



# LESSONS & CAROLS

*A Service of Lessons & Carols for the Feast of the Epiphany  
sung by the Christ Church Parish Choir  
and Church Street Choral Academy  
on the First Sunday after the Epiphany*

*January 7, 2024  
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

## 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

*Dr. Charles Tompkins, Artist in Residence*

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

### THE HYMN IN PROCESSION, No. 117

*Brightest and best of the stars of the morning*

### THE BIDDING

Brothers and sisters, 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 for the Invitatory Anthem.*

### THE INVITATORY ANTHEM | O Come, Divine Messiah

French Carol, arr. Howard Helvey

### + THE FIRST LESSON +

*The promised Messiah will be born in Bethlehem*

*Micah 5: 2-4*

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.

### THE CAROL | In dulci jubilo

German Carol, arr. Robert Lucas Pearsall

### 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 SECOND LESSON +

*The Word is made Flesh*

*John 1:1-14*

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.

**THE CAROL** | *Good Christian men, rejoice*

German Carol, arr. Philip Ledger

### THE COLLECT

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 THIRD LESSON +

*Christ is born in Bethlehem*

*Luke 2:8-20*

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.

**THE CAROL** | *Angels, from the realms of glory*

French Carol, arr. Philip Ledger

### THE COLLECT

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 FOURTH LESSON +

*The visit of the Magi*

*Matthew 2:1-12*

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.’ ”

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.

*The congregation stands and joins in singing the carol.*

**THE CAROL, No. 128**

*We three kings*

### THE COLLECT

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 glory of the Lord is come*

*Isaiah 60:1-6*

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.

**THE CAROL |** *O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*

*sung to the tune WAS LEBET*

### THE COLLECT

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 stands and joins in singing the Hymn.*

**THE HYMN, No. 36**

*O gladsome Light, O grace*

**THE WORDS OF WELCOME**

The Rev. Kellie Wilson

*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 OFFERTORY ANTHEM** | *Away in a manger*

William James Kirkpatrick

**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, No. 119**

*As with gladness men of old*

**THE RETIRING PROCESSION & ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

*Dr. Charles Tompkins, Artist in Residence*

# **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 Parish Choir**

## **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