

Our program is based on the "Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols," which has taken place every Christmas Eve since 1918 at King's College in Cambridge, England. The history of this service goes back to the Middle Ages. Special observances, such as Christmas, were marked by a series of nine lessons and carols, and later revised for use at King's College.

The scriptural lessons which tell the story of redemption are the main focus of the service. The music and meditations are included to enhance our response to God's Word.

King's College has many traditions, such as the service opening with the Christmas Bidding Prayer and the Lord's Prayer, which we do here at the Evangelical Free Church. We have developed the tradition of singing the hymns "O Come, All Ye Faithful," and "Joy to the World," and we close our service each year with "Silent Night."

Please silence your cell phone during this service. Please do not applaud.

Special Thanks to:

Our church staff, Dan Evans and the Technology crew, all readers and musicians, and tonight's Worship Team: Mischele & Randy McKain, Bethany Anderson, Taumi & Nate Wilson, Grant Wilson, Cody Blomberg.

30TH ANNUAL
FESTIVAL OF
NINE LESSONS & CAROLS
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2024 | 6PM
EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH OF BEMIDJI
Becoming deeply devoted followers of Jesus together.

The Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols

Please follow along as we trace the story of redemption in Scripture and song. Words for the songs are on the overhead screens and in the hymnal. Please stand where indicated. Because of the nature of this service, we ask that you please refrain from applauding.

Prelude Laura Engelstad, piano; Worship Team

Special Music: "The Manger" Valerie Porter, piano
& Brent Ekstrom, cello

Welcome Holly Howes

Christmas Bidding Prayer (please stand) LaDon & Holly Howes

The Lord's Prayer (remain standing) Congregation

Hymn #146 "Joy to the World" (remain standing) Congregation
& Team

First Lesson: Genesis 1:27, 31a; 3:1-15 Rosemary Dent
God gives the promise of redemption after Adam and Eve disobey God.

Second Lesson: Genesis 22:1-2, 11-13, 15-18 Scott Engelstad
God promises Abraham that through his offspring
all nations on earth will be blessed.

Meditation 1 Eric Nygren

Choir: "Waiting and Longing"
Ian Trosen, director; Laura Engelstad, piano

Song: "Midnight Clear" (Love Song) Congregation & Team

Third Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7 Jan Parham
The birth and kingdom of Christ foretold.

Fourth Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a Chris Parthun
Micah prophesies that Bethlehem will be the birthplace of the Messiah.

Meditation 2 Eric Nygren

Special Music: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" Handbells

Hymn #147 "Away in a Manger" (please stand) Congregation
& Team

Fifth Lesson: Luke 1:26-33 Amy Graf & Children
The angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will be the mother of God's Son.

Sixth Lesson: Luke 2:1-7 Amy Graf & Children
Mary and Joseph travel to Bethlehem, where Jesus is born.

Seventh Lesson: Luke 2:8-18 Amy Graf & Children
Angels announce Jesus' birth to the shepherds, and they go to find Him.

Hymn #173 "O Come, All Ye Faithful" Congregation & Team

Meditation 3 Eric Nygren

Special Music: "Breath of Heaven" Anna Parthun

Eighth Lesson: Romans 5:6-11, 19 Nichole Hassebroek
Jesus' death brings reconciliation to God.

Ninth Lesson: John 1:1-14 Jerry Johnson
John helps explain how God became flesh and dwelt among us.

Meditation 4 and Christmas Invitation Eric Nygren

Prayer of Faith

God, You created me to be in fellowship with you, but I have questioned your goodness and have rebelled and gone my own way. I confess that what I deserve is the full penalty for my sin. But you don't wish that my story ends here. God, by faith, I trust that what Jesus has done for me, his saving death on my behalf, is everything I need to be reconciled to you. Thank you for your grace, your mercy, your love. I ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

Hymn #164 "Silent Night" (please stand) Congregation
Randy McKain & Gardell Emery, guitar; Brent Ekstrom, cello

Benediction Jerry Johnson

Postlude Dorothy Salscheider, organ