

ORDER OF WORSHIP

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE “Wachete Auf” by J.S. Bach *Cheryl Mahoney, Organist*

*LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE– The Candle of Love
Response: *Please stand and sing Vs 4 of #218 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear=

Lighters: *The Haus Family (8:15 am), The Lane Family (11:15 am)*

*OPENING HYMN “Once In Royal David’s City ” #250 UMH

*BIDDING PRAYER (**Unison**)
God of Love, today, we hear again Your love story for the world. May we again receive the wonder and delight that comes through the message of the angels and the journey of Mary and Joseph to a crude stable in Bethlehem. We journey to see this thing which has come to pass, the gift of the Babe, who came for all. Overwhelm us with Your Peace, Hope, Joy, and Love so we will be prepared for Child King to be born again in our midst. Amen

FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19
God announces in the Garden of Eden Adam and Eve’s punishment for their rebellion and that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent’s head.

Special Music “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus arr. Dan Forrest *Sanctuary Choir*

SECOND LESSON Genesis 22:15-18
God promises to Abraham that by his descendants all the nations of the earth will obtain blessings.

*CAROL “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” (stanzas 1,2,4,7) #211 UMH

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 9:2,6-7 – The prophet announces the birth of a king to a people

in darkness.

CAROL “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” #218 UMH

Special Music “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing” arr. Dan Forrest *Sanctuary Choir*

FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 11:1-4a,6-9
The king is coming and will usher in a reign of justice for the poor and peace for all God’s creation.

CAROL “O Little Town of Bethlehem” #230 UMH

GIVING OF GOD’S TITHES AND OUR OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY “Sweet Holy Child” by Mary Elizabeth Caldwell
Ian Lane, tenor soloist

PRAYER AFTER OFFERING

FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26-35,38 – The angel Gabriel announces to the virgin Mary that she will give birth to God’s promised Son, whose kingdom will never end.

*CAROL “To a Maid Engaged to Joseph” #215 UMH

SIXTH LESSON Luke 2:1-7 – Against a backdrop of emperors and taxes, Jesus is born.

Special Music “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night” arr. Dan Forrest
Sanctuary Choir

SEVENTH LESSON Luke 2:8-16– The shepherds go to see the Savior of the world and find him lying in a manger.

CAROL “What Child Is This?” #219 UMH

Special Music “Angels We Have Heard on High” arr. Dan Forrest
Sanctuary Choir

EIGHTH LESSON Matthew 2:1-11– The wise men follow a star to find the child Jesus, the King of the Jews.

Special Music "The First Noel" arr. Dan Forrest Sanctuary Choir

*NINTH LESSON John 1:1-14 – John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. (in notes between lesson and the carol share this closing prayer: Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.)

Special Music "O Come All Ye Faithful" arr. Dan Forrest Sanctuary Choir

*CAROL "Love Came Down at Christmas #242 UMH

*CLOSING PRAYER
Lastly let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

*MISSION STATEMENT

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE "Wachet Auf" arr. Dan Miller

Scan this code (or a paper check-in/ visitor card in the pew backs), to connect with us, write a prayer request, or get more information! We'll be happy to follow up!

JOIN US FOR CHRISTMAS EVE!

- 4:00 PM - Family-friendly, Contemporary-type worship in Kobler Hall
- 6:00 PM - Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary (nursery available)
- 8:00 PM - Contemporary Candlelight Service in Kobler Hall
- 11:00 PM - Traditional Candlelight Service in the Sanctuary

Because of your generosity, Christ's work is being accomplished in powerful ways. Thank you! The Generosity Committee reminds you that, in order to receive tax credit for charitable donations for 2025, all gifts need to be received or postmarked by midnight 12/31/2025

Financial & Attendance 12-14-25	8:15 – 49, 9:45- 69, 11:15 – 82, Online-32
Amount Needed for Budget – 2025	Annually: \$988,677.00
	Monthly: \$82,389.75 - Weekly: \$19,013.02
Amount Received for Budget:	Year 2025: \$922,947.17
	November 2025: \$67,738.88 - Last Week - 12/14-12/20/25: \$21,259.30
Amount Received to Pay Off Building Loan:	Year 2025: \$561,150.00
	November 2025: \$4,420.00 - Last Week - 12/14-12/20/25: \$905.00
Actual Amount on Building Loan:	\$143,923.04



WELCOME TO FREDERICKSBURG UMC
Lessons and Carols - December 21, 2025
8:15 AM & 11:15 AM

Are you new or visiting? We'd love to connect with you!
Please speak with an usher to receive a welcome bag!

Meet our Pastors

Pastor Tim Tate – pastortim@fumcva.org
Pastor Emilee Ogden – pastoremilee@fumcva.org
Pastoral Care Phone Line is available 24/7 at 540-388-0012
Find us online at www.fumcva.org Facebook, Instagram, YouTube @ FUMCVA