

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

On the first Sunday of Christmas, we have returned to the house of God “to sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God,” who has gifted us with a savior. As the festival continues, “let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts.” It is Christmas, still.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols grew out of the ashes of the First World War. In 1918, a 34-year-old former army chaplain named Eric Milner-White was appointed Dean of King’s College. Nothing could prepare him for the atrocities he witnessed on the Western Front when he volunteered for service in 1914. He came home believing that the church was failing the troops. How could he communicate a message of God’s love to those who had been brutalized and traumatized by war?

Milner-White devised A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols as a means of outreach to those who felt alienated by the church or religion as a whole. Instead of a complicated mass, the carols service was simpler, alternating between choral anthems, congregational hymns, and readings. The resulting service had more drama and color, was more accessible and meaningful, and acknowledged the suffering of those impacted by the Great War. This gesture was particularly important to the town of Cambridge, which had lost 211 men from King’s College alone during the war.

Milner-White based the service on an order created in 1880 by Edward White Benson, the first Bishop of Truro, for use in the wooden shed that served as the temporary worship space while Truro Cathedral was being built. Benson’s intention was partly to keep his parishioners from reveling too much in the “wrong” kind of Christmas spirit down at the pub. But it was also a way to bring together his congregation at a time of uncertainty while they awaited the construction of their cathedral.

PRELUDE

IRBY
Once in Royal David’s City

Robert A. Hobby

DIALOGUE

L: Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

C: **By day and night he shines for all to see.**

L: Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

C: **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

L: God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

C: **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

L: Jesus is the light of the world.

C: **Jesus is the light of our lives.**

L: Sing to God a new song!

C: **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

GATHERING SONG

Once in Royal David's City



Solo 1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
Choir 2 He came down to earth from heav-en who is God and Lord of all,
ALL 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem-ing love;
ALL 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand-ing by,



where a moth-er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;
we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;



Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.
with the poor and meek and low-ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

GREETING

L: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Gracious God of heaven and earth,
you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness—
a beam of light that shines through Jesus.
Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation.
Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life.
Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world
and in our hearts.

C: Amen.

Please be seated

LESSONS AND CAROLS

FIRST READING

GENESIS 1:1-5, 14-18

A reading from Genesis, the 1st chapter.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. ⁴And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

¹⁴And God said, "Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth." And it was so. ¹⁶God made the two great lights — the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night — and the

stars. ¹⁷God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth,
¹⁸to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL



Cantor 1. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how
Women 2. When Ma - ry birthed Je - sus, all in a cow's stall, came
Men 3. If Je - sus had want - ed for an - y wee thing, a
ALL 4. I won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky, how



Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for
wise men and farm - ers and shep - herds and all, and
star in the sky or a bird on the wing, or
Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die for



poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like you and like I. I
high from the heav - ens a star's light did fall; the
all of God's an - gels in heav'n for to sing, he
poor ord' - n'ry peo - ple like you and like I. I



won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.
prom - ise of the a - ges it then did re - call.
sure - ly could have had it, 'cause he was the king.
won - der as I wan - der, out un - der the sky.

SECOND READING

MICAH 5:2-5A

A reading from Micah the 5th chapter.

² But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labor has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.

And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;

⁵ and he shall be the one of peace.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,
We hear the Christ-mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

THIRD READING

LUKE 1:26-35, 38

A reading from the 1st chapter of Luke.

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. ³⁸Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Cold December Flies Away



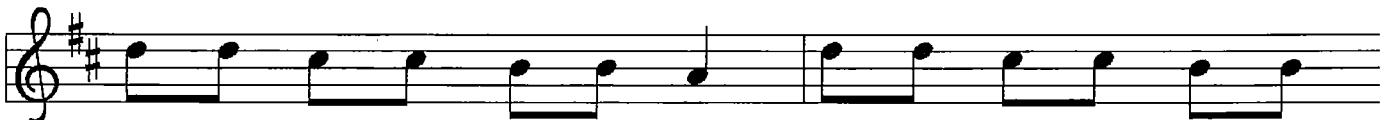
Cantor: 1 Cold De - cem - ber flies a - way at the rose - red splen - dor.

Choir: 2 In the hope - less time of sin shad - ows deep had fall - en.

ALL: 3 Now the bud has come to bloom, and the world a - wak - ens.



A - pril's crown-ing glo - ry breaks while the whole world won - ders
All the world lay un - der death. Eyes were closed in sleep - ing.
In the lil - y's pur - est flow'r dwells a won - drous fra - grance.



at the ho - ly un - seen pow'r of the tree which bears the
But, when all seemed lost in night, came the sun whose gold - en
And it spreads to all the earth from the mo - ment of its



flow'r. On the bless-ed tree blooms the red - dest flow'r. On the tree blooms the
light brings un - end - ing joy, brings the end - less joy of our hope, high - est
birth; and its beau - ty lives. In the flow'r it lives, in the flow'r, and it



rose here in love's own gar - den, full and strong in glo - ry.
hope, of our hope's bright dawn - ing, Son be - lov'd of heav - en.
spreads in its heav'n - ly bright - ness sweet per - fume de - light - ful.

FOURTH READING

MATTHEW 1:18-25

A reading from Matthew, the 1st chapter.

¹⁸Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²²All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³"Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Jesus, What a Wonderful Child



Je-sus, Je-sus, oh what a won-der-ful child.

Je-sus, Je-sus, so ho-ly meek and

mild; new life, new hope the child will bring.

Lis-ten to the an - gels sing: "Glo-ry, glo - ry,
 glo - ry," let the hea - - ens ring.

Text: African American traditional, alt.

Music: African American traditional; arr. Rollo A. Dilworth, b. 1970

Arr. © 2007 Hal Leonard Corporation

WONDERFUL CHILD
PM

FIFTH READING

LUKE 2:8-20

A reading from Luke, the 2nd chapter.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

CAROL

On Christmas Night



ALL 1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
Women 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
Men 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
ALL 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
sing, all for to see the new-born king.
heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional

SIXTH READING

MATTHEW 2:1-11

A reading from the Matthew the 2nd chapter.

¹In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ²asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." ³When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." ⁹When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

CAROL

GREENSLEEVES

Lani Smith

What Child Is This?

Rachel Hopple, piano; Curtis L. King, organ

What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris-tian, fear; for sin-ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

SEVENTH READING

JOHN 1:1-14

A reading from John, the 1st chapter.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

CAROL

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Cantor 1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
Women 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
Choir 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
Men 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
ALL 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
prom-ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -

have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
deem er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
pect ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
si lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
min ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

L: It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
C: **Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**
L: In his light, draw all to the manger
C: **to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**
L: In his light, draw all to the manger
C: **to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**
L: In his light, draw all to the manger
C: **to sing for joy with the angels.**
L: In the brightness of his life
C: **cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**
L: It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
C: **In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who 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,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

L: Let us bless the Lord.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

L: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary,
the obedience of Joseph,
the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the determination of the magi,
and the peace of the Christ child.
Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save!

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace.

L: The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

ANTIOCH

Carolyn Hamlin

Joy to the World

Vicki Ohl, piano; Curtis L. King, organ

This Week's Calendar

Sunday	Dec 29	10:00 am Worship
Monday	Dec 30	5:15 pm Bells of Praise
Tuesday	Dec. 31	New Year's Eve
Wed.	Jan. 1	New Year's Day
Next Sunday	Jan 5	10:00 am Worship

**In recognition of the Holidays
The Office will be Closed
December 31st & January 1st**

Normal Business Hours 11 am to 4 pm

Altar Flowers were given In Loving Memory of

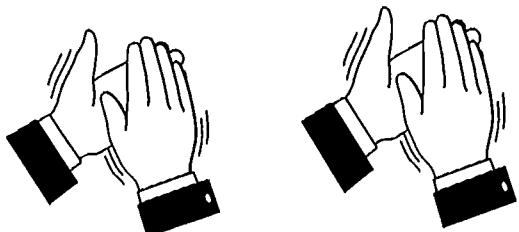


ALTAR FLOWERS

Greg Mellott

by Ron & Sandy Mellott & Sisters

Thank You.



*Thank you
to
Curtis King
&
Everyone who helped
Decorate for Christmas!*

Special Worship Assistants

Readers:

Father Aaron Gerlach
Rev. Karsten Snitker
Rev. Katie Treadway

Piano:

Rachel Hopple
Dr. Vicki Ohl

Choir members:

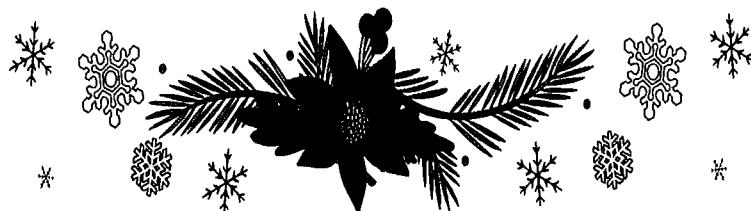
All Congregations

Organ:

Curtis L. King

Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Bonnie & Mike Oberlander
Cantor: Elijah Shiley
Facebook Camera: Tim Ross
Worship Assistant: Shelley Ross
Acolyte: Zachary Ross
Director of Music: Curtis L. King



thank you

Emergency Contacts

December

Pastor Doug DeVos
First Christian

(419) 271-6770
(419) 939-3503 wife (Linda)
E-mail: ddevos@buckeye-express.com

Pastor Robin Kapostasy
Hope Lutheran—Fostoria

Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel, forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”