



An Advent Service
of Lessons & Carols

SERVANTS
of **CHRIST**
ANGELICAN CHURCH

Welcome & Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Moment of Silent Prayer

Seasonal Greeting

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant Surely the Lord is coming soon.

People **Amen. Come Lord Jesus!**

Bidding Prayer

Please remain standing as you are able.

Officiant Beloved in Christ, on this third Sunday of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels; in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger. Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this church glad with our carols of praise: But first let us pray for the needs of his whole world.

Please kneel as you are able.

Officiant For peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build.

Please offer your own petitions.

Officiant Lord, in your mercy.

People **Hear our prayer.**

Officiant And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; all who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Please offer your own petitions.

Officiant Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Officiant Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

Please offer your own petitions.

Officiant Lord, in your mercy.

People Hear our prayer.

Officiant Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson

Please be seated.

God creates Adam and Eve, giving them a home where beauty and provision abound.

Genesis 2:4b–9, 15–25

^{4b} The Lord God made the earth and the heavens.

⁵ When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, ⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— ⁷ then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. ⁸ And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. ⁹ And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden,

¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called Woman,
because she was taken out of Man.”

²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The First Carol: “Sing”

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Please remain seated.

The Second Lesson

Please remain seated.

Adam and Eve disobey God’s command and disrupt the order and goodness of creation, separating us from God.

Genesis 3:1-15

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’”

² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² he man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
 cursed are you above all livestock
 and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
 and dust you shall eat
 all the days of your life.

¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman,
 and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
 and you shall bruise his heel.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation 1

Beth Kirby, Postulant & Administrator

Please remain seated.

The Second Carol: “Every Valley (It’s Hard to Wait)”

Words and music by Flo Paris Oakes. ©2015 Flo Paris Music. Used by permission. CCLI License #2704308.

Please remain seated.

The Third Lesson

Please remain seated.

The Lord promises to make a New Covenant with His people.

The passage will be read in Polish.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the Lord. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the Lord,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the Lord. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Reader **The Word of the Lord.**

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Third Carol: “Make a way”

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Please stand and sing.

The Fourth Lesson

Please be seated.

God promises Immanuel, who will be born of a virgin and live a sinless life, and who will restore us to Himself.

The passage will be read in French.

Isaiah 7:10-15

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.”

¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation 2

Fr. David Trautman, Rector

Please be seated.

The Fourth Carol: “O Come, O Come Emmanuel”

Words and music by Unknown Author, John Mason Neale. Public Domain.

Please stand and sing.

The Fifth Lesson

Please be seated.

In Bethlehem the promised ruler shall be born.

The passage will be read in Spanish.

Micah 5:2-4

² But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah,
 who are too little to be among the clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
 one who is to be ruler in Israel,
whose coming forth is from of old,
 from ancient days.

³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time
 when she who is in labor has given birth;
then the rest of his brothers shall return
 to the people of Israel.

⁴ And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD,
 in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.
And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great
 to the ends of the earth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Fifth Carol: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Words and music by Phillips Brooks. Public Domain.

Please stand and sing.

The Sixth Lesson

Please be seated.

The Messiah will come from the root of Jesse to restore the peace of creation.

Isaiah 11:1–9

- ¹ There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.
- ² And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
- ³ And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,
- ⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
- ⁶ The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf together;
and a little child shall lead them.
- ⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze;
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
- ⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the cobra,
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.
- ⁹ They shall not hurt or destroy
in all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Meditation 3

Kim Harris, Director of Children's Ministry & Connections Coordinator

Please be seated.

The Sixth Offertory Carol: "Joy to the World"

Words and music by Isaac Watts. Public Domain.

Please be seated.

The Seventh Lesson

Please be seated.

The angel Gabriel appears to Mary and announces that she will bear the Holy Child.

Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."

³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Seventh Carol: “Go Tell it on the Mountain”

Words and music by John W. Work. ©1907 Public Domain.

Please stand.

The Blessing

Priest The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

The Dismissal

Deacon All our problems:

People **We send to the cross of Christ.**

Deacon All our difficulties:

People **We send to the cross of Christ.**

Deacon All the devil's works:

People **We send to the cross of Christ.**

Deacon All our hopes:

People **We set on the risen Christ.**

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

People **Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia.**

Announcements

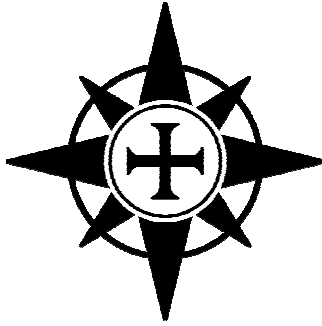
End of Year Giving: We are currently \$11,000 behind in contributions. We would love to be all caught up by the end of the year. December 29 is the last Sunday for tax-deductible contributions in 2024. If you are able, please consider giving an additional gift to help us finish the year strong!

Pledge Cards: You may give your pledge card at the offertory throughout December. If you need a card, there are extras available in the narthex.

Lessons & Carols, Lunch & Greening: Today we'll hear the great story of Christmas and sing some carols! Stay after for heavy hors d'oeuvres and decorate the church for Christmas.

Christmas Eve Services: We'll have two services at 5:00pm & 10:00pm. Pick up a postcard in the narthex or see the app for all the details!

Epiphany Bonfire: Saturday, January 11, 5:00pm at Cindy Gillen's home. Bring a dish to share, a camp chair, a friend, and—if you have one—a tree for the bonfire! Details are in the app.



SERVANTS
of CHRIST
ANGLICAN CHURCH

Worship Sundays at 9:30 am

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