



BRYCE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*The Service
of
Nine Lessons
& Carols*

Christmas Eve 2011

BRYCE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
The Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Christmas Eve, 2011, 7:00 p.m.

The Prelude *“O Holy Night”*

Irene & Jennifer Kwon, cello and piano duet

* **Bidding Prayer** and *The Lord’s Prayer*

* **Bidding Carol 227** *“On Christmas Night All Christians Sing”*

The First Lesson **Genesis 3:1-15**

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of the woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.

Carol 196 *“Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”*

The Second Lesson **Genesis 15:1-18**

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

Carol 194 *“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”*

The Third Lesson **Isaiah 9:2-7 (Responsive Reading)**

Christ’s birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Carol 233 *“To Us a Child of Hope Is Born”*

The Fourth Lesson **Micah 5:2-5**

The prophet Micah foretells the glory of little Bethlehem.

Carol 201 *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*

The Fifth Lesson **Luke 1:26-38**

The angel Gabriel salutes the virgin Mary announcing Christ’s unique birth.

Carol 216 *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*

The Sixth Lesson **Luke 2:1-7**

Luke records Jesus' birth.

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

Michael Crowell, soloist

The Seventh Lesson Luke 2:8-20

The shepherds go to the manger.

Carol 223 *"While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks"*

The Eighth Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Carol 226 *"As with Gladness Men of Old"*

The Ninth Lesson John 1:1-14

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

*** Carol 225 *"Once in Royal David's City"***

*** Prayer of Dismissal**

+ Recessional Carol *"Silent Night"* (back cover)

Dorothy Minor, soloist; Robb Minor piano

Dave & Chris Finnegan and Alex Cullen, guitarist

The Postlude

* Congregation standing

*We express our sincere and hearty thanks to our piano accompanist,
Mrs. Kelly Cullen, for her service to us this evening.*

RESPONSIVE READING OF THE WORD OF GOD:

Isaiah 9:2-7

[ENGLISH STANDARD VERSION]

Leader: The people who walked in darkness
People: have seen a great light;
Leader: those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness,
People: on them has light shined.
Leader: You have multiplied the nation; you have
increased its joy;
**People: they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.**
Leader: For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his
shoulder, the rod of his oppressor
People: you have broken as on the day of Midian.
Leader: For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle
tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be
burned as fuel for the fire.
People: For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
Leader: and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called
**People: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace.**
Leader: Of the increase of his government and of peace
there will be no end,
**People: on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to
establish it and to uphold it with justice and
with righteousness**
Leader: from this time forth and forevermore.
People: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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Welcome to this special Christmas Eve Service!

The *Service of Nine Lessons and Carols* is a traditional way to herald the birth of Christ in the British Isles. The structure of the service is as simple as its name: various Scripture portions are read and the message of God's Word is echoed in song.

May the simplicity of this service assist and encourage you to understand better the Nativity of Jesus Christ. May the wonder and truth of the Incarnation encourage your heart. Let us worship the Lord of Life, *Jesus Christ the God-man*, this evening "in spirit and in truth."

+ *At the end of the service, during the RECESSIONAL CAROL, the lights of the sanctuary will be dimmed, and the candles you were given as you entered this evening will be lighted. Please encircle the sanctuary as we sing together the carol "Silent Night" (you can find the text of the carol on the last page of this bulletin).*



You are cordially invited to join the congregation for worship tomorrow, Sunday, December 25th, at 10:20 a.m. A coffee fellowship is scheduled following the service. No Sunday School classes are planned. Please join us!



He Came to Serve

By Dr. Dennis Prutow

“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45).

Why was Jesus born? Did He desire to push His way to the head of the table of this universe? Was His mission to garner adoration and praise? Was this uppermost in His mind? This was not the case. He came to serve.

“Although He existed in the form of God, [He] did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross” (Philippians 2:6-8).

The Second Person of the Trinity entered creation as the babe in Bethlehem to be a ransom payment. In the ancient economy, a benevolent master might buy a slave for a stated price. He then might grant the slave freedom. The purchase price ransoms this burdened soul from a life of servitude.

Christ’s perfect life and subsequent death is a ransom payment loosing sinners from their slavery to evil conduct. With this ransom payment, God *“rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13).*

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Here the “Mini-Message of the Week” by calling 1-800-777-0389.

The Creator of the Universe Sleeps in a Woman's Arms!

The Creator of the universe sleeps in a woman's arms! Go to Bethlehem. See yon infant! It is God! — the Word made flesh. Come, see the place where the young Child lay! Look at the manger: there is the Lamb for the burnt offering; the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. See yon infant! The highest is the lowest; the eternal Word a babe; the Creator of the universe sleeps in a woman's arms! How low he has become; how poor! Those little tender hands shall yet be torn. Those feet, that have not yet trod this rough earth, shall be nailed to the tree. That side shall yet be pierced by a Roman spear. That back shall be scourged. That cheek shall be buffeted and spit upon. That brow shall be crowned with thorns. And all for you! Is not this love? Is it not the great love of God? And in this love is there not salvation, and a kingdom, and a throne?

— Horatius Bonar, *"Family Sermons"*, 1867

Rejoice *Glory*
IN THE OF CHRISTMAS

A decorative banner with the text "Rejoice Glory IN THE OF CHRISTMAS". The words "Rejoice" and "Glory" are in a large, elegant cursive script. "IN THE" and "OF CHRISTMAS" are in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. Two doves are perched on the banner, one on the left and one on the right, facing each other.

SILENT NIGHT! HOLY NIGHT!

**Silent night! Holy night!
All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and Child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heav'n afar,
Heavenly hosts sing: Alleluia,
Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

BRYCE AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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