Minor's sister), Kara Berry (friend of the Johnston's), Jeff Briggs (friend of Carol Ennis), Jean Bullock, Mary Campbell, Sean Cavanaugh (friend of Debby Wells), Anna Culchin (friend of Carrol Ennis), Dana Dorrenbacher, Jennie Linn Duffie (John Duffie's mother), Shannon Earle (Brad Earle's niece), David Floyd (Nancy Long's brother), Kent Forester, HC Gilliam (Beth Earle's Uncle), Ed Grizer (Jeff Grizer's father), Jim Johnston (Mame & Doug Johnston's son), Dan Krautheim (Kathryn Fiebich's father), Gladys Livingston (friend of Joann Liss), Robert Lowry, (Carolyn's father), Dan McMains (Carey's son), Worth McMains, Norma Miller (friend of Joann Liss), Scott Monday (Deb Hilliard's brother-in-law), Tina Moscone (Rhonda Olds' friend), Paula (friend of Donna Millet), Joe Patak (Diane Bensley's father), Cathy Peters (friend of Marcia Marvin), Margaret Rapp, Joe Schruhl (Julie LaNeave's father), Cherry Thomas (Aaron Thomas' mother), Tom and Lois Walker, Carmela Williams (Debby Well's friend), Buddy Young, the brave men and women in the US military, the Pastor Nominating Committee, and all those greatly affected by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School & Kids Church: Sunday School and Kids Church resumes January 5. Sunday School begins at 10:10a.m. A nursery and Kid's Church are offered during the 11:00 service.

Please help us fill the little red wagon! We support the Western Wake Crisis Ministry. Please place donated food and hygiene items in the wagon in the narthex.

Cornerstone Youth Group: Cornerstone's youth group meets every Sunday evening. Come join the fun! Contact: Brandi@CornerstoneCary.org

Ladies Morning Stars Bible Study Join us the 2nd & 4th Friday of each month beginning at 9:45am. All women are welcome to join any time.

Men's Bible Study: Join the guys Thursday mornings at 7:30a.m. via zoom. We'll meet for an hour of study, fellowship, and prayer. The link is available on the website, CornerstoneCary.org. Click the green "weekly activities" button on the left.

If you would like to support Cornerstone with a one time gift or a recurring gift, you can do that by using this QR code or by visiting the "Give Now" button on our website, www.CornerstoneCary.org. We appreciate your financial support! "Each of you shall give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver!" - 2 Corinthians 9:7



Year-End Giving Reminder Per IRS regulations, checks must be placed in the Sunday offering at church no later than TODAY, to qualify as a charitable gift for the 2024 tax year. Online giving will be available until midnight on December 31st. Contributions mailed to the church must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service by December 31, 2024. Any gifts received after that date will be credited to 2025. Thank you for your understanding and thank you for supporting God's work through Cornerstone!

Save the Date: VBS Reveal Party - Join us after the 11:00 service on January 19th for the reveal of 2025's VBS theme!