



Christmas Eve 2025

Come,
Thou
Long
Expected
Jesus



CHRIST
CHURCH • EPISCOPAL

A Festival of Lessons & Carols + The Solemn Eucharist | 10:30 pm

According to The Book of Common Prayer, Rite One



A Festival of Lessons and Carols

The Solemn Eucharist

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 at 10:30 p.m.

The Service you are about to experience is based upon the famed Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols held each year at King's College in Cambridge, England. This very popular service has a long, rich history in England, and in more recent years has become a beloved tradition in this country as well. The following is a brief history of the service at King's College.

"Our Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first held on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was planned by Eric Milner-White, who at the age of thirty-four had just been appointed Dean of Kings after experience as an army chaplain, which had convinced him that the Church of England needed more imaginative worship. (He devised our Advent Carol Service in 1934, and was a liturgical pioneer and authority during his twenty-two years as Dean of York.) The music was then directed by Arthur Henry Mann, Organist 1876–1929. The choir included sixteen trebles, as laid down in King Henry VI's statutes, but until 1927, the men's voices were provided partly by Choral Scholars and partly by older Lay Clerks, and not, as now, by fourteen undergraduates.

A revision of the Order of Service was made in 1919, involving rearrangement of the lessons, and from that date the service has always begun with the hymn 'Once in royal David's city'. In almost every year, some carols have been changed and some new ones introduced by successive Organists: Arthur Henry Mann; Boris Ord, 1929–57; Harold Darke (his substitute during the war), 1940–45; Sir David Willcocks, 1957–73; Philip Ledger, 1974–82 and, from 1982, Stephen Cleobury. The backbone of the service, the lessons and the prayers, has remained virtually unchanged.

The original service was, in fact, adapted from an Order drawn up by E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed, which then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10 p.m. on Christmas Eve, 1880. A.C. Benson recalled: 'My father arranged from ancient sources a little service for Christmas Eve – nine carols and nine tiny lessons, which were read by various officers of the Church, beginning with a chorister, and ending, through the different grades, with the Bishop.' The suggestion had come from G.H.S. Walpole, later Bishop of Edinburgh.

Almost immediately, other churches adapted the service for their own use. A wider fame began to grow when the service was first broadcast in 1928, and, with the exception of 1930, it has been broadcast annually, even during the Second World War, when the ancient glass (and also all heat) had been removed from the Chapel and the name of King's could not be broadcast for security reasons. Sometime in the early 1930s, the BBC began broadcasting the service on overseas programs. It is estimated that there are millions of listeners worldwide, including those to Radio Four in the United Kingdom. In recent years, it has become the practice to broadcast a digital recording on Christmas Day on Radio Three, and since 1963, a shorter service has been filmed periodically for television. Recordings of carols by Decca and EMI have also served to spread its fame.

In these and other ways, the service has become public property. From time to time, the College receives copies of services held, for example, in the West Indies or the Far East, and these show how widely the tradition has spread. The broadcasts, too, have become part of Christmas for many far from Cambridge. One correspondent writes that he heard the service in a tent on the foothills of Everest; another, in the desert. Many listen at home, busy about their own preparations for Christmas. Visitors from all over the world are heard to identify the Chapel as 'the place where the Carols are sung'.

Wherever the service is heard, and however it is adapted, whether the music is provided by choir or congregation, the pattern and strength of the service, as Dean Milner-White pointed out, derive from the lessons and not the music. 'The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God ...' seen 'through the windows and words of the Bible'. Local interests appear, as they do here, in the bidding prayer, and personal circumstances give point to different parts of the service. Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled those killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage 'all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light'. The centre of the service is still found by those who 'go in heart and mind' and who consent to follow where the story leads."

— from the website of King's College, Cambridge, England

We are pleased you have joined us for this evening's service. Please silence all cell phones.

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

THE VOLUNTARIES

Concerto op. 6 No. 8 (Christmas Concerto)

Arcangelo Corelli

Greensleeves (What Child is This?)

Traditional

Josef, lieber Josef Mein (Joseph, Dearest Joseph Mine)

Leonhart Schröter

Good Christian Men, Rejoice

Traditional

Mark Miller, *violin*, Andres Bravo, *violin*, Ute Miller, *viola*, Dan Totan, *cello*

The Congregation remains seated until verse three.

THE HYMN IN PROCESSION

Once in Royal David's City

Text: C. F. Alexander (1818-1895)

Music: H. J. Gauntlett (1805-1876)

Trebles:

1. Once in royal David's city / Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby / In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild / Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir:

2. He came down to earth from heaven / Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, / And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly / Lived on earth our Savior holy.

all stand and join in singing:

3. And through all his wondrous childhood / He would honour and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden, / In whose gentle arms he lay:
Christian children all must be / Mild, obedient, good as he.
4. For he is our childhood's pattern, / Day by day like us he grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless, / Tears and smiles like us he knew:
And he feeleth for our sadness, / And he shareth in our gladness.
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, / Through his own redeeming love,
For that child so dear and gentle / Is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on / To the place where he is gone.
6. Not in that poor lowly stable, / With the oxen standing by,
We shall see him; but in heaven, / Set at God's right hand on high;
When like stars his children crowned / All in white shall wait around.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

The Reverend David A. Luckenbach, *Rector*

Beloved in Christ, on this Christmas Eve let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

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 in company with the whole Church in heaven and earth, let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, and especially in this our congregation. And because this would rejoice his heart, let us 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; and all who know not the Lord Christ, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

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 the Lord Jesus we for evermore are one. And let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all his people and giving reverence to all that he hath made.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven in the name of him who came to be our light and salvation, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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 CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Joy to the World
Tunc: Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.



THE FIRST LESSON

The Peace that Christ will give is foreshown.
Reader: Jim Huggler, *Christ Church Member*



THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Away in a manger

Music: Traditional Carol

Music: William Kirkpatrick (1838-1921)

(Women) Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

- (Men) The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love, thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.
- (Everyone) Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.



THE SECOND LESSON

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Reader: Allison Jarvis, *Christ Church Member*



THE ANTHEM

A Virgin most pure

Text: Traditional English

Music: Charles Wood (1866-1926)

A virgin most pure, as the prophets do tell, Hath brought a baby, as it hath befell; To be our Redeemer from death, hell, and sin, Which Adam's transgression had wrapped us in. Aye, and therefore be merry; Rejoice, and be you merry; Set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Saviour was born at this tide. In Bethlchem Jewry a city there was, Where Joseph and Mary together did pass, And there to be taxed with many one mo, For Caesar commanded the same should be so. Aye, and therefore be merry; Rejoice, and be you merry; Set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Saviour was born at this tide. Then they were constrained in a stable to lie, Where horses and asses they used for to tie; Their lodging so simple they took it no scorn, But against the next morning our Saviour was born. Aye, and therefore be merry; Rejoice, and be you merry; Set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Saviour was born at this tide. Then God sent an angel from heaven so high, To certain poor shepherds in fields where they lie, And bade them no longer in sorrow to stay, Because that our Saviour was born on this day. Aye, and therefore be merry; Rejoice, and be you merry; Set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Saviour was born at this tide. Then presently after the shepherds did spy A number of angels that stood in the sky; They joyfully talked and sweetly did sing, "To God be all glory our heavenly King." Aye, and therefore be merry; Rejoice, and be you merry; Set sorrow aside; Christ Jesus our Saviour was born at this tide.



THE THIRD LESSON

Saint Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

Reader: David Jarvis, *Christ Church Member*



THE ANTHEM

Infant holy, infant lowly

Words: Tr. Edith M. Reed

Music: Polish Carol arr. David Willcocks

Infant holy, Infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, Little knowing Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Swift are winging Angels singing, Nowells ringing, Tidings bringing, Christ the Babe is Lord of all, Christ the Babe is Lord of all. Flocks are sleeping, Shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new; Saw the glory, Heard the story, Tidings of a gospel true. Thus rejoicing, Free from sorrow, Praises voicing, Greet the morrow, Christ the Babe was born for you! Christ the Babe was born for you!



THE FOURTH LESSON

The Shepherds go to the Manger.

Reader: Uriah Johnson, *Christ Church Member*



THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Angels we have heard on high

Words: Jean Mauburn (1460-1503)

Music: Melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

- (*Everyone*) Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly though the night, And the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- (*Men*) Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer? What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear? Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- (*Women*) Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ,
the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.
- (*Everyone*) See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we
raise our hearts in love. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.



THE FIFTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

Reader: The Rev. Stephen Stine, *Deacon*



THE ANTHEM

Kings in Glory

Text: Selwyn Image

Music: Martin Shaw

Three Kings in great glory of horses and men, of horses and men, In haste come a riding o'er mountain and fen,
o'er mountain and fen; For their King is awaiting and lo they would bring, And lo they would bring, The best of
their treasure to give to their King, To give to their King. Poor shepherds lie huddled tonight on the plain, To-
night on the plain, Their silly sheep guarding from danger and pain, From danger and pain; For the wolves howl
around them and bitter the air, And bitter the air, That blows o'er the snowfield all frozen and bare, All frozen and
bare. Come monarchs, and enter, your Monarch is here, Your Monarch is here, Doff crowns on the bare sod fall
down and revere, Fall down and revere; For the best you can offer is little, I trow, Is little, I trow, To the Lord
God of Heav'n you're a kneeling to now, A kneeling to now. Come, shepherds, and fear not, he will not despise,
He will not despise The gifts that you bring him, tho' rude in men's eyes, Tho' rude in men's eyes. See, he's not
arrayed here in purple and gold, In purple and gold, God's Lamb dies as helpless as lamb of your fold, As lamb of
your fold. Then simple and gentle, and foolish and wise, And foolish and wise, Come adore the great Lord of the
earth and the skies, The earth and the skies, Who deigns for us all on this night to be born, This night to be born,
This night that is fairer than mid-summer morn, Than mid-summer morn.

The Congregation stands and remains standing through the carol.



THE SIXTH LESSON

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Reader: The Rev. David Luckenbach, *Rector*



THE CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

O come, all ye faithful

Text & Music: John Francis Wade (c. 1711-1786)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest: *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus to thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing. *Refrain*

The Congregation is seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. David A. Luckenbach, *Rector*

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Book of Common Prayer, p. 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers especially our parish clergy: David, Cole, Ted, Stephen, Tim and Leesa, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land especially Donald, our President; Greg, our Governor; and Don, our Mayor; that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE ABSOLUTION

Following the Absolution, the People respond: Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant
People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

THE GREETING

THE SOLEMN EUCHARIST

The Rev. David A. Luckenbach, *Celebrant*

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY: *In the Stillness*

Katrina Shepherd

In the stillness of a church Where candles glow, In the softness of a fall, Of fresh white snow, In the brightness of the stars That shine this night, In the calmness of a pool, Of healing light, In the clearness of a choir That softly sings, In the oneness of a hush Of angels' wings, In the mildness of a night By stable bare, In the quietness of a lull Near cradle fair, There's patience as we wait For a new morn, And the Presence of a child Soon to be born.

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

Tune: Old 100th

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer II

The Celebrant continues, the People kneeling

The musical notation is set in a single system with four staves. The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you, And with thy spi - rit." The second staff is for the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts, We lift them up un - to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is meet and right so to do." The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C).

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

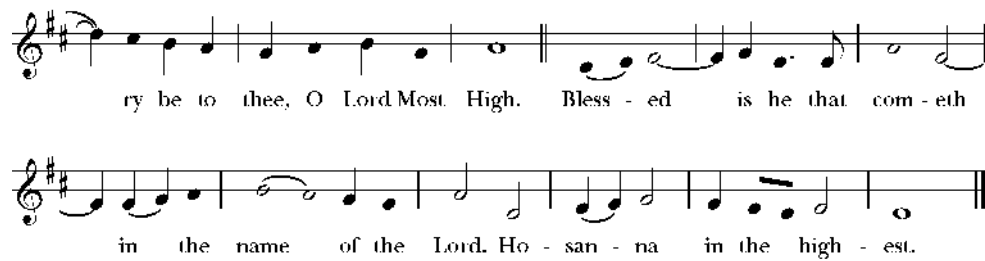
Here a Proper Preface is sung or said.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

THE SANCTUS ET BENEDICTUS, S-114

Healey Willan

The musical notation is set in a single system with two staves. The first staff has the lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of" and the second staff has the lyrics "Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -". The notation includes various musical symbols such as notes, rests, and accidentals, with a key signature of one sharp (F-sharp) and a common time signature (C).



The Celebrant continues, all kneeling.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

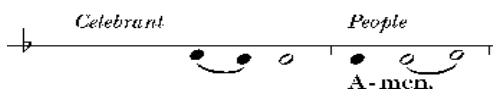
Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.



And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant & People

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM: Agnus Dei, S-158

Healey Willan



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
 way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
 on us. O Lamb of God, that
 ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
 mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
 God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
 world, grant us thy peace.

THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Communion Welcome

In the Episcopal Church all baptized Christians, regardless of denominational affiliation, are invited to receive Holy Communion. To receive the host, place one hand over the other with palms facing upward. You may intinct (dip) the host into the chalice of wine, or you may consume the host and then drink from the chalice, gently guiding it to your lips by the base. If you prefer not to receive, you may come forward for a blessing. Please indicate your desire to receive a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

THE MUSIC AT COMMUNION

THE VOLUNTARIES AT COMMUNION

<i>Lo, How a Rose</i>	Traditional
<i>Gelobet seist Du, Jesu Christ (Praise Be to You, Jesus Christ)</i>	Luther/Gumpelzhaimer
<i>Uns ist ein Kindlein heut geboren (Unto Us A Child Is Born)</i>	Kuhnau/Bach
<i>Silent Night</i>	Traditional
<i>Break Forth, O Beautiful, Heavenly Light</i>	J.S. Bach
<i>Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland (Savior of the nations, Come)</i>	J.S. Bach
<i>It Came Upon a Midnight Clear</i>	Traditional
<i>O Jesulein Zart (O Jesus, Sweet Child)</i>	Samuel Scheidt
<i>The First Noel</i>	Traditional

Mark Miller, *violin*, Andres Bravo, *violin*, Ute Miller, *viola*, Dan Totan, *cello*

THE CANDLE LIGHTING

The congregation will now light their individual candles from those of the acolytes. Please receive the light from your neighbor's candle by tilting your unlit candle towards the lighted candle so as not to spill wax.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

Remaining kneeling, the Congregation joins in singing.

A HYMN OF ADORATION

Tune: Stille Nacht

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

THE BLESSING

Following the Blessing, the People respond: Amen.

The Congregation extinguishes their candles.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies;

With the angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come Off-spring of a virgin's womb:
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, Hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve our Newborn King. Alleluia! Alleluia!
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE VOLUNTARY: *God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen*

Traditional

Mark Miller, *violin*, Andres Bravo, *violin*, Ute Miller, *viola*, Dan Totan, *cello*

ALTAR FLOWERS

*The flowers on this Eve of the Nativity are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Mr. & Mrs. Jeff Bracken and Mrs. W.M. Roberts by their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren,
and in loving memory of Dr. & Mrs. E.W. Clawater, Sr., Dr. & Mrs. E.W. Clawater, Jr.,
Mr. & Mrs. R.O. Shaw, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. R.O. Shaw, Jr. and Ro Shaw by the Clawater family.*

Deacon of the Mass: The Rev. Stephen Stine

Lay Ministers Today

Verger/Chalicer: Roger Fowler; Lector/Intercessor: Joyce McGee

Acolytes: Andrew Amcs

Ushers: Lynne & H.V. Bordeaux; Beth Buchinger; Greeters: Mary Ann Exum, Beth Buchinger

Altar Guild Team 1 & 4: Caroline Wylie & Harriet McArthur

Christmas Poinsettias

In memory of . . .

Upton Beall by Trixie Beall

*The Rev. John R. & Betty Bentley,
Michael Seago, Martel Shuttlesworth &
Marsha Birdwell*
by Katie & Brian Birdwell

Tommy Paul
by Laura Boyd

Our parents & grandparents
by Dr. Bill & Peggy Brelsford

Mavis and Dr. Elbert Caldwell
by Hayes Caldwell

Beloved father, Harold W. Francis
by Debbie Finley

Wayne, Breck, Kelly
by Crews Fry

*Amora Lee & Wayne Stelzig,
Dawn Marie Szesnat,
Mary & Tom Stovall*
by Kay & Michael Hardin
and Pam & Gary Stelzig

Holleys by Honey

*Howard H. Crane, Elizabeth B. Crane,
Violet A. Bell*
by Madeline & Eric Jensen

Brooke Belobrajdic
by Mike & Courtney Lewis

Frank O. McClendon
by Leigh McClendon

Betty Meyer
by Kim & Hal Meyer

Virginia Gorla
by Ginny Reinhardt

*Our son Michael and
our parents F.C. & Lorraine Seago and
Rev. John R. & Betty Bentley*
by Tim & Libby Seago

*Rev. John R. & Betty Bentley,
Martel Shuttlesworth, and Michael Seago*
by Mark & Trudy Shuttlesworth

Lola Cox
by Rita & Bobby Upshaw

D'Anna Wick
by Paul Wick

Dorothy Yarbrough Thrower
by Paula & Trey Yarbrough

In thanksgiving for . . .

Our children and grandchildren
by Jeff & Louise Arnold

*Our clergy and staff at both campuses of
Christ Church*
by Jeff & Louise Arnold

Amazing staff & clergy
by Carole & Bob Bergfeld

Our Children, Aly, Evan & Blake
by Katie & Brian Birdwell

*Our children and grandchild,
Gabrielle and Will Jackson,
Cambridge, Scott, and Oliver Price*
by Susan & Michael Bosworth

*Ashley Bracken, Carolyn and Bob Fry,
Roger Fry*
by Susan Bracken

My loving wife
by JC Brandt

Our children & grandchildren
by Dr. Bill & Peggy Brelsford

The blessings of family and friends
by DeeDee & John Bufe

*My grandchildren,
Claire, Cora, Rory and Eva*
by Melissa Day

Family
by Jerry & Suzette Hudgins

Our children and grandchildren
by Madeline & Eric Jensen

Our children Abby, Hunter, Tyler
by Krystal Jensen

*Our girls, friends, family,
and Christ Church*
by Mike & Courtney Lewis

Our children & grandchildren
by Marilyn & Peyton Luckett

Family
by Nancy McReynolds

Alan and Laura
by Ginger & Jerry Sanders

Our families
by Tim & Libby Seago

Our grandchildren
by Mark & Trudy Shuttlesworth

*Our grandchildren:
Kathryn, Mark, Rachel, Frances, Jack,
Jeremy, Lilly and Lauren*
by Kraig & Suzanne Stemme

Christ Church Clergy & Staff
by Paula & Trey Yarbrough

In general thanksgiving from...

Rebecca Myers, Joanna Reagan, Elizabeth & Gregory Vadasdi, Ginger Wick

Welcome

We are happy you have joined us today.
Are you NEW to Christ Church?
If yes, so that we may get to know and serve you best,
please complete our newcomer card by scanning the QR code, going to
www.christchurchtyler.org/visitor or filling out a card from the pew back.





Christmas Music

In memory of . . .

Pauline Miles
by Jeff & Louise Arnold

Upton Beall
by Trixie & David Carlock

Joe Yelas
by Kim & Hal Meyer

My parents Rev. John R. & Betty Bentley
by Stephen Bentley

My parents Frances & Russell Dethlefsen
by Melissa Day

Ester Replogle,
music teacher extraordinaire
by Kraig & Suzanne Stemme

Betsy Ellis
by Susan Bracken

George W. Burkitt III and
Joyce B. Winkler, Judge and
Mrs. William Jensen
by Madeline & Eric Jensen

Elsie Upshaw
by Rita & Bobby Upshaw

Virginia Day & Fred R. Bufo,
Marti Cason Oge,
Patricia Payne Oge, George W. Oge, Sr.
and George W. Oge, Jr.
by DeeDee & John Bufo

Bob Edge and Norma Edge Halfpenny
by Carol & Jack Langston
and Barbara Gabriel

In thanksgiving for . . .

Rosemary Cobb
by Will Arnold

Jeffrey, A.J. and the Chancel Choir
by Debbie Finley

Christ church clergy,
staff and volunteers
by James & Sharon Wynne

Our children and grandchildren
by Carole & Bob Bergfeld

CCD Choir
by Honey

Our children and grandchildren
by Paula & Trey Yarbrough

Meeting my Swedish cousins
Katarina & Carl-Oskar Runeson and
Monica & Jan Pettersson
by Rosemary Cobb

Our choir, Jeffrey & A.J.
by Marilyn & Peyton Luckett

The inner joy music brings to our hearts
by Valentine

The life and the ministry of my beloved
wife, Laurie Margaret Dowell
by The Rev. Stephen B. Stine

In general thanksgiving from...

Joanna Reagan; David & Julia Stiles; Elizabeth & Gregory Vadasdi

CHRIST CHURCH DOWNTOWN

Sunday, December 28

7:30am Holy Eucharist

9:00am Holiday Reception (no Christian Formation)

10:00am Holy Eucharist



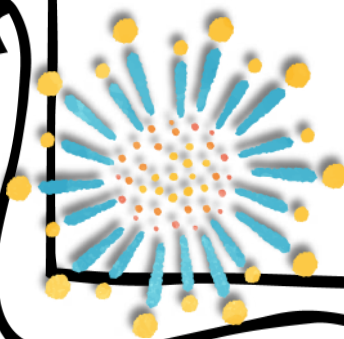
Sunday, January 4, 2026

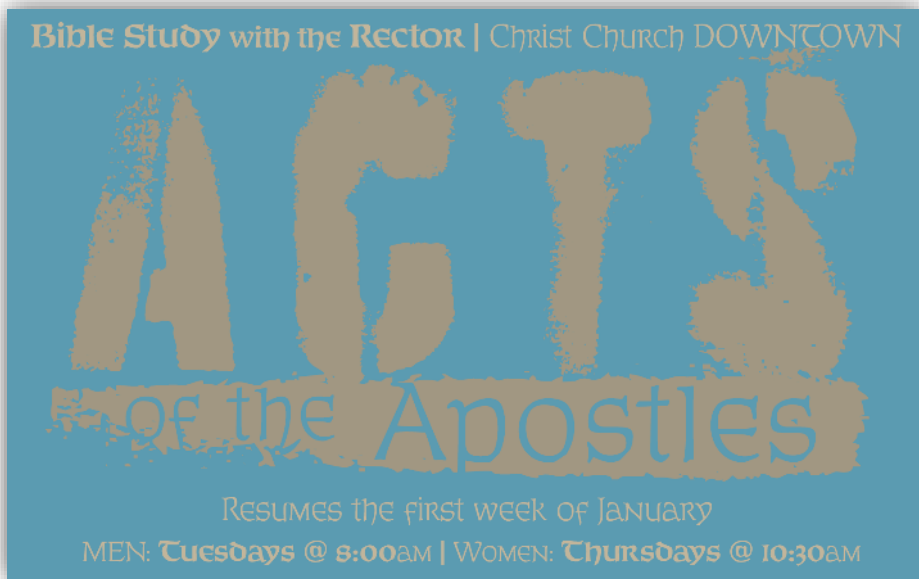
7:30am Holy Eucharist

(no Christian Formation)

10:00am Holy Eucharist

11:00am Coffee Time in Guild Hall





VENITE hosted + ALL INVITED!
January 10th 5:30 PM South Campus
potluck + bonfire + Epiphany reflection

Potluck theme is "stew + bread + beer".
Bring along your favorite soup/stew or bread
along with your favorite drink share with the
folks and families of Christ Church.

RSVP please christchurchtyler.org/venite



Christ Church • Episcopal

Christ Church Downtown* 118 South Bois d'Arc, Tyler, Texas 75702

Christ Church South: 15747 Old Jacksonville Hwy, Tyler, Texas 75703

Regular Office Hours 8:30 am–5:00 pm Monday through Thursday; Friday 8:00 am–4:00 pm

*Office for downtown and south locations

903-597-9854 | www.christchurchtyler.org