

Director of Traditional Music & Organist

Kevin Freaney

Strings Quintet:

Sarah Thomas, Violin
Wendy Provencher, Violin
Bryson McIntyre, Viola
Jace Salera, Cello
Charlie Muench, Bass

Harpist:

Mary Mollichella

Flute:

Janice Reigel

Readers:

Julia Webster
James Baker
Judi Slater
Kim MacDonald
Sim Wafula
Donna MacKinley
John Whiteside
Page Warfel

Choir:

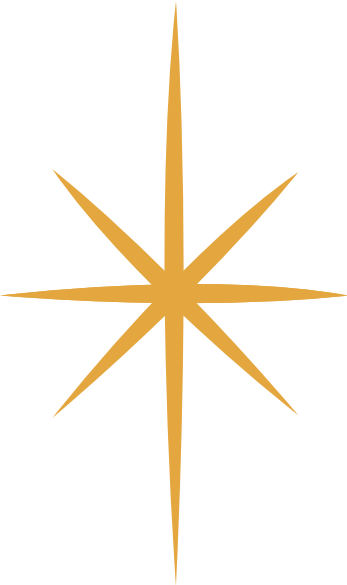
James Baker	Sara Hudson	Bill Schwenk
Bruce Bittenbender	Terri Hudson	Gloria Schwenk
Karen Bittenbender	Ruth Jensen	Judi Slater
Ling Chamberlain	Lynn LaRocca	Katherine Summers
Joy Dodge	Michelle Loaiza	Bill Swinehart
Marti Engle	Dick Mahaffey	Darcy Swinehart
Bruce Field	Phil Mayer	Barry Webster
Carl Fletcher	Jim Nolan	Julia Webster
Paul Don Forbes	Kayo Nolan	Herb Woodruff
Glenn Gorham	Doris Peraino	Kathi Woodruff
Pat Gorman	Jeanine Segal	

This Morning’s Poetry By:

Christine Woolgar, author

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Christmas Eve Services

5:00pm Contemporary
7:00pm Traditional



A Service of Lessons, Anthems, and Carols

Sunday, December 21, 2025

Paoli Presbyterian Church

Prelude: Mary Mollichella, Harpist

Lighting the Advent Candle of Love

Gorman Family

Opening Scripture - Psalm 96

Carol: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (v.1 Choir / v.2 All)

Choir

Infant holy, infant lowly,
for His bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the child, is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing,
bells are ringing, tidings
bringing:
Christ the child is Lord of all;
Christ the child is Lord of all.

All

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds
keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of the gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for all;
Christ the babe was born for all.

First Lesson – “A Wind in the Orchard” (Woolgar)

Poem inspired by Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

Vocal Quartet: “Adam lay ybounden” – Peter Warlock

This carol's lyrics are old, Middle English, reflecting on Adam’s fall and the blessing that Christ’s birth brings in response. Though rooted in humanity’s brokenness, the carol points us to Advent and Christmas, when God’s redeeming love transforms loss into joy, and our song becomes thanksgiving: Deo gratias. (Thanks be to God)

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond:
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
as clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been
Ne had never our lady abeen heavenly queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen: Deo gracias!

Second Lesson - Genesis 22:15-18

Carol: Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus, Hymn #2

Third Lesson – “Who Walks When You Walk in Darkness?” (Woolgar)

Poem inspired by Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Anthem: “Psallite” (Sing We Now) – Michael Praetorius

Psallite comes from a 1609 collection of sacred songs. This lively, dance-like tune calls all to sing and share the good news! The word itself means “sing,” rooted in psallō, which originally referred to plucking the strings of a harp or lyre in Psaltery, praising God with music. Michael Praetorius, one of the great masters of the early Baroque, is also remembered for his beloved carol, Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming.

Psallite unigenito Christo Dei Filio!
Psallite Redemptori Domino,
Puerulo, jacenti in praesepio

Translation:
Sing to the only-begotten, Christ, the Son of God!
Sing to our Lord Redeemer,
the child lying in a manger.
A little child there lies in such a tiny bed.
All the angels in the skies will gather ‘round and sing!

Fourth Lesson – “The King of Peace” (Woolgar)

Poem inspired by Isaiah 11:1-4a, 6-9

Anthem: “There Is No Rose” – John Joubert

There is No Rose (of such virtue) is a setting of a 15th-century English carol that marvels at the mystery of the Incarnation. The rose symbolizes Mary, who bore Christ, and the text proclaims that in her womb heaven and earth were held in ‘little space.’ With luminous harmonies and Latin refrains, Joubert’s setting invites us to leave worldly mirth and follow the joy of Christ’s birth.

Anthem: “There Is No Rose” (continued)

Lyrics:
There is no rose of such virtue
as is the rose that bore Jesu.
Alleluia.
For in this rose contained was
heaven and earth in little space;
(Res miranda) A marvellous thing!
By that rose we may truly see
that he is God in persons three,
(Pares forma) equal in form.
Then leave we all this worldly mirth,
and follow we this joyful birth;
(Transeamus) Let us go!

Fifth Lesson - Luke 1:26-35, 38

Carol: “All Through the Night” (v.1 Choir / v.2 All)

Choir Sleep, my child, and peace attend thee All through the night; Guardian angels God will send thee All through the night. Soft the drowsy hours are creeping, Hill and vale in slumber sleeping, I my loving vigil keeping, All through the night	All While the moon her watch is keeping All through the night; While the weary world is sleeping All through the night. Over thy spirit gently stealing, Visions of delight revealing, Breathes a pure and holy feeling, All through the night.
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Meditation
“Joy & Love”
Luke 1:39-55

Sixth Lesson - Luke 2:1-7

Anthem: “In the Bleak Midwinter” – Harold Darke

This beloved setting of Christina Rossetti’s “In the Bleak Midwinter” captures the tender longing of Advent and the mystery of Christmas. Its closing words remind us: the truest gift we can offer Christ is love, given from the heart.

Anthem: “In the Bleak Midwinter” (continued)

Lyrics:
In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone.
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter long ago.
Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away, when he comes to reign.
In the bleak mid-winter, a stable place sufficed,
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.
Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk, and a manger full of hay.
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel, which adore.
What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb,
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Seventh Lesson - Luke 2:8-16

Anthem: “Glory to God” – from Messiah by G.F. Handel

Pastoral Prayer & The Lord’s Prayer

Anthem: “E’en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come” – Paul Manz

Written as a prayer of hope from the book of Revelation, the lyrics remind us that Christ’s coming brings peace, light, and love to our waiting hearts.

Lyrics:
Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins,
Who loved us all, and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,
Who was and is, and is to come; sing holy, holy Lord.
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming soon!
E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come and night shall be no more;
They need no light, no lamp, nor sun, For Christ will be their All!

Carol: Angels We Have Heard on High, Hymn #23

Benediction
Organ Postlude