



Pilgrim Hill

REFORMED FELLOWSHIP

SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE 2025

PREPARATION

“For to us a child is born,
to us a son is given;” (Isaiah 9:6a)

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

“O Come All Ye Faithful” v1 (With hands uplifted)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem
O come and behold Him, born the King of Angels
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord

The Lord be with you!
And also with you!

CALL TO WORSHIP

Go on up to a high mountain,
 O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
 O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;
 say to the cities of Judah,
“Behold your God!”
 Behold, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
 behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
 He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
 he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing (#893)

CONFESSION OF SIN

Sovereign God, on this holy night, we come before You in humility,
confessing our sins and our need for a Savior.

You created us for Your glory, yet we have fallen short,
 We confess that our sin is cosmic treason
 Against the King of glory. Forgive us.

You have sent Your Son to redeem us from the curse of sin.
He came and shone into the deep darkness of this world.
Yet, we often love the darkness more than the light of Christ’s holy commands.
This is manifest in our pride, selfishness, envy, lust, grumbling, and unbelief.

We know that Christ dwells only with the humble
 So we humbly confess and plead Your mercy. Forgive us, Lord
 May our hearts be a well-prepared room for Christ this night.

KYRIE - “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence” (v1)

*Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand;
ponder nothing earthly minded, for, with blessing in His hand,
Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand. (Kneel afterwards)*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Romans 5:1)

CHRISTMAS II (by George Herbert)

The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for Thee?
My soul's a shepherd too; a flock it feeds
Of thoughts, and words, and deeds.
The pasture is Thy word: the streams, Thy grace
Enriching all the place.
Shepherd and flock shall sing, and all my powers
Outsing the daylight hours.
Then will we chide the sun for letting night
Take up his place and right:
We sing one common Lord; wherefore he should
Himself the candle hold.
I will go searching, till I find a sun
Shall stay, till we have done;
A willing shiner, that shall shine as gladly,
As frost-nipped suns look sadly.
Then will we sing, and shine all our own day,
And one another pay:
His beams shall cheer my breast, and both so twine,
Till ev'n His beams sing, and my music shine.

Instrumental interlude - O Come, O Come Emmanuel

THE NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

First Lesson: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

- Theme: The Fall & God's promise
- Carol: ***Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus (#873)***

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:15-18

- Theme: God's covenant with Abraham.
- Carol: ***O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, (#880, vv1, 4-7)***

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

- Theme: The prophecy of the Messiah's birth.
- Carol: ***It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (#905)***

Fourth Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

- Theme: The peaceable kingdom of the Messiah.
- Carol: ***Joy to the World (#897)***

Instrumental interlude - O Holy Night

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

- Theme: The Annunciation to Mary.
- Carol: ***The Angel Gabriel (#869)***

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7

- Theme: The birth of Jesus.
- Carol: ***The First Noel (#899)***

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

- Theme: The shepherds go to the manger.
- Carol: ***Brightest and Best of the Sons (#872)***

Eighth Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

- Theme: The Magi follow the star.
- Carol: ***God Rest Ye Merry Gentleman (#911)***

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14

- Theme: The mystery of the Incarnation.
- Candlelight Carol: ***Silent Night (#916)***

Gloria in Profundis (by GK Chesterton)

There has fallen on earth for a token
A god too great for the sky.
He has burst out of all things and broken
The bounds of eternity:
Into time and the terminal land
He has strayed like a thief or a lover,
For the wine of the world brims over,
Its splendour is spilt on the sand.

Who is proud when the heavens are humble,
Who mounts if the mountains fall,
If the fixed stars topple and tumble
And a deluge of love drowns all-
Who rears up his head for a crown,
Who holds up his will for a warrant,
Who strives with the starry torrent,
When all that is good goes down?

For in dread of such falling and failing
The fallen angels fell
Inverted in insolence, scaling
The hanging mountain of hell:
But unmeasured of plummet and rod
Too deep for their sight to scan,
Outrushing the fall of man
Is the height of the fall of God.

Glory to God in the Lowest
The spout of the stars in spate-
Where thunderbolt thinks to be slowest
And the lightning fears to be late:
As men dive for sunken gem
Pursuing, we hunt and hound it,
The fallen star has found it
In the cavern of Bethlehem.

BENEDICTION

*Now those beloved by the Father,
And united by faith to the Light of the World, Jesus Christ.
Go forth this night with with a holy joy – for Christ has come.
Go forth with an unshakable peace – because He came to preach peace.
And go forth with a perfect hope – because His Kingdom has no end.
In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*

DOXOLOGY (with uplifted hands)