

CAROLS AND HYMNS FROM THE FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

PRELUDE: “O Come, All Ye Faithful (*from Wade’s Cantus Diversi*) Arr. Innes
Kayleen Yuda

THE INTROIT: “Holy Night”
Soloist: Katherine Wilson

All who are able, please rise.

INVITATIONARY CAROL: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”
v. 1 – 4

Please be seated.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19 (Adam & Eve in Garden)
Reader: Margaret Torigoe
“Tomorrow shall be my dancing day” Na Leo Ni’o Lani

SECOND LESSON: Genesis 22:15-18 (Abraham’s blessing)
Reader: Newton Chu
“Angels from the realms of Glory” v, 1-3

THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7 (His name shall be called
Wonderful)
Reader: Carolyn Lum-Bellem

“It came upon the midnight clear” v, 1 & 4

FOURTH LESSON: Isaiah 11:1-3a, (A little child shall lead them)
& 4a, 6-9 Reader: Robert Smith
Rev. Ichiro Annes in
Pohnapean

“O Come O Come Emmanuel” v, 1-4

FIFTH LESSON: Luke 1:26-35, 38 (Annunciation)
Reader: Joyce Nakamoto
“Breath of Heaven” Na Leo Ni’o Lani

SIXTH LESSON: Luke 2:1, 3-7 (Going to Bethlehem)
Reader: Moira Tanaka

“Pie Jesu” duet with Katherine Wilson and Rachel Edwards

SEVENTH LESSON: Luke 2:8-16 (Shepherds)
Reader: Timothy Nakamoto

“Away in a Manger” v, 1 & 2

EIGHT LESSON: Matthew 2:1-12 (Visit of the Magi)
Reader: Stuart Mori, IYAA

“We Three Kings of Orient Are” v, 1, 2 & 5

NINTH LESSON: John 1:1-14 (Word became flesh)
Reader: Karl Kawahara

“O Come all ye Faithful” v, 1-4

Benediction
Rev. Ichiro Annes
[in Pohnpepan]
Rev. Choo Lak Yeow

No Longer to Walk in Darkness

Blessing of the Candles

Please join in the singing of ‘Silent Night, Holy Night’ as the light of the Christ Candle begins to make its way through the congregation. The Choir will bring the light of the Christ Candle to us. Please share the Light with all around you. Allow your candle to burn as long as you like! In them we affirm that the Light of the Christ will soon enter our hearts.

“Silent Night” v, 1-3

SENDING “Joy to the World” v, 1 – 3

POSTLUDE: “Joy to the World/Halleujah Chorus *(from Messiah)* Arr. Whitworth
Kayleen Yuda

A Brief Explanation on the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

This time-honored traditional Christmas Eve Festival of Lessons and Carols has not only been a hot favorite of Christmas Eve Services all over the world, but also a source of great inspiration to God-fearing and God-loving believers.

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is the Christmas Eve service held in King's College Chapel, Cambridge University. The Festival was introduced in 1918 to bring a more imaginative approach to worship. It was first broadcast in 1928 and is now broadcast to millions of people around the world.

The beauty and impact of this Festival lies in its **simplicity** and a **moving narration** of the fall of humans and how God chose a very special way to bring sinners back to the fold and household [Ohana] of God.

Traditionally, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols involves all the people in the Congregation. Office bearers in the Committees serve to represent the people in the Congregation. A member from the Sunday School symbolizes the young who will soon lead the church in time to come.

There are nine Lessons which are 'echoed' by appropriate Carols.

The first Lesson tells of Creation and Fall of humans [narration of the Fall is essential, else what follows does not make sense], and naturally is then followed by a Carol anticipating our delivery from sin.

The second Lessons speaks of Abraham's blessing. 'That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven.'

The third Lesson speaks of the promised Messiah [in Hebrew, 'Messiah' means 'the Lord's Anointed': in Greek, the word 'Christos' means the same thing]. The Carol, *It Came Upon A Midnight Clear*, aspires to sensitize us to the actualization of the promise of the Messiah coming to us.

The fourth Lesson dwells on the prediction of the birth of Jesus, with a Carol of Hope – *O Come, O Come Emmanuel* – to encourage us to take the leap of faith.

The fifth Lesson describes the birth of Christ. The Lighting of the Christ Candle is our way of saying **Yea and A-men to Jesus' birth!**

The sixth Lesson narrates the journey to Bethlehem to see and adore **Pie Jesu**,
Pious Jesus
Pious Jesus
Who lifted the world's sins
Grant them peace,
Grant them peace

Pie Jesu is the Latin vocative for Pious Jesus through it is usually translated as O Sweet Jesus or even as Merciful Jesus as part of our invocation in prayer.

The seventh Lesson describes the shepherds' adoration as they realized how awesome is the angels' visit to them.

The eight Lesson continues with the Visit of the Magi [Three Wise Men from the East] to bring gifts fitting for this Babe born in a Manger. The Carol, *We Three Kings*, symbolizes the gifts we bring to the Christ Child tonight.

A Christmas story is our contemporary way of appropriately **re-telling this wondrous Tale**. Then, like the Magi, we bring the offering of our gifts and ourselves to the Christ Child in the Manger.

The ninth Lesson climaxes this narration of *God and sinners reconciled* as God's faithful redeemed children *come in adoration, O come in adoration, O come in adoration, Christ is Lord!*

The **Service of the Candles** is our humble way of celebrating once again the coming of the Messiah [the Light of the world] into our heart!

The **Sending** lifts our spirit high as we gratefully and with a loud acclaim sing *Joy To The World*. Then, as we leave the space that has been made sacred by God visiting us, we know the Lord is high and lifted up! Amene!

Choo Lak Yeow
Church of the Holy Cross
December 24, 2015

Please join us for worship on Sunday at 10:00 am.

Communion is the first Sunday of every month.



Wishing you and yours a joyous Christmas
and a blessed New Year!