



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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***A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, a Historical Worship Service, to be Celebrated
in Perkins Chapel at SMU on December 6, 2007***

Dallas, Texas – Perkins School of Theology will present an inspiring celebration with exquisite dance and music in the tradition of *A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols* on Thursday, December 6, 2007 at 4:00 and 8:00 p.m. in Perkins Chapel at 6001 Bishop Boulevard. Parking will be available on Bishop Boulevard.

A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols, originating at the cathedral of Truro in Cornwall, England on Christmas Eve, 1880, is the retelling in scripture and song of the story of our redemption in Jesus Christ. Nearly four decades later the service was modified and introduced to King's College in 1918 by Dean Eric Milner-White and Organist Arthur H. Mann. Since that time the King's College tradition has been adopted by many other communities around the world.

While this year's service at Perkins Chapel attempts to maintain the drama of the original, it also reflects more fully the liturgical context of the Advent season (rather than Christmas Eve), the musical traditions of Perkins School of Theology and Meadows School of the Arts, and the multicultural environment of SMU. The Christmas Worship Service, sponsored by Perkins, was instituted by Professors Grady Hardin and Lloyd Pfautsch in 1959 and is shared chorally between the Seminary Singers and one of the choirs from Meadows. Dr. Carlton Young collaborated with Dr. Pfautsch between 1964 and 1975. Between 1976 and 1990, the tradition continued with the late Professor Roger

Deschner from Perkins. Professor Pfautsch retired in 1992. Dr. Robert T. Anderson, *Emeritus* University Professor of Organ and Sacred Music, performed as service organist for 35 years, concluding with the service in 1995.

Professor Michael Hawn has prepared this service in collaboration with Meadows School of the Arts since 1992. Upon his appointment to the faculty of Perkins School of Theology in 2006, Dr. Christopher Anderson became the service organist. Dr. Pamela Elrod, Director of Choral Activities at Meadows School of the Arts, makes her debut with this service as director of the Meadows Women's Ensemble.

In celebration of the tercentennial of Charles Wesley's birth, December 18, 1707, three Wesley hymns are included in the service this year.

Perkins School of Theology is one of five University-related official schools of theology of The United Methodist Church. The school was founded in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church South, now The United Methodist Church. Degree programs include the Master of Church Ministries, Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Music, Master of Theological Studies, and Doctor of Ministry degree, as well as the Ph.D. in cooperation with SMU's Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.

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