



ADVENT PROCESSION

*A Service of Lessons & Carols
sung by the Christ Church Schola Cantorum
and Church Street Choral Academy
on the First Sunday of Advent.*

December 3, 2023

5:00 p.m.

CHRIST CHURCH EPISCOPAL
Greenville, South Carolina

WELCOME

In the name of our Risen Lord Jesus Christ, we welcome you to Christ Church Episcopal.

Known as the “Parish in the Heart of the City,” Christ Church is blessed by the beauty of its church, chapel, and setting, which have been preserved and expanded by the energy and vision of faithful stewards, both past and present.

For more than two centuries, we have been gathering to worship God and demonstrate our faith in our daily lives. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we are inspired to be *a joyful community sharing life in Jesus Christ.*

We hope you will experience God’s blessings during this service
as we have been blessed by your presence.

CHRIST CHURCH CLERGY

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod, Rector

The Rev. Kellie Wilson, Senior Associate Rector

The Rev. Scott Fleischer, Associate for Pastoral Care

The Rev. Lindy Bunch, Associate for Parish Life

The Rev. Wallace Adams-Riley, CCES Senior Chaplain

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

This evening's service is a form of Lessons & Carols intended to mark the beginning of the Advent season. This unique and inspiring service, based on similar services at Durham Cathedral, Salisbury Cathedral, and Liverpool Cathedral, includes beautiful music sung in various locations of the church. The service begins in darkness, and as the flicker of candlelight fills the church, the story of God's salvation history unfolds in word and music. The singing from various locations in the church (West, East, North and South), as well as the growing illumination of the church, recalls the coming of Jesus as the Light of the World. Our prayer is that this time of worship will offer a measure of God's peace and quietude during this holy season of the year.

The Organ Voluntary

*Prelude on "Christe, Redemptor Omnium"
Healey Willan (1880-1968)*

*At the sound of the tower bell the congregation stands and turns to face the West End
for the Candlelighting Liturgy.*

The Candlelighting Liturgy

It is not ourselves that we proclaim;
we proclaim Christ Jesus as Lord,
and ourselves as his servants.
For the same God who said, "Out of darkness let light shine,"
has caused his light to shine within us,
to give the light of revelation – the revelation of the glory of God
in the face of Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians 4:5-6 (alt.)*

If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night,"
darkness is not dark to you, O Lord; the night is as bright as the day;
darkness and light to you are both alike. *Psalms 139:10-11*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, Lord,
the lamp of charity which never fails,
that it may burn in us
and shed its light on those around us,
and that by its brightness
we may have a vision of that holy City,
where dwells the true and never-failing Light,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The congregation's candles are now lighted.

These candles should remain lighted until after the Fifth Lesson is read.

As you are offered the light, please tip your unlighted candle to receive the flame.

As you pass the light to your neighbor, be careful not to tip a lighted candle.

The congregation remains standing for the Bidding.

The Bidding

The Reverend Dr. Harrison McLeod, Rector

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas,
let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning.
Let us hear in Holy Scripture how the prophets of Israel
foretold that God would visit and redeem the waiting people.
Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns,
that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled.
Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
will bring all peoples and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom.
The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk,
the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear,
the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.
But first, let us pray for the world that God so loves,
for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it;
for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death
and for the Church in this place and everywhere,
that it may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.
These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God,
in the words that Christ himself taught us.

The Lord's Prayer *(In unison)*

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Officiant alone continues:

The Almighty God bless us with his grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life;
and unto the fellowship of the citizens above,
may the King of Angels bring us all.

Amen.

*The congregation is seated for the Invitatory and reading of the First Lesson.
The congregation's candles remain lighted throughout the reading of the first five lessons.*

Sung from the Bell Tower:

The Invitatory

Matin Responsory

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (ca. 1525-1594)

*I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should reign over thy people Israel?
High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Go ye out to meet him and say:
Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep.
Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord,
and come to reign over thy people Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.*

+ THE FIRST LESSON +

God creates man and woman to live in obedience to him in the Garden of Eden.

Sung from the West End:

The Carol

This is the truth sent from above

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

*This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God, the God of love;
therefore don't turn me from the door but hearken all, both rich and poor.*

*The first thing that I will relate, is that God did man create;
the next thing which to you I tell - woman was made with man to dwell.*

*Thus we were heirs to endless woes till God the Lord did interpose;
and so a promise soon did run: that he would redeem us by his Son.*

*At at this season of the year our blest Redeemer did appear,
he here did live, and here did preach, and many thousands he did teach.*

*Thus he in love to us behaved, to show us how we must be saved;
and if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what he did say:*

The Collect

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature:
Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son
Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Organ Meditation

Watchman, tell us of the night

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

+ THE SECOND LESSON +

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the garden of Eden.

Sung from the Nave:

The Carol

Adam lay ybounden
John Ireland (1879-1962)

*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 clerkës finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
ne had never Our Lady a-been heavené queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was.
Therefore we moun singen: Deo gratias!*

The Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Organ Meditation

Comfort, comfort, ye my people
Flor Peeters (1903-1986)

+ THE THIRD LESSON +

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

Sung from the North Transept:

The Carol

Thou shalt know him when he comes
Mark Sirret (b. 1952)

*Thou shalt know him when he comes
not by any din of drums,
nor his manners nor his airs,
nor by anything he wears.
Thou shalt know him when he comes,
not by his crown or by his gown,
but his coming known shall be
by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.
Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen.*

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 Organ Meditation

Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us
Johann Walther (1684-1748)

+ THE FOURTH LESSON +

The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One.

Sung from the South Transept:

The Carol

A tender shoot

Otto Goldschmidt (1829-1907)

A tender shoot hath started up from a root of grace, as ancient seers imparted, from Jesse's holy race, it blooms without blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter, turning our darkness into light. This shoot Isaiah taught us from Jesse's root should spring, the Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing, our God of endless might, gave her this child to save us, thus turning darkness into light.

The Collect

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled 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 Organ Meditation

Creator of the stars of night

Raymond Weidner (b. 1949)

+ THE FIFTH LESSON +

The Lord will be among us; we are summoned to rejoice and sing.

At the conclusion of the reading of the Fifth Lesson the congregation may extinguish their candles.

Sung from the Sanctuary:

The Carol

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning

André J. Thomas (b. 1952)

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.

Christian journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.

The Collect

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 SIXTH LESSON +

The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East for salvation is at hand.

Sung from the Quire:

The Carol

People, look east
Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

*People, look east. The time is near
of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the guest, is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
one more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
that in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim
one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather,
bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the star, is on the way.*

*Angels, announce to man and beast
him who cometh from the East.
Set every peak and valley humming
with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the Lord, is on the way.*

The Collect

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

+ THE SEVENTH LESSON +

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

Sung from the Quire:

The Carol

Virgin Mother of God, rejoice!
Sergei Rachmaninoff (1873–1943)

*Virgin Mother of God, rejoice! Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you:
Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the Savior of our souls.*

The Collect

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Words of Welcome

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod

*This evening's offering will be directed to the Christ Church Music Ministry
in support of special liturgy and music offerings.*

The Offertory Anthem

O come, Divine Messiah!
Howard Helvey (b. 1968)

*O come, Divine Messiah, the world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.*
*Dear Savior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dispel the night and show your face,
And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O come, Divine Messiah,
The world in silence waits the day when hope shall sing its triumph, and sadness flee away.*
*You come in peace and meekness, and lowly will your cradle be:
All clothed in human weakness shall we your God-head see.*
*O Christ, whom nations sigh for, whom priest and prophet long foretold,
Come break the captive fetters, redeem the long-lost fold.*

The congregation stands for the Concluding Versicles and Responses.

The Concluding Versicles & Responses

- V. Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed,
R. Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
- V. Stir up thy strength, O Lord,
R. And come to reign over thy people, Israel.
- V. Drop down, ye heavens, from above,
R. And let the skies pour down righteousness.
- V. We wait for thy loving kindness, O God:
R. In the midst of thy temple. Alleluia.

The Blessing

May Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you,
scatter the darkness from before your path,
and make you ready to meet him
when he comes in glory;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Concluding Hymn, No. 58

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

The Retiring Procession & Organ Voluntary

Prepare the Way, O Zion
Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Serving In Worship This Evening

Officiant

The Rev. Dr. Harrison McLeod, Rector

Lectors representing the Christ Church Parish Choir

Melissa Black

Hilary Hayes

Bryan Hiott

Debbie Rice

Lynn Ritchie

Gilbert Ritchie

Christ Church Altar Guild

Christ Church Acolytes

Nelson Arrington, Verger

Christ Church Liturgy & Music Staff

Donald W. Duncan, Director of Liturgy & Music
Sarah Marczynski, Program Coordinator for Liturgy & Music
Dr. Charles Tompkins, Artist in Residence
Chase McAbee, Assistant Parish Musician
Robert Powell, Organist & Choirmaster Emeritus

Christ Church Schola Cantorum

Soprano

Sarah Marczynski
Amelia Smith
Katherine Trask
Hanna Ward
Lindsey Wolfe

Alto

Susan Clark
Jennifer Dorriety
Marie Ridolfo

Tenor

Graham Bridges
Scott Dorriety

Bass

Nicholas Hawkins
Adrian Smith
David Weigel

Church Street Choral Academy

Cantoris

Yamileth Solano Bartolo
Caleb Hogue
Malachi Hogue
Alyssa Miller
Drew Simmons
Kelsey Topper

Decani

Legaci Caradine
Kimberly Duckett
Lucy Duncan
Ava Sisk
Aeva Welgraven



CHRIST CHURCH
EPISCOPAL

A JOYFUL COMMUNITY
SHARING LIFE IN JESUS CHRIST