



PEOPLES CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

4704 13TH STREET NW
Washington, District of Columbia 20011

Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Rev. Benjamin Ledell Bragg-Reynolds
Interim Minister

*"This is the Day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it." (Psalm 118:24 NRSV)*

ENTER TO WORSHIP...

THE SACRED SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 21, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

The Liturgical Color is Violet

Centering Thought

“We are a people grown weary of waiting. We dwell in the midst of cynical people, and we have settled for what we can control. We do know that you hold initiative for our lives, that your love planned our salvation before we saw the light of day. And so we wait for your coming in your vulnerable baby in whom all things are made new.”

- Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth*

CAROLS IN BRASS

The Old Vic Quartet

THE PRELUDE

Katherine Kennicott Davis

Little Drummer Boy
Praise Ensemble

THE VERSICLES

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

Minister: Glory to God in the Highest!

People: **And on earth, peace and good will toward all people!**

*THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

No. 199 AAHH

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. 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.
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exaltation! Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above: “Glory to God in the highest!” O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
3. Yea, Lord we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus to thee be all glory giv’n! 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.

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Deacons Albertha Workman and Natasha DeBose

THE ADVENT READING

Natasha DeBose

THE CHORAL CALL TO PRAISE

Felix Mendelssohn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

1. 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.”
2. Christ by highest heav’n 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 as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King.”
3. Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Son of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, ris’n with healing in his wings. Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die, born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn king.”

THE INVOCATION AND OUR SAVIOR’S PRAYER

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

God of mystery, God of revelation, God of joyful sound, we worship You with the most profound devotion and with the simplest wonder at the foot of a manger bed, singing in the Spirit so that our joy may be received as true worship; as we pray the prayer Jesus taught us by saying, “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 PRAYER RESPONSE

Silent Night, Holy Night
Deacon Isaac Jackson, Soloist

THE GREETING

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

THE LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE FIRST LESSON

Julien Kearns

Genesis 3:8-15

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

No. 188 AAHH

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appears. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!
2. O come, Thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by Thine advent here; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

THE SECOND LESSON

Hunter Parler

A Prayer for Advent (The Mood of Christmas by Howard Thurman) “A Prayer for Advent”

Away in a Manger
Peoples Handbell Ensemble

John T. McFarland/James R. Murray

THE THIRD LESSON

Nathaniel Romine

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

O, Holy Night
Aaron Cox, French Horn

Adolphe Adam

THE FOURTH LESSON

Naomi Fitzgerald

***I will light candles this Christmas* (The Mood of Christmas by Howard Thurman)**

Carol of the Bells

M. Leontovich/Peter J. Wilhousky

THE FIFTH LESSON

Lana Washington

Luke 1:26-35, 38

Mary, Did You Know?
Peoples Rhythmic Choir

Buddy Greene

THE SIXTH LESSON

Rachael Romine

Matthew 1:18-25

Angels We Have Heard on High
(Vs 1, Men; Vs 2, Women; Vs 3, All)

No. 206 AAHH

1. 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.
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong? What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.
3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing; Come adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

A READING FROM THE MOOD OF CHRISTMAS

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

The Singing of Angels
(by Howard Thurman)

Sweet Little Jesus Boy
Andre Kearns, Soloist

arr. Warren D. Hood II

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Ricky Washington

Luke 2: 8-18

Rise Up Shepherd and Follow

Traditional

1. There's a star in the East on Christmas morn, Rise up, shepherd, and follow, It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, Rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow, follow, Rise up, shepherd, and follow. Follow the Star of Bethlehem, Rise up, shepherd, and follow.

THE NINTH LESSON

Christopher Monsanto

When the song of the angels is stilled..
(The Mood of Christmas by Howard Thurman)

We Three Kings
Sarah Ramson, Soloist

John J. Hopkins, Jr

THE TENTH LESSON

Jacques Kearns

**The Congregation is invited to stand in honor of the reading of the incarnation*

John 1:1-5, 14

Jesus, The Light of the World
(Vs 1, All; Vs 2, Women, Vs 3, Men, Vs 4, All)

1. Hark the herald angels sing; Jesus, the light of the world. Glory to the newborn King; Jesus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.
2. Joyful, all ye nations, rise. Jesus, the light of the world. Join the triumph of the skies. Jesus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.
3. Christ, by highest heav'n adored. Jesus, the light of the world. Christ, the everlasting Lord, Jesus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.
4. Hail! The heav'n born Prince of Peace. Jesus, the light of the world. Hail! The Son of righteousness! Jesus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.

THE OFFERING

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

Now Behold the Lamb
Kimberly Barnette and Gloria Allen, Soloists

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

THE OFFERTORY RESPONSE

We Give Thee But Thine Own
We give Thee but Thine own, what e'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone,
A trust, O Lord, from Thee. Amen

THE WORDS OF PARTING

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

Amen

Traditional

Brenda Smith, Judith Howell, Nina Faulk-Knight, Soloists

THE BENEDICTION

Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett

***THE RECESSIONAL HYMN**

No. 197 AAHH

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare him room,
and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns; let all their songs employ; let fields and floods, rocks, hills,
and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove the glories of his
righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders, and wonders of his
love.

THE POSTLUDE

Traditional

Go Tell It on the Mountain
The Old Vic Quartet

***All who are able, please stand ***Worshippers may enter**

Dr. Robert L. Jefferson, Director of Worship and Peoples Congregational Choir
Minister Diedre D. Gray, Assistant Director of Worship and Peoples Praise

Minister Geneva Hudson, Minister of Congregational Care
Minister Francis Smith, Minister of Community Engagement
Dr. Helga Baskett-Tippett - Ministerial Team
Rev. George Walker - Ministerial Team

Arlene King-Berry, Coordinator of Readers

*AAHH - African American Heritage Hymnal

**All who are able, please stand

The Old Vic Quartet

CP Enyi – Trumpet/Director
Jillian Rosenberg - French Horn
Faith Tarkang - Trombone
Zachary Beekey - Trumpet

Audio Team

Jackie Greene	Donika Palmer
Erik Wright	Jimmy Nguyen
Jerry Paris	Robert Stone

Peoples Congregational Choir

Soprano

Karlene Baddy
Esther Williams
Nina Faulk-Knight
Brenda Smith
Kathy Holt
Vivian Jackson
*Toni Robinsin

Tenor

Judith Howell
Jennine Jackson
Andre Kearns
*Robert Veiga

Bass/Baritone

Mercy Akai
*Isaac Jackson
Rick Lee
Diane Miller

*Section Leaders

Alto

*Gloria Allen
Vernandi Richardson
Kimberly Barnette

Peoples Praise

Brenda Smith
Esther Williams
Kathy Holt
Jennine Jackson
Rick Lee
Mercy Akai

Music Ministry Administrator/Librarian, Lise Stevens

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