

Worship for the Lord's Day
the 62nd Annual Service of Lessons & Carols
presented by the Westminster Sanctuary Choir with Westminster Brass



Sunday, December 18, 2022 | 9a & 11:15a
The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA), Greenville, SC

From the Pews, *Kayla Burrell*

How would you react if you received “great news of great joy for all the people?” According to Luke 2, when the angel appeared to the shepherds in the field to tell them of Jesus’ birth, the shepherds were terrified. That fear likely turned into a mixture of awe and joy — especially once the angel spoke to them, saying that the Messiah had been born, and even more so once the multitude of the heavenly host showed up and started singing praises to God. Then, after the angels left them, the shepherds decided to go immediately to Bethlehem to visit the baby Jesus.

As I read the text, I tried to put myself in the shoes of those shepherds and imagine how they felt. Before the angel appeared, the shepherds were in their fields watching over their flocks. The next thing they knew, “the glory of the Lord shone around them” (Luke 2:9) and they found out that their Savior had been born. What a night! Of course they were eager to go and see the child for themselves.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, I think we probably feel some of the same awe and joy that the shepherds felt as they learned of the arrival of the Messiah. It’s nothing as shocking as seeing an angel or hearing the heavenly host, but seeing the Advent candles at church, hearing the familiar music, praising the Lord through hymns we sing as a congregation, and watching the twinkle of holiday lights around town are all things that bring me a sense of wonder and anticipation for the wonderful thing “the Lord has made known to us” (Luke 2:15): Jesus’ birth.

I have been lucky enough to have been studying in France the past few months. This amazing opportunity also means that I have been missing my family and this church community this Advent. However, as I take in all the lights and decorations in the streets of downtown Rennes (the city I am staying in), I know that my family and community are experiencing the same thing back in Greenville.

Since that night in Bethlehem, Jesus has connected us in this way; even when we cannot be together during the Christmas season, we can find comfort in the thought that our loved ones are experiencing the gift of Jesus just as we are, wherever they may be.

COVER IMAGE: Lorie Dodge Leininger (American, 1926–2016), *Infinite Riches in a Little Room*, 1968. Woodblock print, 14x11 ½ in.

Worship for the Lord's Day

Welcome and Announcements

Ben Dorr

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

9a — Kenneth & Jennifer Dillard, Thomas and Harrison

11:15a — Brent & Millie Thomasson, Caroline and Mac

The fourth candle is the candle of love.

It symbolizes God's love for the world in sending the only Son to be our Savior.

Processional Hymn No. 140 *Once in Royal David's City*

IRBY

stanza 1 — Preston Woods Lancaster, soloist

stanza 2 — choir

*stanza 3 (all)

**Jesus is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew;
he was little, weak and helpless; tears and smiles like us he knew;
and he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.**

*stanza 4 (all)

**And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.**

Service of Giving

Offertory

Coventry Carol

arr. Gillis

*Doxology No. 606

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Prayer of Dedication

(11:15a) Children K5 & First Grade are invited to leave for Children's Church.

THE SERVICE OF LESSONS & CAROLS

Call to Prayer

While We Are Waiting, Come

Cason

The Bidding Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors.**

And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON, Genesis 3:8-15

Kass Williams

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

CAROL

The Holly and the Ivy

arr. Gjeilo

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom as white as a lily flower,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Saviour.

O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good.

O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a prickle as sharp as any thorn,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet Saviour.

O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,
and Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ on Christmas Day in the morn.

O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly and the ivy now both are full well grown;
of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.

O, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
the playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

THE SECOND LESSON, Genesis 22:15-18

Ellison Mallico

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

God promises that, through Abraham, all the peoples of the world will be blessed.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 109

MERLE'S TUNE

Blest Be the God of Israel

**Blest be the God of Israel, who comes to set us free;
who visits and redeems us, who grants us liberty.
The prophets spoke of mercy, of freedom and release;
God shall fulfill that promise and bring the people peace.**

**God from the house of David a child of grace has given;
a Savior comes among us to raise us up to heaven.
Before him goes the herald, forerunner in the way,
the prophet of salvation, the harbinger of day.**

**On those who sit in darkness the sun begins to rise,
the dawning of forgiveness upon the sinner's eyes.
God guides the feet of pilgrims along the paths of peace.
O bless our God and Savior with songs that never cease!**

THE THIRD LESSON, Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

David Hanor

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

CAROL

Thou Shalt Know Him When He Comes

Hopson

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums,
nor the manner of his airs, nor by anything he wears;
Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or his gown,
but his coming known shall be by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.

THE FOURTH LESSON, Isaiah 11:1-9

Melissa Threatt

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing

**On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
on Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring,
news of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.**

**Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad;
then why should we on earth be sad, since our Redeemer made us glad,
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?**

**When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
when sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place;
heaven and earth with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.**

**All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night;
all out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:
“Glory to God in highest heaven; peace on earth and goodwill. Amen!”**

THE FIFTH LESSON, Luke 1:26-33, 38

Scott Broderick

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear a holy child.

CAROL

Here's a Pretty Little Baby

arr. Thomas

Here's a pretty little baby! Look in the manger!
Here's a pretty little baby! Look in the manger! Behold, believe, and be baptized!

Wise men riding. Behold, believe, and be baptized!
Here's a pretty little baby! Look in the manger! Behold, believe, and be baptized!

Bright star shining. Behold, believe, and be baptized!
Here's a pretty little baby! Look in the manger! Behold, believe, and be baptized!

Name is Jesus. Behold, believe, and be baptized!
Here's a pretty little baby! Look in the manger! Behold, believe, and be baptized!

THE SIXTH LESSON, Luke 2:1-7

Tricia Pendergrass

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Joseph and Mary travel to Bethlehem, where Mary gives birth to her child.

CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter

arr. Ellingboe

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter long ago.

Heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign;
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can, I give him. Give my heart.

THE SEVENTH LESSON, Luke 2:8-16

Richard Young

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Angels appear to the shepherds in the field and announce the birth of the Messiah.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 119

MENDELSSOHN

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

**Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."**

**Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate deity,
pleased in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."**

**Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king."**

THE EIGHTH LESSON, Matthew 2:1-11

Lydia Kellett

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Magi from the East are led by the star to Jesus.

CAROL

The First Noel

arr. Forrest

Noel, noel, noel. Born is the King. Noel.

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King of Israel. Noel, noel, noel, noel, noel.

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood mankind hath bought.

Noel, noel, noel, noel. Born is the King. Noel, Noel. Born is the King. Noel!

*THE NINTH LESSON, John 1: 1-5,14

Ben Dorr

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

John unfolds the great mystery of the incarnation.

*CONGREGATIONAL CAROL NO. 143

REGENT SQUARE

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

**Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant light:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

**All creation, join in praising God the Father, Spirit, Son,
evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One:
come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn king!**

*The Blessing
Choral Response

The Work of Christmas

Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flock,
the work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry, to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among brothers, to make music from the heart.

When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flock, the work of Christmas begins.

*Postlude

Personent Hodie

arr. Torian, Jr.

Leading in Worship

Ben Dorr, *liturgist*
The Sanctuary Choir
Rosemary Hughes, *interim music director*
Todd Monsell, *organ and piano*

Westminster Brass

Craig King, Bennett Dean, *trumpet*
Mark Britt, Henry Niehaus, *trombone*
Connor Lynn, *tuba*

Laura Cox, Carroll Farmer, Zach Freeman,
Keith Stevenson, Jacob Barker, *greeters (9a)*
Ginny Reed, Jordan Smith, Tom Vanderbloemen,
Parks Workman, Marian Carpenter, *greeters (11:15a)*

Worship on Christmas Eve

Westminster has two identical candlelight services on Saturday,
December 24th. Join us for worship at

4p or 6p.

The Atrium will serve as an overflow space for worship. Nursery
for infants through four-year kindergarten will be available at
both services.

Worship the first & second Sundays following Christmas

On Sunday, December 25th and Sunday, January 1 we will have
one worship service at 11:15a followed by a reception in the

Atrium. There will not be Nursery on Christmas or New Year's
Day. We will resume two services and the Nursery on Sunday,
January 8th with a unified adult Sunday School class at 10a in
Room 209 (and streaming).

2023 Stewardship Campaign

As of Tuesday, December 13th, we have raised \$2,109,432 (81%)
towards our 2023 Grateful & Growing campaign goal (\$2,600,00).
Especially during this Christmas season, we are grateful that you
have chosen to make Westminster your home. If you have not yet
pledged, consider doing so today. You may pledge by sending
Cynthia Ellison, Westminster's Financial Secretary
(cellison@wpc-online.org), by visiting wpc-online.org (Give) or
by filling out a pledge card located in your pew.

Please Fulfill Your Current Pledge

\$328,024 remains outstanding from our 2022 campaign. If you
have not yet fulfilled your pledge for this year, please do so by
December 31, 2022. By fulfilling your pledge you help us keep
faith with our mission and ministry partners.

Retirement Giving

For those 70 and 1/2 years of age or older, you can make a direct
transfer of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Westminster
Presbyterian Church. Though you will not get a charitable
deduction, the withdrawal can serve as your required minimum
distribution. The money will not be taxed and will not count
toward your adjusted gross income. If you have any questions,
please contact Cynthia Ellison, the church's Financial Secretary.

*The poinsettias decorating our Sanctuary
have been given by the following:*

Tony & Jean Atkins
in memory of **Bill Atkins**

Tony & Jean Atkins
in memory of **Howard & Ouida Nickles**

Tony & Jean Atkins
in honor of **Clay, Collin, and Cameron**

Hastings & Kristen Blumer
in memory of **Robert J. Blumer, Sr.**

Hastings & Kristen Blumer
in memory of **Caroline McCauley**

The Busby Family
in memory of **Mary G. Brown**

The Busby Family
in honor of **the Morrow Family**

Caroline, Paul, Charlotte, and Trixie Clark
in memory of **John Bimshas**

Elizabeth, Owen, and Grier Clark
in memory of **Haynes Morrow**

Linda & Caitlin Clark
in memory of **Curtis Clark**

Laura & Brandon Coker
in memory of **Jerry K. Coker**

The Craddock Family
in memory of **James Allison, Jr.**

Ben & Tricia Craddock
in honor of **their children, Emily, Reid, and
Davis**

Kimmie, Trey, Ellie, Cara, Jack, and Ben DuBose
in memory of **Bo Caraway**

Kimmie, Trey, Ellie, Cara, Jack, and Ben DuBose
in memory of **B.H. Caraway**

Jim & Mary Jane Duncan
in honor of **David, Mary Kathleen,
Mary Eliza, and Teddy Duncan**

The Edwards Family
in memory of **Dave Edwards**

Ben & Alissa Edwards
in memory of **Dave Edwards**

Ben & Alissa Edwards
in honor of **Joan Edwards**

John Elingburg
in memory of **Joyce Kemp**

Betty & Gray Geddie
in memory of **their parents**

Paul & Susan Grier
in honor of **Hayward Grier & Elizabeth West**

Paul & Susan Grier
in honor of **Elizabeth Grier**

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in memory of **Dr. & Mrs. John Miller Grier**

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in honor of **Elizabeth Guritz**

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in memory of **David Guritz**

Paul, Susan, Hayward, and Elizabeth Grier
in honor of **Westminster's Staff**

Henry, Garrison, and John Hill
in memory of **their grandmother, Grace Hill**

Carol & Walter Hinton
in memory of **Carl & Joann Detweiler**

Josh, Jenna, Avery, Caroline, and Anna Howard
in honor of **Debbie & Leland Henson**

Sam, Jamie, Rachel, and Nate Inman
in honor of **Sam & Sue Inman**

Jara Jones, Hunt, and Meredith
in memory of **Dr. John M. Bolinger**

Jara Jones, Hunt, and Meredith
in honor of **Marcella Bolinger**

Do & Bob Kaiser
in memory of **Loved Ones**

Becky Kaplan & The Leary Family
in memory of **Tom Kaplan**

Lydia Kellett
in memory of **Bill Kellett**

Children, Grandchildren, and Great-
Grandchildren
in memory of **Don Lester**

Sarah & Brad Lucas Family
in memory of **Robert Bradley Whitlock**

Creighton, III & Christa Likes, Carter and
Creighton, IV,
in memory of **Creighton Edward Likes, Jr.**

Creighton, III & Christa Likes, Carter and
Creighton, IV,
in memory of **Haynes Morrow**

Liz McClenaghan
in memory of **Bill Ellis**

The McFadden Family
in memory of **Paula McFadden**

The McFadden Family
in memory of **Ronald T. Meyer**

Ginger & Sandy McLean
in memory of **Dr. & Mrs. Augustus A. McLean,
Jr.**

Ginger & Sandy McLean
in memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Bennett E. Hudson**

Ginger & Sandy McLean
in memory of **Mr. Bennett E. Hudson, Jr.**

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Meyer
in memory of **Mr. & Mrs. Foster Brown**

Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Meyer
in memory of **Mr. & Mrs. William Meyer**

Blair & Jon Miller
in memory of **Elaine Miller**

Blair & Jon Miller
in memory of **Paul Miller**

Walker, Leigh, Lillian, and Robert Miller
in memory of **Martha Miller**

Laura, Molly, Stephanie, and Rob Morgan
in honor of **the Weaver Family**

Laura, Molly, Stephanie, and Rob Morgan
in honor of **the Dorr Family**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in memory of **Adam Bean**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in memory of **Haynes Morrow**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in memory of **Ryan Montgomery**

Jason, Elizabeth, Whit, Laney, and Louisa Palmer
in honor of **Mark Kemp**

Derek, Janell, and Shirley Bea Pitman
in memory of **Shirley Emery**

Kathy, Bryant, Cara, Anna, Claire, and
Charles Puntch,
Emily, Travis, Emma Kate, Hayes, and
Reece Hudson
in memory of **Bubba Puntch**

Holly Schaumber
in memory of **Fiona Woolf**

Neil, Jennifer, Emma, and Shaw Shurley
in memory of **Anne Boroughs** and **Betty Shurley**

Caroline & Dick Stewart
in memory of **Andrew Einstein**

Caroline & Dick Stewart
in memory of **Ben Sprague**

Caroline & Dick Stewart
in memory of **Travis Cale**

Alice & Bill Thalheimer
in memory of **Paul & Virginia Neal**

Alice & Bill Thalheimer
in memory of **William & Irma Thalheimer**

Carole Tinsley
in memory of **Al Tinsley**
and **sister, Mary Osborn**

Dan & Deb VanderVeer
in memory of **Gwen & Richard VanderVeer**

Dan & Deb VanderVeer
in memory of **James Vredenburg**

Keith & Fran Walker
in honor of **their children** and **grandchildren**

John & Paula White
in memory of **Ruth Robertson Marks**

John & Paula White
in memory of **Dr. E.J. White**

Sam & LeAnne White
in memory of **Laurie Jeanes**

Sam & LeAnne White
in memory of **Margaret Bishop**

Gifts to the Endowment Fund:

Henry & Julia Bellew
in honor of **The Dorr Family**

Henry & Julia Bellew
in honor of **Amos Workman**

Henry & Julia Bellew
in honor of **Sandra Wallace**

Henry & Julia Bellew
in honor of **Janie Little**

Henry & Julia Bellew
in honor of **the Visitation Ministry Members**

Henry & Julia Bellew
in honor of **Gene, Lynn, and Kathy Shore**

Henry & Julia Bellew
in honor of **Dee Malone**

Susan Boyd
in memory of **Howard Boyd**

Margaret & Duff Bruce
in memory of **Ben Sprague**

Margaret & Duff Bruce
in memory of **Tom & Ducky Gower**

Linda Carpenter & Family
in memory of **Rick Carpenter**

Carole Dennison
in memory of **her parents, Janet Hartland
Dennison
& Donald J. Dennison**

Carole Dennison
in honor of **Hartland J. Moede and Austin R.
Moede**

John Elingburg
in memory of **Joyce Kemp**

Betty & Gray Geddie
in memory of **their parents**

Mike & Ellen Hall
in memory of **Mike's parents, Floyd & Martha
Hall**

Mike & Ellen Hall
in memory of **Ellen's parents, Elmer & Edna
Johnson**

Mike & Ellen Hall
in memory of **their uncle, Al Stark**

Joan Houston
in memory of **Eddie Houston**

Joan Houston
in honor of **her children, grandchildren, and
great-grandchildren**

Kay Kelly
in memory of **her parents, Pat & Don Taylor**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in memory of **SuSu**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in memory of **Rip Harris**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in honor of **Mary Kathleen Duncan**

Sadie and McCrae Mattice
in honor of **Mark Kemp**

Bill, Katherine, McCrae, and Sadie Mattice
in memory of **Haynes Morrow**

Bill, Katherine, McCrae, and Sadie Mattice
in memory of **Buster Mills**

Bill, Katherine, McCrae, and Sadie Mattice
in memory of **Wade Crawford**

Bill, Katherine, McCrae, and Sadie Mattice
in memory of **Jim Walker**

The Nuttall Family
in memory of **Carl Nuttall**

Margaret Paylor
in memory of **John Hill Paylor, Jr.**
and in honor of **her children,
grandchildren,
and great-grandchildren**

Jim & Susan Robbins
in memory of **Bill & Nancy Patterson**

Mary Ellen Yeargin
in memory of **Bob Yeargin**

Gifts to the Heritage Lecture Fund
Kathryn Algary
in memory of **Dr. Grace Lucile Hill**

Caroline, Paul, Charlotte, and Trixie Clark
in memory of **Catherine Elizabeth Dunn**

Diane Ellison & Family
in memory of **Roy J. Ellison, III**
and **Roy J. Ellison, Jr.**

Betty King
in memory of **Dr. Gerry King**

Charles & Janie Little
in memory of **their parents, Charles &
Lucy Little,
and Bill & Peg Ranson**

Charles & Janie Little
in honor of **their children, Meg and
Charlie**

Charles & Janie Little
in honor of **Amos Workman**

Charles & Janie Little
in memory of **Carolyn Borders**

Gaye & Joel Sprague
in memory of **Ben Sprague**

About the Service of Lessons & Carols

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve 1918 at King's College, Cambridge. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who, at the age of thirty-four, had just been appointed Dean of King's after experience as an army chaplain which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919 involving rearrangement of the lessons. From that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in Royal David's City.' In almost every year the choice of carols has varied, and some new ones have been introduced. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged. The original service was, in fact, adapted from an order drawn up by E. W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880.

The service is held during the Advent and Christmas season throughout the world, from the East Indies to the British Isles and Greenville, South Carolina. In 2022 we celebrate its 62nd year as a centerpiece of the life and worship of Westminster.

Wherever the service is heard and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God [seen] through the windows and the words of the Bible.' Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light.' The center of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads.

Adapted from Kings College Chapel Bulletin, 2014