

Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols

Welcome to our Christmas Eve service of lessons and carols. The order of our service consists of Scripture readings from the Old and New Testaments, the singing of Christmas hymns—some of which may be new to you—and a sermon from God's Word. We will end our service with the traditional lighting of candles and singing of Silent Night. Whether this is your first Christmas with us or you have been with us for years, we hope you are blessed in this service of worship, as we rejoice and give thanks for the advent of God's Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Welcome

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader:

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Congregation:

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined.

Leader:

You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy.

Congregation:

They rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

Leader:

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder.

Congregation:

And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

*Christmas Carol

Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #299)

*Invocation

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:1-7

In those days, a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

*Christmas Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #321)

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:8-14

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

*Christmas Carol

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #314)

Scripture Reading

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Christmas Carol

What Child Is This
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #317)

Scripture Reading

2 Corinthians 1:20

Sermon

Rev. Sean McCann
Senior Pastor

"Yes and Amen"
(Precious Promises, 5)

*Christmas Carol

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel
(Trinity Psalter Hymnal #293)

*Benediction

(Lighting of Candles)

*Christmas Carol

*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,
Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight!
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
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,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night! Holy night!
Wondrous star, lend thy light;
With the angels, let us sing
Alleluia to our King:
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born!*

* Congregation standing

* Congregation standing

Silent Night

Candlelight Service

Welcome to Covenant Reformed Presbyterian Church! We are glad you're here with us to sing praises to our Savior, Jesus Christ. This evening is a candlelight service. We invite you to take a candle from the foyer before the service (children are welcome to take one, at their parents' discretion). Hold on to this candle until the end of the service. When it comes time to light these candles, please note the following:

- We will be sending someone with a lit candle down the aisle at the appropriate time.
- Please light your candle by placing the *unlit* candle to the flame of the *lit* candle, keeping all lit candles upright.
- When the candlelight portion of the service is over, please gently blow out your candle.
- Please place the candle back on the table in the foyer after the service.

Once again, we're thankful that you've joined us tonight. We pray this service would encourage you and glorify our Lord! Merry Christmas!

Join Us In 2026

We would love to have you join us for a regular service in the New Year. Our weekly morning service is at 10:45 am, and our evening service is at 6:00 pm (every Sunday except the first Sunday of the month). If you are curious to learn more about Christianity and the Church, join us for a special three-part sermon series entitled "For the Church" (January 4, 11, and 18). We will ask and attempt to answer questions like:

- How does Jesus care for his church?
- Who leads the church?
- How can I be involved with what God is doing in and through his church?

After that, we will return to regular sermon series through books of the Bible. If you cannot join us on a Sunday, we also have a midweek service of dinner, kids programs, youth group, Bible study, and prayer every Wednesday at 6:00 pm, starting January 7. Dinner is free, child care is provided, and we are done by 7:30, so please join us for this time of fellowship and community.

The Incarnation in History

R.C. Sproul

The Son of God... did, when the fullness of time was come, take upon him man's nature, with all the essential properties, and common infirmities thereof, yet without sin; being conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, of her substance. (WCF 8.2)

The fullness of time is a concept taken from the New Testament (Gal. 4:4). It places redemption in the arena of ordinary history. God is working out salvation in and through history. The Old Testament reveals to us God's progressive unfolding of His divine plan of salvation, beginning with Adam and Eve and continuing with Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses. There is a clear progression of redemptive history, and a developing clarity in what God reveals to His people. Christianity is inseparably bound up with history. It is married to time and space, not something that occurs merely in some spiritual sphere. That is why the New Testament makes such statements as this: "In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria" (Luke 2:1-2). There was a historical setting for the entrance of Christ into the world. The incarnation happened in real history. The Roman governor, Pontius Pilate, is mentioned in the Apostles' Creed. Christianity is about real people, places, and events. God promises us that there is a future for the people of God in time and space.

The English language falls short in translating that idea. If we took a glass and filled it to the brim with water, we would say that the glass is full. But "fullness" in the Greek suggests a glass under the faucet, with water cascading over the sides of the glass, full to the point of overflowing. This is what the Bible means when it refers to the "fullness" of time. History was overflowing with anticipation; all of history, from the creation onward, was converging in that moment in history when Jesus Christ would be born.

[The above is an excerpt from R.C. Sproul in his book *Truths We Confess: A Systematic Exposition of the Westminster Confession of Faith* (Sanford, FL: Reformation Trust, 2019), 199-200.]



COVENANT
REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE
DECEMBER 24, 2025

*To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest;
to all who mourn and long for comfort;
to all who struggle and desire victory;
to all who sin and need a Savior;
to all who are strangers and want fellowship;
to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness;
and to whoever will come—
this church opens wide her doors
and offers her welcome
in the name of the Lord Jesus*

Senior Pastor: Sean McCann

Associate Pastor: Jim Curtis

Pastoral Interns: Micaiah Liner, David Livernois

Administrative Assistant: David Livernois

Office Hours: 9 a.m.—4:30 p.m., Tuesday—Friday

Elders: Ben Badgley, Rob Cook, Gordon Meiners, Tom Voigt (sabbatical)
Tim Wallace. *Emeritus:* Mike Cate

Deacons: Grey Dixon, Jeff Greene, Drew Lefevre, Noe McHone, Carl Tannenbaum

Deacons' Helper: Zach Voigt

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