



*From Lips Celestial*  
THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CAROL

DECEMBER 11, AD 2022  
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

# *From Lips Celestial*

## THE FIRST CHRISTMAS CAROL

### PROLOGUE

“Let Angels and Archangels Sing”

“Celestial Reel”

When Jordan hushed his waters still and silence slept on Zion’s hill,  
When Beth’hem’s shepherds, thro’ the night, watched o’er their flocks by starry light.  
Hark! from the midnight hills around a voice of more than mortal sound,  
In distant hallelujahs stole, wild murm’ring, on the raptured soul.

Rolling downward, through the midnight, comes a glorious burst of heav’nly song;  
’Tis a chorus full of sweetness  
and the singers are an angel throng: O Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

On wheels of light and wings of flame, the glorious hosts of Zion came.  
High heav’n with songs of triumph rung, while thus they struck their harps and sung:  
Highest praise to the most high God. Glory, glory, glory!  
Gifts of peace to his chosen ones. In Excelsis Deo!

Hear the angels telling of the newborn King,  
all our fears dispelling with the joy they bring.  
We who hear the story of celestial grace,  
See the Father’s glory in the Savior’s face.  
Now we raise our voices with the angelic throng,  
Earth with heav’n rejoices in the Christmas song: Gloria!

### \*WELCOME CALL TO WORSHIP

*From Psalm 103, Psalm 148, Job 38 and Luke 2*

Praise the LORD!  
***Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!***

Praise him, all his angels.  
***Praise him, all his hosts!***

For you were there when he laid earth’s foundation and marked off the  
dimensions of the universe.  
***When the morning stars sang together, you shouted for joy!***

Praise the LORD, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word.  
***Praise the LORD, all his heavenly hosts, you servants who do his will.***

Glory to God in the highest!  
***And peace on those with whom he is pleased.***

**\* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

“Angels from the Realms of Glory”

**LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF JOY**

Jackson, Amy and Daniel Edwards (9 am)

Jack, Sullivan, Everett, Sally and Nathan McBride (11 am)

**NARRATION**

Excerpt from a Charles Spurgeon sermon delivered December 20, 1857.

**CHILDREN’S CAROL**

“The Angels Were Singing” by Greg Gilpin

Joyful Noise Children’s Ensemble

The angels were singing a jubilant strain.

The heavens were ringing; earth caught the refrain.

The angels were singing, good news they did bring:

In Bethlehem’s stable, a baby, a king!

How joyous their singing of peace and goodwill,

And Christmas is bringing that song to us still: Gloria, gloria! In excelsis Deo!

*Children kindergarten and younger may go to Children’s Church as the choir exits.*

**NARRATION**

Luke 2: 8-13

“He Come from the Glory”

The virgin Mary had a baby boy and they say that his name was Jesus.

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom;

O yes, believer! O yes, believer! He come from the glorious kingdom.

O Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

The angels sang when the baby was born and they say that his name was Jesus.

He come from the glory, he come from the glorious kingdom;

O yes, believer! O yes, believer! He come from the glorious kingdom.

O Gloria! In excelsis Deo!

**\* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL**

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

## NARRATION

1 Peter 1: 10-12

## OFFERTORY

“The Darkest Midnight in December”

The darkest midnight in December, no snow, no hail, nor winter storm,  
Shall hinder us for to remember, the babe that on this night was born.  
With shepherds we are come to see, this lovely infant’s glorious charms,  
Born of a maid as prophets said, the God of love in Mary’s arms.

No earthly gifts can we present him, no gold, nor myrrh, no incense sweet.  
But if with hearts we can content him, we humbly lay them at his feet.  
‘Twas but pure love that from above brought him to save us from all harms,  
So let us sing and welcome him, the God of love in Mary’s arms.

We like beasts lay in a stable, our senses blind and dead by sin.  
To help ourselves we were not able, but he brings grace and life again.  
Thus conquered hell, confined the devil, to free our souls from endless harms.  
His life he gave and now you have the God of love in Mary’s arms.

## SCRIPTURE

*Ruth 3: 6-13*

So she went down to the threshing floor and did just as her mother-in-law had commanded her. And when Boaz had eaten and drunk, and his heart was merry, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came softly and uncovered his feet and lay down. At midnight the man was startled and turned over, and behold, a woman lay at his feet! He said, “Who are you?” And she answered, “I am Ruth, your servant. Spread your wings over your servant, for you are a redeemer.” And he said, “May you be blessed by the LORD, my daughter. You have made this last kindness greater than the first in that you have not gone after young men, whether poor or rich. And now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you all that you ask, for all my fellow townsmen know that you are a worthy woman. And now it is true that I am a redeemer. Yet there is a redeemer nearer than I. Remain tonight, and in the morning, if he will redeem you, good; let him do it. But if he is not willing to redeem you, then, as the LORD lives, I will redeem you. Lie down until the morning.”

## MESSAGE

“I Will Redeem You!” Gerrit Dawson

## \* CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”

## NARRATION

“An Angel This Night”

## FINALE

“From Lips Celestial”

O, that I had an angel's tongue, that I might loudly sing:  
The wonders of redeeming love to thee, my God and king!

Let the redeemed of the Lord, their thankful voices raise:  
Can we be dumb while angels sing our great Redeemer's praise?

O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!  
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria, O gloria, in excelsis Deo!

## BENEDICTION

### FROM LIPS CELESTIAL

Christopher Phillips, composer and conductor  
Sarah Rath, dancer

### ORCHESTRA

<b>Flute</b> Rachel Ciraldo	<b>Trumpet</b> Blake Hanna	<b>Timpani &amp; Percussion</b> Skyler Williams
<b>Oboe</b> Tori Conner	<b>Violin</b> Rachel Resse-Kollmeyer Andre Moncrieff	<b>Electric Guitar</b> Charles Myer
<b>Clarinet</b> Michael Bartnik	<b>Viola</b> Catherine Chen	<b>Electric Bass</b> Jordan Tupper
<b>Bassoon</b> Clark Gomez	<b>Cello</b> Luis Bernardo	<b>Piano and Synth</b> Steve Gustafson
<b>French Horn</b> Lauren Braud	<b>Double Bass</b> Yong Hao Pan	

### FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHORAL ENSEMBLE

Marsha Dyess	James Burcalow
Sarah Gustafson	Nathan Carley
Angelle High	Bobby Carnes
Von Iyengar	Scott Graham
Carol Lazar	Dedrian Hogan
Cheryl Lott	Jesse Kneisler
Leah Lott	Peter Lazar
Nancy McAdams	Lance Lott
Susan McCarter	Mike O'Quinn
Judy McGimsey	Phil Osborne
Anne O'Quinn	Larry Simeral
Tootie Perry	Joshua Staes
Virginia Phillips	Khary Wilson
Cathy Pugsley	
Virginia Simeral	
Roxanne Struppeck	
Fran White	



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

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**Welcome.** We are glad you're here. If you are visiting with us, please use the Visitor Card in the pew racks, our church app (FPCBR in the App Store) or online at [fpcbr.org/connect](https://fpcbr.org/connect).

**Prayer Requests.** We'd love to pray for you. Prayer requests may be sent to [prayer@fpcbr.org](mailto:prayer@fpcbr.org), through the church app or by filling out a card in the pew rack.

**Christmas Offering for City Ministry.** Our annual Christmas offering (December 11-25) goes directly to support The Christian Outreach Center and the daily operations of Gardere Community Christian School. Offering envelopes are in the pew racks or you may use the online donation form.

**Downtown Carol Pilgrimage Today.** Join us tonight! The Pilgrimage begins at Mt. Zion at 5.30 pm and arrives at FPC at approximately 6.30 pm.

**IFP Christmas Cookie Social.** All are invited to this month's International Friendship Partners (IFP) social Friday, December 16 at the Kozan home (3565 Cole Dr.), 6 to 8 pm.

**Last Day for Christmas Poinsettia Orders.** Today is the last day to place an order for memorial poinsettias. Help decorate the Chapel and Sanctuary by purchasing a poinsettia in memory or celebration of a loved one. The cost is \$35 per plant. You may use the order form at the Connection Center.

**Christmas Worship, December 24 and 25.** Three festive Christmas Eve services of carols, candlelight and communion: 11 am (family-friendly), 4 and 6 pm. On Christmas Day, we will have "A Quiet Christmas" service at 5 pm in the Chapel.

**Socks and Mittens for "Jonathan's Joy" Ministry.** Jonathan's Joy is a ministry in honor of Jonathan Pugsley which collects socks and mittens during the holidays for the needy. All are invited to drop donations in the collection boxes located in the So Loved and Kingdom Kids halls. Men, women and children's items are appreciated.

**Christmas Bags for Malachi Dads.** Toiletry items are being collected for Christmas bags to be distributed to the Malachi Dads (prisoners) at Angola Penitentiary. Please consider making a donation and dropping it off at the Connection Center. Cash donations accepted.

**Estimates of Giving.** Please remember to make your 2023 Estimate of Giving. Use the pew card, email Carol ([carol@fpcbr.org](mailto:carol@fpcbr.org)) or use the online form ([fpcbr.org](https://fpcbr.org)).

**New Year's Combined Worship.** Join us for our one 10.30 am service on January 1, 2023.

**Distaster Relief Trip to Fort Myers, January 2-7.** Please call Whitney Alexander if you would like more information (225.810.2607).

**How Can Your Amazon Purchase Help FPC?** Start your Amazon shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com). Shop as you normally would on the site, at no extra cost to you, without creating a separate account. Amazon will donate .5% of the purchase price from your AmazonSmile account to the church.

**Meal Ministry Needs Volunteers.** First Presbyterian's Meal Ministry provides meals and welcoming hospitality to those in need. Please contact Emily Viguerie to volunteer to prepare and deliver a meal ([emily@fpcbr.org](mailto:emily@fpcbr.org)).

**Next Sunday's Scripture:** Ruth 4: 1-6; 13-17

Sanctuary services are video recorded and livestreamed.



DEEPER IN CHRIST, FURTHER INTO THE WORLD

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