

A SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS & CAROLS

December 20, 2025
Glendale City Church

TODAY AT GCC

- 9:00 AM (Fellowship Hall) - Come & enjoy a light breakfast with us at our Courtyard Café!
- 9:30 AM (Fellowship Hall) - Grace Bible Study class with Rebecca Barceló both in-person and on Zoom.*
(Meeting ID 818-244-7241).
- 9:30 AM (Council Room) - The Living Project support group meets weekly: "Telling My Story, Listening to Your Story. Living Our Story."
- 11:00 AM (Sanctuary) - Worship with speaker Uriel Herinirina.
The service can be viewed online at:
youtube.com/glendalecitychurch.
- 12:10 PM (Fellowship Hall) This week, Open Table Worship will join the church for potluck immediately following the service in the Fellowship Hall. See you there!

CITY KIDS PROGRAMMING:

(12pm Pickup)

- 11:00AM (*Classroom 2*) - City Kids Children's Praise with music!
- 11:15AM (*Classroom 2*) - Tiny Tots (0-4 y.o.) Attend with guardian.
- 11:15AM (*Classroom 1*) - Children's Sabbath School (5-12 y.o.)

MORE INFORMATION AT:



818-244-7241



www.glendalecitychurch.org



office@glendalecitychurch.org

Preparing

And God held in his hand
a small globe. Look, he said.
The son looked. Far off,
as through water, he saw
a scorched land of fierce
colour. The light burned
there: crusted buildings
cast their shadows: a bright
serpent, a river
uncoiled itself,
radiant with slime.

On a bare hill
a bare tree saddened
the sky. Many people
held out their thin arms
to it, as though waiting
for a vanished April
to return to its crossed
boughs. The Son watched
them. Let me go there, He said.

The Coming
by R.S. Thomas

Welcome From The Senior Pastor

Thank you for joining us in worship on this beautiful occasion.

The Service of Lessons & Carols is a wonderful act of worship - an opportunity to journey through the grand story of divine redemption. Through scripture and songs of faith, we recall the long-awaited promise, witness its fulfillment in Christ, and renew our hope in the God who continues to dwell among us.

The first Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was held over 100 years ago on Christmas Eve in 1918 at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, built upon a format first developed in 1880. Since 1928, it has been broadcast every year but one—including during World War II, when the ancient stained glass (and even the heat!) had been removed from the chapel. Over time, the liturgy has been adapted and embraced by churches in various denominations around the world.

Many thanks to all who have taken part in today's service. We are grateful for this tradition and pray that your time in worship with us enriches your celebration of the season.

Finally, on behalf of our pastoral team, I wish you a very happy Christmas and a peaceful, healthy New Year.

-Pastor Uriel Herinirina

Order of Service

Prelude

Carol Medley

Monique McGuffin Newman

Harp

Welcome

Rebecca Barceló

Opening Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful
(please stand as you are able)

No. 132

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem!

Come and behold Him, born the King of angels!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O sing all ye citizens of heaven above!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to Thee be all glory given;

Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ, the Lord!

Call to Worship

Uriel Herinirina

O come, all you faithful, rest from your work, come in with joy.

We come from every corner of the earth: from pain and privilege, from war and rumors of war, from goodness and grief, from health and the need for healing, we come as we are, to meet the One whose birth promises light and life.

O come, all you faithful, sing with the choirs of angels!

Glory to God, all glory in the highest! Yes, Lord, we greet you! We greet you in the faces of those near us in this place of worship. We greet you in the face of the one with whom we need reconciliation. We greet you in the tiny baby, born to bring life to all.

O come in adoration, O come in adoration, O come in adoration, Christ is born!

First Lesson

Solo

O Holy Night

Monique McGuffin Newman

Harp

First Lesson

Adam and Eve disobey God's command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation, creating the need for Jesus' birth, life, and salvation plan.

Genesis 3:8-12, 17-19

Pamela Kermgard

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate."

And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

O Little Town of Bethlehem

No. 135

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, the dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in — be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell —
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

Second Lesson

Second Lesson

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

Genesis 22:15-18

Lee Posner

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven saying, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

O Come, O Come, Immanuel

No. 115

O come, O come, Immanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice!
Immanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.

O come, Thou Wisdom from on high,
And order all things far and night;
To us the path of knowledge show,
And cause us in her ways to go.

O come, Desire of nations, bind
All peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife and quarrels cease;
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

Third Lesson

Third Lesson

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior. The people who walk in darkness receive the promise of the Messiah.

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

John Nielsen

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. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
(please stand as you are able)

No. 130

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King;”
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

And ye, beneath life’s crushing load, whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow
Look now! for glad and golden hours come swiftly on the wing;
O rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.

Fourth Lesson

Fourth Lesson

The Prophet Isaiah foreshows the peace that Christ will bring.

Isaiah 11:1, 2, 6-9

Jerry Wahagheghe

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

No. 131

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung,
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As men of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright,
Amid the cold of winter
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we beheld it,
The virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright
She bore to them a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

Fifth Lesson

Fifth Lesson

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

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Glenda Mendizabal

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing
(please stand as you are able)

No. 122

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King, peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!" Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies; with th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new born King!"

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

Sixth Lesson

Sixth Lesson

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

Luke 2:1-7

Rachel Wolff

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the inn.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

Away in a Manger
(please stand as you are able)

No. 124

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And take us to heaven, to live with Thee there.

Seventh Lesson

Seventh Lesson

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

Luke 2:8-16

Margery Rich

Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the child lying in the manger.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

Angels We Have Heard On High

No. 142

(Verses 1, 2 & 3 Only)

(please stand as you are able)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o’er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be? Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see, Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Eighth Lesson

Eighth Lesson

The wise men follow the star to Jesus.

Matthew 2:1-5, 7-11

Allan McDonald

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, magi from the east came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star in the east and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him, and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: Then Herod secretly called for the magi and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out, and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen in the east, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

**We Three Kings of Orient Are
(Verses 1 & 2 Only)**

No. 137

We three kings of Orient are;
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to Thy perfect light.

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown Him again,
King forever, ceasing never
Over us all to reign.

Ninth Lesson

Ninth Lesson

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

John 1:1-5, 9-14

Rebecca Barceló

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Congregational Carol

Silent Night

Monique McGuffin Newman
Harp

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.

Order of Service

Homily

Uriel Herinirina

Call to Offering

Rebecca Barceló

Offertory

In the Bleak Midwinter
arr. Patrick M. Liebergen

Clarissa Shan

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World
(please stand as you are able)

No. 125

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heaven and nature sing (x3)

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, Repeat the sounding joy (x3)

No more let sin and sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found (x3)

He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love (x3)

Benediction

Uriel Herinirina

Postlude

Symphony V - Toccata
Chalres M. Widor

Kemp Smeal

(You are invited to join us for potluck in the Fellowship Hall immediately following the service.)

THANK YOU

As we come to the close of the year, we invite you to reflect on the ways Glendale City Church has been a place of worship, welcome, music, learning, and community—and to consider how you might partner with us to ensure that this ministry continues to flourish.

Your generosity makes it possible for our doors to remain open and our space to remain properly maintained, safe, and hospitable. Caring for a historic and well-loved facility requires consistent resources, and monthly giving is one of the most effective ways to sustain the life of our church throughout the year.

Your gift—at any level—directly supports the daily, behind-the-scenes work that keeps Glendale City Church vibrant, welcoming, and running strong. To give, please scan the QR code, select your preferred giving level, and choose “set up recurring donation.” Thank you for your faithfulness, your generosity, and your commitment to the ongoing life of GCC.



Our sincere thanks to all who made this service possible. We are grateful to our section readers, as well as to the musicians who contributed so beautifully: Kemp Smeal on piano and organ; the GCC Choir for their dedicated and inspiring singing; Dr. Clarissa Shan for her beautiful vocal offertory; and Monique McGuffin Newman for her lovely harp music. We're grateful for the time, skill, and care each of you shared.