

From the Director of Music Ministries...

Once again this tradition has come alive and continues to hold such a special place in the hearts of those gathered! And I would like to thank each participant for their contribution to the 89th Annual Lessons and Carols Festival Service. Thanks to the members of the Bell, Brass, Chancel Choirs, and the Early Worship Team for your dedication to our musical ministry. Thanks to Ellen Eastman and Bill Shriver who led us through the litanies and scripture readings and to Rev. Feltig for his continued support of the music ministries. I also need to say thank you to all of the families who have scheduled other events in their lives around all of the various rehearsal times and who have so graciously allowed their loved ones to be a part of the music program here at First Presbyterian.

Once again, thank you to all of our participants. Music is truly a gift from God, and in this season of giving, you have blessed the lives of those around you in such a special way. May God continue to grant to you and your families the blessed peace that comes through the birth of our Infant King.

In Music-
Lucas



First Presbyterian Church Music Ministries' 89th Festival of Lessons & Carols

First Presbyterian Church
89th Annual Festival of Lessons & Carols

December 17, 2006

3:00 PM

PRELUDE

Joseph Dearest, Joseph Mine
Once in Royal David's City

La Plante
arr. Wold

(Please take this time to silently prepare yourself to worship God.)

GREETING

CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP

Carol of the Advent

Karen Shriver & Chris Patterson, Soloists

Laura Abell, Elder
arr. Dietterich

***THE BIDDING PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER**

***PROCESSIONAL HYMN NO. 41**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 40:1-11

Ellen Eastman, Deacon

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Coventry Carol

arr. Gillis

***LITANY OF HOPE**

William Shriver, Elder

One: We hope that the coming of the Messiah will bring peace to a world torn by conflict and war.

Many: Advent season is a time of hope.

One: We wait for The Promised One who will bring a new message of forgiveness from which a new world will emerge.

Many: Advent season is a time of hope.

One: We wait for a world full of justice for each person who suffers, for each one who grieves, and for all who wait for redemption.

Many: Advent season is a time of hope.

One: We hope for a change of hearts and minds, so we all can live in peace and experience the richness of God's abundant grace.

All: Advent season is a time of hope – hope in the One who came from God to bring us a vision of a world in which all are created friends of Christ, sons and daughters of God.

***ADVENT HYMN NO. 2**

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

HYFRYDOL

THE SECOND LESSON

Luke 1:26-56

MUSIC MINISTRY PERSONNEL

CHANCEL CHOIR

Bob Denzer	Ginny Lapin	Polly Patterson	Karen Shriver
Sue Denzer	Anne Meldrum	Scott Patterson	Jean Smith*
Gary Hyman	Bob Meldrum	Georgene Risko	Rick Spearman
Miriam King	Kristen Noll*	Jim Risko	Marion Stobaugh*
Wendell King	Chris Patterson	Marthalee Schaub	Suzanne Tingley*

Amy Camillo, Accompanist

BELL CHOIR

Laura Abell Barb Reitsma

Betsy Hayes Dylan Scott
Polly Patterson Karen Shriver
Debbie Shepherd-Gregg

BRASS CHOIR

Chris Patterson Kim Reitsma
Barb Reitsma Matt Shriver
Doug Reitsma Mead Weil

EARLY WORSHIP TEAM

Mike Conway Kim Reitsma
Nadine Cubie Ryan Ruffing*
Meredith Donnelly Bonnie Stone
Kyle Peters George Stone

Lucas R. Weiss

Director of Music Ministries & Organist

(*Denotes those who are absent from us this day.)

MUSIC NOTES

The Call to Worship, *Carol of the Advent*, is based upon the writings of Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965). She is most recognized for her famous text, *Morning Has Broken*, but also her nursery rhythms and singing games for children. Farjeon was born in London and at seventeen became Roman Catholic. She considered her faith a progression toward which her spiritual life moved rather than a conversion experience. When paired with the old Besançon Carol tune, and arranged by Philip Diettrich, this wintry text calls each of us to be ready for the One who is coming into all of our hearts yet again. This hymn is included in the Advent section of [The Presbyterian Hymnal](#).

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make you house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.

Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the rose, is on the way.

Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled.
Even the hour when wings are froz'n, He for fledging time has chosen.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the bird, is on the way.

Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the star, is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look East, and sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Night of Silence, was written in 1984 by Daniel Kantor and was intended to be sung simultaneously with *Silent Night*. A moving text paired with a simple, yet elegant melody line, is the perfect partner for the treasured Carol of so many. Listen carefully for the familiar strains of *Silent Night*, while you allow this moving text to enter your hearts and minds.

Cold are the people, Winter of life, We tremble in shadows this cold endless night,
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping, Flowers that will echo the sunrise,
Fire of hope is our only warmth, Weary, its flame will be dying soon.

Voice in the distance, Call in the night, On wind you enfold us You speak of the light,
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly, Rumors of a dawn so embracing,
Breathless love awaits darkened souls, Soon will we know of the morning.

Spirit among us, Shine like the star, Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar,
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely, Rising in the warmth of your Son's love,
Star unknowing of night and day, Spirit we wait for your loving Son.

MUSICAL RESPONSE

A Joyful Alleluia

Dobrinski

LITANY OF LOVE

One: Advent season speaks to us about God's love for all.

**Many: For God calls us to love our families,
our sons and daughters, our fathers and our mothers,
and all those who love us in return.**

One: And Jesus challenged us to go one step further when he said,
"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

**Many: Loving is not an easy task, especially when we have suffered so much
for the lack of respect for human lives,
and for the disruption of our tranquility.**

One: But still, Jesus Christ said to us,
"Bless those who curse you, pray for those who anger you."

**Many: This season shall be a reminder of God's love and God's forgiveness.
In spite of our transgressions, God still loves us with steadfast love.**

One: Advent reminds us of God's love!

**All: We commit ourselves to love the same way God has loved us,
to express that love in all our relationships,
and love for those who do not love.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

What Child Is This?

arr. Edwards

THE THIRD LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

*NATIVITY HYMN NO. 56

The First Nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL

*LITANY OF PEACE

One: Advent celebrates the season of peace.

**Many: In the midst of all the struggles, the signs of war,
and the threat to the security of our daily lives,
God comes to us to provide tranquility and quietness.**

One: But peace is not the absence of conflict in our lives or in our world.

**Many: Peace is the assurance that justice has been accomplished,
and the people of good will have come together
to sit at the table of understanding.**

One: The scripture reminds us about the Prince of Peace
who will come from God.

**Many: The Messiah, who was declared the granter of peace
by the song of the angels, will come again to remind us
that peace is a gift from God for all humanity.**

One: And the lion and the sheep will lie down together in peace.

**All: And there will be no difference between the people of all nations.
Peace with justice will make us one with the Prince of Peace –
the Center of our hope and love.**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Night of Silence

D. Kantor

Mike Conway, Guitar • George Stone, Bass

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Lucas Weiss

LITANY OF CHRISTMAS

One: Come, come from the east and the west,
from the north and from the south.

Come and celebrate the New Born,
the Expected Messiah, God with us!

**Many: Come with joy, for this Child will fill our hearts
With hope, love, and peace!**

One: Come and sing a new song to the Promised One!

**Many: For this Redeemer will bring peace and comfort to all who mourn.
For all who cry, this Savior will wipe away every tear from their eyes.**

One: Come, prepare the way of our Christ.

**Many: Let's lift up every valley,
and every mountain shall be made low,
and the rough places made a plain.
The glory of our God will be revealed,
and everyone will see the Word made flesh.**

One: Come, join in the choir of angels. Come and sing the song.

**All: "Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favors,
for a Child has been given to us
who name is Wonderful, Counselor,
Mighty God, and Prince of Peace."**

MUSICAL RESPONSE

Ding Dong! Merrily on High
George Stone, Bass

L. Harris

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Rev. Jonathan P. Fettig

***HYMN NO. 31**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

***POSTLUDE**

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

arr. Sergisson

***Those who are able, please stand.**

The members of the Music Ministries of First Presbyterian Church would like to thank all of you for sharing in this time with us. For the past 89 years, this service, though in many different forms, has served a single purpose, to share the hope, love and peace of this season with this community of faith.

We truly appreciate the opportunity to be "Ministers of Music" to this congregation and to this community.

A special thank you we also extend to our families and loved ones, who so graciously support us as we participate in this musical endeavor.

May your Christmas be filled with joy and peace
and your New Year overflow with blessings!

Merry Christmas!