



LESSONS & CAROLS

*A Service of Lessons & Carols on the Second Sunday after Christmas Day
sung by the Christ Church Parish Choir
and Church Street Choral Academy*

*January 4, 2026
5:00 p.m.*

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
Greenville, South Carolina

ORDER OF SERVICE

In preparation for the service, we invite your quiet prayers and ask that you please silence your cell phone

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Donald W. Duncan, Director of Liturgy & Music

The congregation stands at the sound of the Tower Bell for the Hymn in Procession.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION | Hymn No. 117

Brightest and best of the stars of the morning

THE BIDDING

Brothers and sisters, as we journey through the twelve days of Christmas and look forward to the Feast of the Epiphany, we are gathered to celebrate with joy the appearance of God's glory in the world through the birth of Jesus, who is Emmanuel, God with us; to reflect upon the visit of the magi bringing homage to their King at his birth; and, to hear the prophetic words revealing the Christ child as a light to lighten all people. As we rejoice in this, the Word made flesh, who called us out of darkness into light, so we pray that his love and faithfulness may be known in all the world.

We pray for the unity and mission of Christ's Church, and for all who minister the gospel of Christ, we pray for the world, that we may have reverence for the natural order and respect for every person, made in the image and likeness of God, and we pray for those who stand in need, for the lonely, the fearful, the sick and the bereaved, and for all who have no one to pray for them.

May God our Father take us and use us in his service; may he open our eyes to see his glory, and equip us to bless his people, now and at all times. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

+ THE FIRST LESSON +

The promised Messiah will be born in Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. *Micah 5: 2-4*

All stand and join in singing.

THE CAROL | Hymn No. 79

O little town of Bethlehem

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you, bring the nations into your fold, pour out your Spirit upon all flesh, and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

+ THE SECOND LESSON +

The Word is made Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

John 1:1-14

All stand and join in singing.

THE CAROL | Hymn No. 114

'Twas in the moon of wintertime

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

+ THE THIRD LESSON +

Christ is born in Bethlehem

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Luke 2:8-20

All stand and join in singing.

THE CAROL | Hymn No. 112

In the bleak midwinter

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, inkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

+ THE FOURTH LESSON +

The journey of the Magi

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Matthew 2:1-6

All stand and join in singing.

THE CAROL | Hymn No. 124

What star is this with beams so bright

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

+ THE FIFTH LESSON +

The Magi present their gifts to the holy child

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road. *Matthew 2:7-12*

All stand and join in singing.

THE CAROL | Hymn No. 128

We three kings

THE COLLECT

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

+ THE SIXTH LESSON +

The glory of the Lord is come

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Isaiah 60:1-6

All stand and join in singing.

THE CAROL (found on p. 7 of this booklet)

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

THE COLLECT

Let us pray. Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated.

THE WORDS OF WELCOME

The Rev. David Upton

*This evening's offering will be directed to the Christ Church Liturgy & Music Ministry
in support of these special services of worship offered throughout the year.*

THE ORGAN VOLUNTARY AT THE OFFERTORY

Donald W. Duncan, Director of Liturgy & Music

THE CONCLUDING PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Be our light in the darkness, O Lord, and in your great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of your only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore:
Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you,
all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women
everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

Amen.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you.

Amen.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen.

THE CONCLUDING HYMN | Hymn No. 119

As with gladness men of old

Stanza 1 - Choir

Stanza 2 - All

Stanza 3 - Choir

Stanza 4 - All

Stanza 5 - All

THE RETIRING PROCESSION & VOLUNTARY

Donald W. Duncan, Director of Liturgy & Music

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

1 Wor - ship the Lord in the beau - ty of ho - li - ness;
 2 Low at his feet lay thy bur - den of care - ful - ness;
 3 Fear not to en - ter his courts in the slen - der - ness
 4 These though we bring them in trem - bling and fear - ful - ness,
 5 Wor - ship the Lord in the beau - ty of ho - li - ness;

bow down be - fore him, his glo - ry pro - claim;
 high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
 of the poor wealth thou canst reck - on as thine;
 he will ac - cept for the name that is dear,
 bow down be - fore him, his glo - ry pro - claim;

gold of o - be - dience and in - cense of low - li - ness
 com - fort thy sor - rows, and ans - wer thy prayer - ful - ness,
 truth in its beau - ty and love in its ten - der - ness,
 morn - ings of joy give for eve - nings of tear - ful - ness,
 gold of o - be - dience and in - cense of low - li - ness

bring, and a - dore him: the Lord is his name!
 guid - ing thy steps as may best for thee be.
 these are the of - ferings to lay on his shrine.
 trust for our trem - bling, and hope for our fear.
 bring, and a - dore him: the Lord is his name!

Text: John Samuel Bewley Monsell (1811–1875).
 Music: Melody Choral-buch vor Johann Heinrich Rheinhardt, Üttingen, 1754;
 harm. The English Hymnal, 1906.

12 10 12 10
 ÜTTINGEN (WAS LEBET)

The Parish Choir of Christ Church

Donald W. Duncan, Director of Liturgy & Music

Sarah Marczynski, Program Coordinator for Liturgy & Music

Charles Tompkins, Artist in Residence

Curtis Allen
Melissa Black
Graham Bridges
Rachel Clark
Randy Clark
Susan Clark
Mic Cruz
Zermah Dawes
Brian Dennig
Scott Dorriety
Jennifer Dorriety
Connie Dupre
Mary Beth Endicott
Jennifer Fillare
Hilary Hayes
Amy Joye
Wade Kolb
Teresa Lee
Sarah Marczynski
Caroline Marshall
Stuart Miller
Sharon Murray
Andrew Nichols
Avery Noel
Nicole Noel
John Polo
Lynn Ritchie
Gilbert Ritchie
Jim Ross
Rebekah Ruppe
Amelia Smith
Phillip Smith
Adrian Smith
Michael Stokes
Myron Stokes
Josh Thomas
Katherine Trask
David Weigel
Bennett Wright

The Choristers of the Church Street Choral Academy

Decani

Vann Carter
Mary Duncan
Chloe Gaither
Katelyn Jones
Moses McGoogin
Shiloh McIntyre, *Head Chorister*
Sydney Richardson
Lina Russell
Yamileth Solano
Ellie Stubbs

Cantoris

Addy Burmeister
Lucy Carter
Annie Culbertson
Charlie Marie Davis, *Deputy Head Chorister*
Malaya Johnson
Elliana Jones
Sofia Martinez
Elsie Russell
Libby Shirley
Aeva Welgraven



CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL

A JOYFUL COMMUNITY
SHARING LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST