**Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**

**Sunday, December 10, 2017**

**Processional Hymn**- O Come, All Ye Faithful #118

**Welcome**

**Prayer for Advent:** BASpg. 63 # 4

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe,

Creator of light and darkness.

In this Holy season, when the sun’s light is swallowed up by the growing darkness of the night,

You renew your promise to reveal among us the splendour of your Glory, enfleshed and visible to us in Jesus Christ your Son.

Through the prophets, you teach us to hope for his reign of peace.

Through the outpouring of his Spirit, you open our blindness to the Glory of his presence. Strengthen us in our weakness.

Support our stumbling efforts to do your will and free our tongues to Sing your praise. For to you all honour and blessing are due,

Now and forever. Amen.

**Advent Candle Lighting** *(As the candles are lit, the candle lighting hymn is sung)*

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright. A candle of Hope in December’s dark night. While angels sing blessings from heavn’s starry sky, our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of Peace. A candle to signal that conflict must cease. For Jesus is coming to show us the way, a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.

**A Christmas Prayer of Confession** *(from Voices United)*

God of stables, stars and surprises,

Of light and hope and new life:

Open our eyes and hearts to your presence in our world,

Forgive our obsession with property and possessions,

Forgive our compromises and narrowness of vision.

Open us to your grace,

That we might hear again the song of the angels,

And respond with a song in our hearts,

And in our lives. Amen.

**First Lesson – Isaiah 11, 1-4 & 6 Jenifer Warford**

**Hymn** - OCome, O Come Emmanuel#89 vs. 1, 6 & 7

**Second Lesson- Isaiah 40: 1-5 Matthew Morrell**

**Hymn** –Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus #88

**Third lesson- Isaiah 9:2; 6-7 Crystal Button**

**Youth Choir Anthem** - *When a Child is Born*

**Fourth Lesson- Isaiah 7:14, 40:9 Hanna Lomholt-Farrell**

**Senior Choir Anthem** - *Lo, How a Rose Ere Blooming*

**Fifth Lesson- Luke 1:26-35; 38 Betty Howell**

**Youth Choir Anthem** - *The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*

**Sixth Lesson-** **Luke 2: 1; 3-7 Grace DeHann**

**Hymn** -Silent Night #119 (vs. 1-3 and verse 1 with ASL)

**Seventh Lesson- Luke 2:8-16 Daniel Button**

**Hymn** - Angels From the Realms of Glory #143

**Offertory Hymn** – Away in a Manger #126

**Prayer Over the Gifts:**

God our strength, we are nothing without you.
Receive all we offer you this day

As you sustain us with your mercy;
In the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Eighth Lesson- Matthew 2:1-12 Matthew Benoit**

**Senior Choir Anthem** - *Beautiful Star of Bethlehem*

**Ninth Lesson- John 1:1-14 Cynthia Dawe**

**Hymn** - Hark the Herald Angels Sing # 138

**A Christmas Prayer** (*From Voices United*)

Eternal God,

In Jesus Christ your light shines in our darkness, giving joy to our sorrow and presence in our loneliness. Fill us with the mystery of your Word made flesh, until our hearts overflow with praise and joy, for he is the beginning and the end of all that exists,

Living forevermore. Amen.

*All*:Remember, God, your people bowed before you, and those who are absent through age, sickness, or any other cause. Care for the infants, guide the young, support the aged, inspire the faint-hearted, and bring the wandering to your fold. Journey with the travellers, encourage the oppressed, defend the widows, deliver the captives, heal the sick. Strengthen all who are in tribulation, necessity or distress. Remember for good those who love us, and those who hate us, and those who have asked us, unworthy as we are to pray for them. Remember especially, Lord, those who whom we have forgotten. For you are the helper of the helpless, the saviour of the lost, the refuge of the wanderer, the healer of the sick. You know the needs of all and have heard each prayer: save us in your merciful loving-kindness and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Closing Hymn** - Joy to the World! #138

**Benediction**

**Choral Benediction** - I am Walking a Path of Peace

I am walking a path of peace, I am walking a path of peace

I am walking a path of peace, lead me home, lead me home.

I am walking a path of peace, I am walking a path of peace,

I am walking a path of peace, lead me home, I am home.

The bulletin this evening is donated in loving memory of Choir Members whose voices we no longer hear,

But who remain forever in our hearts.