



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2005

St. James Presbyterian  
Church

6554 North Rockwell  
Chicago, Illinois 60645  
773-465-6254  
[www.stjameschicago.org](http://www.stjameschicago.org)

## A Service of Lessons and Carols

# St. James Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2005

Prelude

Caroling

Hymn #49 "Once in Royal David's City" *Irby*

**Opening Prayer and the Lord's Prayer**

Lighting the Advent Candles and the Christmas Candle



A Mes-sen-ger is come who does pre-pare the way. A  
cry re-sound-ing in the wil-der-ness: Pre - pare the way of the Lord. Pre-  
pare the way of the Lord. Make straight in the des-ert, a high-way for our God.

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We light these candles as a sign of the coming light of Christ  
*Advent means coming*

We are preparing ourselves for the days

***When nations shall beat their swords into plowshares and  
their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up  
sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.***

*(Isaiah 2:4)*

*Light the First Candle*

***The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard  
shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion  
and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.***

*(Isaiah 11:6)*

*Light the Second Candle*

***The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert  
shall rejoice and blossom; like the rose it shall blossom  
abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing.*** *(Isaiah 35:1)*

*Light the Third Candle*

***The Lord will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is  
with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him  
Immanuel.*** *(Isaiah 7:14b)*

*Light the Fourth Candle*

***The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined.*** (Isaiah 9:2)

*Light the Christmas Candle*

***Let us walk in the light of the Lord.***

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**First Lesson**

**Reader: Afua Akompong**

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the offspring of woman shall strike the serpent's head.* GENESIS 3:8-15

**Hymn # 2 (vs 1-2)** “Come Thou Long-expected Jesus” *Hyfrydol*

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**Second Lesson**

**Reader: Katrina Kelley**

*God promises to faithful Abraham that by his offspring, all the nations of the earth shall be blessed.* GENESIS 22:15-18

**Hymn #9** “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” *Veni Emmanuel*

**Choir Anthem** “Carol Canon on Adeste Fideles” Hopson

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**Third Lesson**

**Reader: Abner Cunningham**

*The prophet Isaiah foretells Christ's birth and kingdom.*

ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7

**Hymn #48** “Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming” *Es Ist Ein' Ros'*

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**Fourth Lesson**

**Reader: Betty McCoy**

*The prophet Micah foretells the glory of Bethlehem.* MICAH 5:2-4

**Hymn #44** “O Little Town of Bethlehem” *St. Louis*

**Special Music** *Three Carols for Flute and Harpsichord*

Crisafulli

“Greensleeves”

“Es ist ein Ros”

“Sussex Carol”

Anna Ashcraft and Philip Seward

## **Fifth Lesson**

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**Reader: Philip Seward**

*The angel Gabriel visits the blessed Virgin Mary.* LUKE 1:26-35, 38

**Hymn #16** “The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” *Gabriel’s Message*

**Offertory** “Still, Still, Still” *Austrian Carol*

**Doxology** *Greensleeves*

*So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh;*

*Come, one and all, to own Him.*

*The King of kings salvation brings;*

*Let loving hearts enthrone Him.*

*This, this is Christ the King,*

*Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;*

*Haste, haste to bring Him laud,*

*The Babe, the Son of Mary!*

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

*Gracious and loving God, we thank you for all your many blessings and for your magnificent gift of the Christ child.*

*May this offering carry the good news of great joy to all those with whom it is shared and may our lives be gifts of praise to you always. Amen.*

## **Sixth Lesson**

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**Reader: Joe Puralewski**

*St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus.* MATTHEW 1:18-21

**Hymn #56** “The First Nowell” *The First Nowell*

**Choir Anthem**

## **Seventh Lesson**

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**Reader: Charlotte Whitley**

*The shepherds go the manger.* LUKE 2:8-20

**Hymn #22** “Angels from the Realms of Glory” *Regent Square*

## **Eighth Lesson**

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**Reader: Rachel Puralewski**

*The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.* MATTHEW 2:1-11

**Hymn #66** “We Three Kings of Orient Are” *Three Kings of Orient*

## Ninth Lesson

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**Reader: Stuart Smith**

*St. John unfolds the mystery of the incarnation.* JOHN 1:1-14

**Hymn** (below) “Silent Night” *Stille Nacht*

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,  
Heavenly 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!

**Closing Prayer**  
**Benediction**

# Announcements

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## **We're glad you joined us for worship**

If you're a visitor, we are particularly glad you are here. Please sign the guest book at the back of the sanctuary.

## **Tonight's Service**

Our service this evening was adapted from the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols developed in Cambridge, England. Every Christmas Eve since 1918, that service has been celebrated in the King's College Chapel in Cambridge.

## **Sunday Worship**

Our Sunday Worship is at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome.

## **Calendar**

7:30 pm January 18

Session Meeting (Parlor)

Sunday January 29

Potluck Lunch and Annual Meeting

## **Poinsettia Plants**

The Poinsettia's decorating our sanctuary were donated by Afua and Thomas Akompong, Anna Ashcraft and Warren Johnson, Jan and John Cameron, Kathie and Abner Cunningham, Beth Kaufman, Betty McCoy, Steven Price, Patti Relosky and Jim Chapman, Philip Seward, Doretta and Paul Stier, and Charlotte Whitley and Lee Lohman. Special thanks to Betty McCoy who coordinated this project.

## **Warming Tree**

We have decorated the Christmas tree in the sanctuary with mittens, gloves, stocking caps, and warm socks over the course of Advent. We will then be delivering all the "decorations:" to Sarah's Circle, a local shelter for homeless women.

## **Staff**

Please call if you need to make an appointment.

Stu Smith, *Pastor*

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[ssmith@stjameschicago.org](mailto:ssmith@stjameschicago.org)

Philip Seward, *Music Director*

[pseward@stjameschicago.org](mailto:pseward@stjameschicago.org)

## Evensong

Tonight, we shed our coats and warm ourselves  
in one of God's innumerable houses.  
Named for neighborhoods and cities,  
all these churches, with their plain or jeweled windows,  
all these congregations stand  
within the one name  
of the season's and our hearts'  
anticipation.

A single candle burns before us.  
Its upright streak of flame responds  
to the breeze our caroling voices make,  
not by giving way to darkness,  
but by swaying brightly on its wick.  
When a child touches it  
with a second candle, cold, unlit,  
the sizzle and flare begin our sharing  
of the light we've been preparing to receive.

As our sanctuary brightens, so do those  
on other streets. Warmed candle wax  
rains slowly underneath the multiplying fires  
that illuminate our faces.

We're able, now, to look to one another  
and remember God, whose inextinguishable love  
has drawn us to this place.

Rachel Srubas

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