

# POPLAR SANCTUARY

Sunday, December 22, 2024

“Lessons & Carols”

---

Although the tradition of Nine Lessons and Carols is popularly associated with King’s College, Cambridge, its origins are attributed to Truro Cathedral in Cornwall. Up to the late 19th century, the singing of Christmas carols was normally performed by singers visiting people’s houses, and carols — generally considered to be secular in content — had been excluded from Christian worship. In the Victorian era, the rising popularity of hymnody encouraged church musicians to introduce carols into worship. Our Seven Lessons and Carols service is the more prevalent in modern times.

---

## PRELUDE

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir, Andrew Harper, piano & Wayne Warren, organ

## LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Blevins Family

## +PROCESSIONAL HYMN (220)

“Angels From the Realms of Glory” v 1, 2 & 4

Congregation

## THE BIDDING PRAYER

Dr. Deborah Suddarth

## THE LORD’S PRAYER

## THE BLESSING

## FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-8

Mr. Dave Herlong

*To God’s people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is coming back, and bringing the exiles home!*

## +CAROL (196)

“Come Thou Long Expected Jesus”

Congregation

## SECOND LESSON

Jeremiah 23: 5-6

Miss Molly Brown

*The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch, a just king who is yet to come.*

## CAROL

“Come Emmanuel, Come”

Chancel Choir & Kimberly Wade, flute

## THIRD LESSON

Zechariah 9:9-10

Mr. Ben Wuzzardo

*To a nation grown weary of war and weapons, God promises a king who will establish a reign of peace.*

## +CAROL

“Angels We Have Heard On High” (238) v 1, 3

Congregation

“Hark the Herald Angels Sing” (240) v 1, 3

Congregation

**FOURTH LESSON**                      *Haggai 2:6-9*                      Mr. Dylan Johnson  
*The prophet Haggai promises to God's people  
a temple even more glorious than the temple of old.*

**CAROL**                      *"O Little Town of Bethlehem"*                      John Cornish  
Chancel Choir

**FIFTH LESSON**                      *Isaiah 35:1-6*                      Mr. Patrick Mason  
*The prophet Isaiah announces the renewal  
both of the land and of God's people  
on the coming day of redemption.*

**CAROL (217)**                      *"Away in a Manger"*  
Congregation

**SIXTH LESSON**                      *Luke 1:26-35, 38*                      Mrs. Melissa Brasher  
*The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary  
that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end.*

**+CAROL (245)**                      *"The First Noel"*  
v 1, 2 & Traditional verse (on screen)  
Congregation

**SEVENTH LESSON**                      *Mark 1:1-15*                      Dr. Joey Reed  
*The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary  
that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**OFFERTORY**                      *"All Praise to Thee"*                      Elaine Hagenberg  
Chancel Choir

**INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP**                      Dr. Suddarth

**+CAROL (246)**                      *"Joy to the World"*  
Congregation

**+COLLECT (231)**                      *Advent*                      Dr. Suddarth

**+BLESSING**                      Mr. Mason, Mr. Stephen Racine, Dr. Reed & Dr. Suddarth

**+POSTLUDE**                      *"Sing We Now of Christmas"*                      arr. Wyrzen  
Andrew Harper, piano & Wayne Warren, organ

---

+ Those who are able, please stand.

---

## HOSPICE:

Brenda Robinson, Schilling Gardens  
Michelle (Mickey) Salmon, Home  
Rachel Kelsey, Home

If you need to speak with a pastor due to  
an emergency, please call the pastor on call  
number 901-471-6630.