

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 2025 • 10:30 A.M.



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

VOLUNTARY

The Angel Gabriel

Paul Bryan

HYMN 72

"Hark! The glad sound!"

Richmond

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

Presider Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People **You come to your people and set them free.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

355

Presider Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

HYMN 444 (a paraphrase of Canticle 4)

"Blessed be the God of Israel"

Thornbury

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Presider Today we light the first, second, third, and fourth candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, and the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE.

The candles are lit.

Reader John 13:34 – Jesus said to them, I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

Presider Loving God, your mercy and compassion endure forever. Open our hearts, that we may receive your love; and following the example of your Son, spread that love to a love-starved world. Through Jesus Christ, who loved us to the end.

People **Amen.**

written by The Rev. Matthew Kozlowski

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

212

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Presider Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 7:10-16

Reader A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, 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 Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. ¹⁶ For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence follows the reading.

PSALM 80:1-7 (*All sing. Congregation remains seated.*)

Puer nobis

- 1 **O Shepherd, like a flock you lead
your people Israel; hear our prayer;
Enthroned upon the cherubim
in glory, shine on our despair.**
- 2 **Before Manasseh, Benjamin,
and Ephraim, LORD, grant us your grace;
Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
Show us the glory of your face.**
- 3 **How long will you be angered, LORD,
Although we kneel before your feet?
You give us bowls of tears to drink,
Provide us bread of tears to eat.**
- 4 **Our enemies laugh us to scorn,
Our neighbors witness our disgrace;
Restore us, O LORD God of hosts;
Show us the glory of your face.**

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God,² which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy scriptures,³ the gospel concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh⁴ and was declared to be Son of God with power according to the spirit of holiness by resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,⁵ through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of his name,⁶ including yourselves who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,⁷ To all God's beloved in Rome, who are called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

A moment of silence follows the reading.

HYMN 265

"The angel Gabriel from heaven came"

Gabriel's Message

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 1:18-25

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. ¹⁹ Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. ²⁰ But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." ²² All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: ²³ "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." ²⁴ When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, ²⁵ but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

The Rev. Becky Zartman Carpenter

THE NICENE CREED

358

Presider and People

**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.**

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Leader Give us a reverence for the earth as your own creation; that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Guide all bishops, priests, and deacons; especially Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Sam and Jennifer, our bishops; and Becky, our priest; that those who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Grant wisdom to Donald, our president; Josh, our governor; Sandy, our mayor; and all others who hold authority in the nations of the world; that people everywhere may honor one another and serve the common good.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours; that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as God loves us.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Watch over those who are preparing for the birth of a child, especially _____; that your presence be revealed through the blessing of new life.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or Spirit, especially _____, and others we name now silently or aloud...; that they may have courage and hope in their troubles and know the joy of your salvation.

A moment of silence is observed.

We also pray for Jeanette Belfield, Becky Bryan, Bill Hudgins, Mary Dawson, Albert Ervin, Frances Gaither, Dwight Johnson, Boo White, and Brent Wilson.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Receive with your mercy those who have died, especially _____; that your will for them may be fulfilled and they may share with your saints in your eternal kingdom.

A moment of silence is observed.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

360

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A moment of silence is observed.

Presider and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

360

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

361

Anthem *There Is No Rose* arr. Alan Bullard

There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. For in this rose contained was Heaven and earth in little space. Alleluia. There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. By that rose we may well see that he is God in persons three. Alleluia. There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. The angels sung the shepherds to: 'Gloria in excelsis Deo.' Alleluia. There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. Leave we all this worldly mirth, and follow we this joyful birth. Alleluia. There is no rose of such virtue as is the rose that bare Jesu. text: 15th Century Carol

HYMN 56 (vs. 1) "O come, O come, Emmanuel" *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*

**O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B)

367

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

HYMNAL S-124

Sanctus

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People **AMEN.**

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

Presider and 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

364

After the Presider breaks the consecrated Bread, a moment of silence is observed.

Hymnal S-152

Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover

Presider

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Presider and People

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

364

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

364

Please follow the directions of the usher to the communion rail. After receiving the bread, communicants may receive the wine either by sipping from the chalice or by intinction (i.e. carefully dipping the wafer into the wine). Gluten free wafers are available. For a blessing instead of communion, please cross your arms over your chest as an indication to the priest.

HYMN 54

"Savior of the nations, come!"

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

366

Presider Let us pray.

A moment of silence is observed.

Presider and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of

your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

HYMN 68 "Rejoice! rejoice, believers" *Llangloffan*

DISMISSAL 366

Presider Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* Johann Gottfried Walther

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*The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God
and in memory of Frank Pleasants Meadows, Jr.*

SERVERS

Acolytes Matthew McKellar and Chydan Mullen;

Altar Guild Pat Weeks and Susan Folta;

Audiovideo Engineer Ron Sowers; **Eucharistic Minister** Ashley Moss;

Flower Guild Emily Bondy and Jenny Williams;

Greeters Al and Barbara Hicks; **Intercessor** Emily Bondy;

Musicians The Good Shepherd Choir; Lawrence Goering, organist;

Presider The Rev. Becky Zartman Carpenter;

Readers Marzena Laszewski and Lance Daughtridge;

Vestry Counters Corey Folta and Barbara Hicks

VESTRY

Class of 2026
Brenning Daughtridge
Emily Dwight
Britt Myers

Class of 2027
Kenneth Burnette
Barbara Hicks
Jack Miller
John Tobias

Class of 2028
Corey Folta
Heather Seale

Senior Warden Kenneth Burnette
Clerk Gayle Edwards

Junior Warden Emily Dwight
Treasurer Jack Miller

STAFF

Lawrence Goering (lgoering@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Organist and Director of Music*

Penny Neville (pneville@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Bookkeeper*

Sarah Katherine Rollings (office@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Office Administrator*

Bernadette Yarborough (byarborough@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Acting Director of the Day School*

The Rev. Becky Zartman Carpenter (rzartman@goodshepherdrrmt.org), *Priest-in-Charge*

For pastoral emergencies, please call and leave a message
on Becky's mobile phone: 570-259-0671

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**CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
AND DAY SCHOOL**

231 N. Church St., Rocky Mount, NC 27804
www.goodshepherdrrmt.org (252) 442-1134

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Rite I)

10:30 a.m. (Holy Eucharist, Contemporary language – livestreamed at *goodshepherdrrmt.org*)

Wednesday Service
12:00 p.m. (Holy Eucharist)