The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir of First Presbyterian Church of El Cajon invite all to a

Service of Advent Lessons & Carols on

Sunday, December 18th at 4:30 p.m.

(A light reception will follow)

Prepare your hearts for the coming of the Christ child by hearing the Word not through a sermon but through ‘lessons’, or scripture readings, and accompanying choral anthems and carols.

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The Historical Background of the Lessons and Carols Service

The tradition of the Lessons and Carols Service goes back to 19th century England. Before this time, Christmas carols (considered to be secular) were sung by singers at people’s houses. In the Victorian Era church musicians were encouraged to integrate carols into the church service, and the first Lessons and Carols Service was conducted on Christmas Eve, 1880. This service proclaimed the Word not through a sermon but through “lessons”, or scripture readings, and accompanying choral anthems and carols.