

WE GATHER IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

PRELUDE *Voluntary on Two Carols* arr. Kidwell

+ PROCESSIONAL *O Come, All Ye Faithful* #234  
(stanzas 1, 2, 3, 6)

THE BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

WE PROCLAIM THE INCARNATION OF CHRIST  
AND RESPOND IN JOY AND PRAISE

CAROL *Once in Royal David's City* #250

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8 –15, 17–19 Reader  
God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve's punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

CAROL *Were You There on that Christmas Night?* N. Sleeth  
Sanctuary Choir

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15 –18 Reader  
God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth shall obtain blessing.

CAROL *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* #211  
(stanzas 1 & 2)

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6–7 Reader  
The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

CAROL *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* # 216  
(stanzas 1 & 2)

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1–4a, 6–9 or Micah 5:2 –5a Reader  
The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all of God's creation.

CAROL *O Little Town OF Bethlehem* #230

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26 –35, 38 Reader  
The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God's promised Son whose kingdom shall never end.

CAROL *My Soul Gives Glory to My God* M. T. Winter  
Mary Cummings

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1 –7 Reader  
Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

CAROL *It Came Upon The Midnight Clear* #218

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8 –16 Reader  
The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world, lying in a manger.

CAROL *The First Noel* #245  
(stanzas 1 & 2)

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1 –11 Reader  
The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

CAROL *The First Noel* #245  
(stanzas 3, 4, & 5)

NINTH LESSON John 1:1 –14 Reader  
John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

CAROL *O Holy Night* A. Adam  
Kathy Brown

COLLECT

**Eternal God**

**by the birth of Jesus Christ you gave yourself to the world.  
Grant that, being born in our hearts,  
he may save us from all our sins,  
and restore within us the image and likeness of our Creator,  
to whom be everlasting praise and glory, world without end. Amen.**

WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD AND SHARE IN HOLY COMMUNION  
INVITATION

CONFESSION AND PARDON p. 8

OFFERTORY *Away in a Manger* arr. Larson

+ DOXOLOGY #95

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING p. 15

BREAKING THE BREAD

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

*In the United Methodist Church, all baptized Christians are invited  
to share in the Lord's Table.*

*Please come forward as directed by the Ushers to receive the Bread and Cup.  
If you would like to have the elements brought to you, please let an Usher know.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

WE GO FORTH TO SERVE THE CHRIST CHILD

+ CLOSING HYMN *Silent Night*  
*As the light from the Christ candle comes to you please tip the **unlighted** candle*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE *In Dulci Jubilo* arr. Laubengayer

A CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL  
OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS



Monticello  
United Methodist Church

*In 1880 E. W. Benson, then Anglican Bishop of Truro, England, composed a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, based on ancient sources, for Christmas Eve. In 1918 it was adapted for the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, by its Dean, Eric Milner-White, who also wrote The Bidding Prayer. The Nine Lessons given here have been customarily used in recent years at King's College. The service has been edited for United Methodist congregations.*