



First Evangelical Church presents

# PREPARE HIM ROOM

A Christmas Festival  
of Lessons & Carols

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HIM ROOM

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of Lessons & Carols

34<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration

December 10, 2023

presented by

First Evan Worship Choir,  
Orchestra, Soloists, and Readers

# Orchestral Prelude

## “Carol of the Bells”

Daniel Gilbert, violin; Diego Parra, piano

## Carol

### “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*(all, standing)*

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 heav’n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest.

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,  
With joy we embrace Thee, with awe and love;  
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?

Yea, Lord we greet Thee, born this happy morning!  
Jesus to Thee be all glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing.

*(please be seated)*

# Welcome and Opening Prayer

Taylor Park, Executive Pastor

FIRST LESSON  
The Fall  
Genesis 3:8–15, 17–19

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*They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, 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?" And 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 of 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 of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."*

*And to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain 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, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."*

## **"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"**

*(all, standing)*

**Come, Thou long-expected Jesus, born to set Thy People free;  
From our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in Thee.**

**Come to us, redeem and cleanse us, show us mercy, grant us peace.  
Heir unto the throne of David fear and strife shall ever cease.**

**By Thy own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;  
By Thine all sufficient merit, raise us to Thy glorious throne.**

**Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth Thou art;  
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

*(please be seated)*

SECOND LESSON  
The Promise of Peace

**Isaiah 11:1–3a, 4a, 6–9**

*There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from His roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth.*

*The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf 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 his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all My holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.*

**“So Long, Moses”**

**Mae Sistrunk, soloist**

So long, Moses. Hello, Promised Land.  
It was a long, long road, but your people are home.  
So long, Moses.

Hello, Joshua. Goodbye, Canaanites.  
We're coming to town, twelve tribes and no crown.  
No crown, O Lord.  
We want a king on a throne full of power,  
With a sword in his fist.  
Will there ever be, will there ever be a king like this?

Hello, Saul, first king of Israel.  
You were foolish and strong, so you didn't last long.  
Goodbye, Saul.

Oh, but hail, King David, shepherd from Bethlehem,  
Set the temple of God in mighty Jerusalem.  
He was a king on a throne full of power, with a sword in his fist.  
Has there ever been, has there ever been a king like this?  
Full of wisdom, full of strength, the hearts of the people are his,  
Hear, O Israel, was ever there a king like this?

So hello, prophets. The kingdom is broken now.  
The people of God, they've been scattered abroad.  
For how long, O lord?

Oh, so speak, Isaiah, prophet of Judah.  
Can you tell of the one? This king's going to come.  
Will He be a king on throne full of power, with a sword in his fist?  
Prophet, tell us: will there be another king like this?  
Full of wisdom, full of strength, the hearts of the people are His.  
Prophet, tell us: will there be another king like this?

And Isaiah said, "He'll bear no beauty or glory.  
Rejected, despised, a man of such sorrow, we'll cover our eyes.  
He'll take up our sicknesses and carry our tears.  
And for His people, He will be pierced.  
He'll be crushed for our evils, our punishment feel.  
And by His wounds, we will be healed, we will be healed."

From you, O Bethlehem, small among Judah,  
a Ruler will come ancient and strong.

### THIRD LESSON

## The Promise of Light

### Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

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*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.*

*For unto us a Child is born, to us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder, and His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over His kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.*

### **“For Unto Us”**

For unto us a Child is born,  
Unto us a Son is given.

And the government shall be upon His shoulder;  
And His Name shall be called  
Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God,  
The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

FOURTH LESSON  
The Birth Foretold

**Luke 1:26–27, 30–35, 38**

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*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call His name 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 father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.*

**“Magnificat”**

**Olivia Grace Atkinson, soloist**

My soul will magnify the Lord;  
I rejoice in God, my Savior, in the wonder of His favor.  
For He has done great things for me;  
He was mindful of His servant; every age shall call me blessed.  
The Hope of Abraham come in the giving of a Son;  
For He who promised is mighty in remembering His mercy.

My soul will magnify the Lord  
For His grace to those who fear Him through ev'ry generation.  
The proud He scatters to the wind as the ruler's strength is broken  
And the rich are left with nothing.  
The humble lifted high, and the hungry satisfied;  
Our Portion and our Treasure; Our Hope and Help forever.

My soul will magnify the Lord;  
I rejoice in God, my Savior,  
In the wonder of His favor.

## FIFTH LESSON

# The Birth

**Luke 2:1-7**

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*In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.*

### **“Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence”**

Let all mortal flesh keep silence,  
And with fear and trembling stand.  
Ponder nothing earthly minded,  
For with blessing in His hand  
Christ our God to Earth descendeth,  
Our full homage to demand.

King of kings, yet born of Mary,  
As of old on Earth He stood.  
Lord of lords in human vesture,  
In the body and the blood.  
He will give to all the faithful,  
His own self for Heavenly food.

At His feet the six-winged seraph,  
Cherubim with sleepless eye,  
Veil their faces to the presence,  
As with ceaseless voice they cry.  
Alleluia, Alleluia. Alleluia, Lord Most High!



## SIXTH LESSON

# The Angels

**Luke 2:8–14**

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*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased!"*

### **“Hark The Herald Angels Sing”**

*(all, standing)*

**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 heav’n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come, offspring of a 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!”***

**Hail the heav’n-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 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!”***

*(please be seated)*

# SEVENTH LESSON

## The Shepherds

Luke 2:15-19

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*When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.*

### **"A Blessed Messiah Born"**

Good people all, this Christmas time,  
Consider well and bear in mind,  
What our God for us has done  
In sending His beloved Son.  
With Mary holy we should pray  
To God with love this Christmas Day;  
In Bethlehem, upon the morn,  
There was a blessed Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep  
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;  
To whom the angels did appear,  
Which put the shepherds in great fear.  
"Prepare and go," the angels said,  
"To Bethlehem, be not afraid,  
For there you'll find, this happy morn,  
A babe, a King, sweet Jesus, born."  
The baby Jesus was born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind  
The shepherds went the babe to find;  
And as God's angels had foretold,  
They did our Savior Christ behold!  
Within a manger he was laid  
And by His side the virgin maid  
Attending on the Lord of Life,  
Who came to earth to end all strife.

EIGHTH LESSON  
The Good News

**1 John 4:9-10**

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*In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent His only Son into the world, so that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

**“Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”**

**Ron Man, conductor**

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse’s lineage coming, as saints 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 behold it, the virgin mother kind.  
To show God’s love aright she bore to us a Savior,  
When half-spent was the night.

Of the Father’s love begotten, ere the world began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega, He the source, the ending He,  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!

Lo, how a Rose e’er blooming from tender stem hath sprung.  
Evermore and evermore!

NINTH LESSON  
The Wise Men

**1 John 3:1a, John 3:16**

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*See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. "For God so loved the world, that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.*

MESSAGE

**Rev. Taylor Park, Executive Pastor**

**"O Holy Night"**

**Ephie Johnson and Curt Bicknell, soloists**

O holy night!

The stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared, and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope—the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming,  
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.  
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,  
Here came the wise men from Orient land.  
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger,  
In all our trials born to be our Friend.  
He knows our need—to our weakness is no stranger.  
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall we break, for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night when Christ was born!  
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

# “Joy to the World”

*(all, standing)*

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns:  
Let men their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
Nor thorns infest the ground:  
He comes to make His blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.

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, wonders of His love.

*Choir:*

And wonders, wonders of His love!

BENEDICTION

# First Evan Worship Choir

**Dr. Ken Boer, Pastor of Worship**

Olivia Grace Atkinson	Nancy Hart	John McWhorter
Judy Baird	Tina Heindel	Debra Meadows
Michelle Bechchar	Chip Hill	Daniel Newman
Katelynn Bernardini	Lorinda Hill	Patricia Newman
Curt Bicknell	Bernie Housholder	Larry Nobles
Teresa Blanton	Eileen Hughes	Vicki Nobles
Allan Bowden	David Jacobson	Chris Scholik
Mary Brumfield	Rick Jordan	Phil Shidler
Sara Butler	Kathryn LaVire	Mae Sistrunk
Sara Coates	Clarice Main	Phil Sistrunk
Twyla Dixon	John Main	Greg Thompson
April Fichthorn	Joelle Marino	Terry Thompson
Barbara Flanagan	Ruth Marino	Sharon White
Loren Friesen	Joseph Marino	Dan Wicher
Beverly Garrison	Ron Man	Sue Wicher
Deborah Graves	Peggy Massey	Sara Wright
Felicity Hall	Mark McKenzie	

## Orchestra

Members of the Memphis Symphony Orchestra and friends

## Instrumentalists from First Evan

<b>Violin</b>	Daniel Gilbert, Lori Gilbert, Amelia Boer
<b>Flute</b>	Nerida Herz, Lori Ingram
<b>French Horn</b>	Doris Shifflette
<b>Bass</b>	Betsy Man
<b>Piano</b>	Jamie Scholik
<b>Organ</b>	Trent England
<b>Percussion</b>	Ron Man
<b>Guitars</b>	Phil Thompson
<b>Bass Guitar</b>	Carter Boer

# Readers

## Lesson 9:00 a.m.

1. Vivian Danis (Netherlands)
2. Kathleen Kute (South Sudan)
3. Anies Kunda (South Sudan)
4. Ricky Varela (Argentina)
5. Kim Arnwine (South Korea)
6. Esther Kerns (India)
7. Stephanie Zywicki (Brazil/Israel)
8. Paola Castañeda (Mexico)
9. Nova Cisneros (Sweden/Mexico)

## 10:45 a.m.

Kathleen Kizer  
Greg Armstrong  
David Coates  
Cheryl Westbrook  
Abigail Klassy  
Charlie White  
Anna Phillips  
Daisy Holler  
Jack Love

# Special Thanks

## Worship Ministry Assistants

Katelynn Bernardini and Paige Poloni

## Soloists

Olivia Grace Atkinson, Curt Bicknell, Ephie Johnson,  
Felicity Hall, Mae Sistrunk

## Guest Pianist

Diego Parra

## Production

Ross Wiley, Ryan Wiley, Luke Hall

## Program Design

Stephanie Johnson

## Church Decorations

Women's Ministry Team, Christy Bicknell, Sharon Mrok,  
First Evan Maintenance Team and Staff

"Carol of the Bells" arr. Duane Funderburk © 2005. "O Come, All Ye Faithful" by Frederick Oakeley and John F. Wade. "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" by Dan and Heidi Goeller, arr. Dan Goeller © 2008. "So Long, Moses" by Andrew Peterson, arr. Carson Wagner and Russell Mauldin, orch. Carson Wagner and Ben Shive © 2005. "For Unto Us" by G.F. Handel (1741). "Magnificat" by Keith and Kristyn Getty and Stuart Townend, orch. J.A.C. Redford, choral arr. Michael McGlynn © 2009. "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence," traditional French melody (1906), arr. Isaac Wardell and Mason Neely © 2009, orch. Ron Man. "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" by Charles Wesley, T. Whitefield, M. Madan, and F. Mendelssohn, arr. David Willcocks © 1961. "A Blessed Messiah Born," traditional English melody, arr. Mary McDonald © 2023. "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming," 15th c. German carol, arr. Jay Rouse © 2015. "O Holy Night" by John S. Dwight and Adolphe C. Adam, arr. Cliff Duren © 2022. "Joy to the World" by Isaac Watts and Lowell Mason, arr. Mack Wilberg © 2001. CCLI #47316



# Seasonal Calendar

## **Today**

### **International Brunch**

10:20 a.m., Fellowship Hall

## **Wednesday, December 13**

### **FEC Kids “Emmanuel: A Live Nativity Event”**

6:00 p.m., Dinner, Fellowship Hall

Nativity held in Gym

## **Sunday, December 17**

### **Regular Schedule**

Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

## **Sunday, December 24**

*No Sunday School*

Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

Childcare for ages 2 and under

## **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

### **with Children's Nativity**

5:00 p.m., Sanctuary

*Family Service, No Childcare*

## **Sunday, December 31**

*No Sunday School*

Worship Service, 10:45 a.m., Sanctuary

Childcare for ages 2 and under

## **Church Offices Closed Saturday–Monday,**

### **December 23–26 and Monday, January 1**

*For year-end giving, the Finance Office will be open*

*Wednesday, December 27–Friday, December 29*

*from 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Saturday, December 30  
and Sunday, December 31 from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.*

**Offering chests are located at all the main entrances,  
or you may give through our app or online:**

***[www.firstevan.org/giving](http://www.firstevan.org/giving)***

