

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 14, 2025 AT 10:15 AM

All Are Welcome Here

We are a welcoming, inclusive and affirming parish in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. We seek to meet and serve Christ in all people and to glorify God in our words and our actions.



Are You Visiting Today?

Know that you are most welcome, and we pray that you will return to worship with us again soon! Please do us the honor of filling out a Visitor Card, either by scanning the QR code to the right OR by filling out a physical card located in the pew rack in front of you. If you fill out a physical card, please place it in the alms basin during the offertory or hand it to an usher or to a member of the clergy as you leave today. Thank you!



THE RT. REVEREND SAMUEL RODMAN **THE RT. REVEREND JENNIFER BROOKE-DAVIDSON**
BISHOP DIOCESAN OF NORTH CAROLINA ASSISTANT BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE REVEREND IMOGEN RHODENHISER
RECTOR

THE REVEREND JUSTIN GABBARD
ASSOCIATE RECTOR

THE REVEREND NANCY ALLISON **THE REVEREND HERSHEY MALLETTE STEPHENS**
PRIEST-IN-RESIDENCE PRIEST-IN-RESIDENCE

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

This service bulletin is designed for use with the red or black Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and the blue Hymnal 1982, both of which are located in the pew rack in front of you.

Voluntary: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Hal Hopson

Handbell Choir

American composer Hal Hopson was active in American church music, composing pieces for handbells, choirs of all ages, and keyboard. He died earlier this year. This arrangement of O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, is introspective and you can hear the melody in two different octaves of handbells.

Processional Hymn: Hymnal 67, Comfort, comfort ye my people

Psalm 42

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.

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

The Collect for Purity

BCP, p. 355

Kyrie: Hymnal S 91, Lord, have mercy upon us

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

BCP, p. 357

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, 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 Collect of the Kids

Children ages 4 to 5th grade are invited to the steps for a brief introduction to the day's liturgy or lessons. They then depart for Godly Play, returning for the Eucharist.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 35:1-10

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for
joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Lauda, anima mea

4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their
help! *

whose hope is in the Lord their God;

5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in
them; *

who keeps his promise for ever;

6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, *
and food to those who hunger.

7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;
the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

8 The Lord loves the righteous;
the Lord cares for the stranger; *
he sustains the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way of the wicked.

9 The Lord shall reign for ever, *
your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
Hallelujah!

the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people; no traveler,
not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm 146:4-9

Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



© 1979, Robert Knox Kennedy.

The Second Lesson

James 5:7-10

Lector A reading from the letter of James.

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: Hymnal 75, There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascension

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

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

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

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you.'

"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Hershey Mallette Stephens

The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

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

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Give us all 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.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession of Sin

BCP, p. 360

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

All **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.**

Celebrant 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

BCP, p. 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem: Rejoice in the Lord Alway

Anonymous

Chancel Choir

Rejoice in the Lord alway, and again I say, rejoice.

Let your softness be known unto all men:

The Lord is even at hand. Be careful for nothing:

But in all prayer and supplication, let your petitions be manifest unto God with giving of thanks.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesu.

Amen.

-Philippians 4: 4-7

Presentation Hymn: Hymnal 56, O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

verse 6

O come, thou Dayspring from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadow put to flight.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

The Fraction Anthem: Hymnal S 164, Jesus, Lamb of God

Jesus, Lamb of God:
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:
Have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace.

Invitation and Communion

All are invited to come forward during the sharing of Holy Communion.

Where can I go to receive bread and wine by drinking from the common cup? *Please come to the left side (lectern side) of the altar rail; return to your seat via the stairs in the sacristy.*

Where can I go to receive bread and wine by intinction (having a minister dip the host in wine and place it in your hand)? *Please come to the right side (pulpit side) of the altar rail; return to your seat via the stairs by the baptismal font.*

Where can I go to receive only the bread? *Please come to either location and tell the server "only bread."*

Where can I go to receive gluten-free bread? *Please come to either location and ask for gluten free.*

Where can I go to receive a blessing? *Please come to either location and cross your arms over your chest.*

How can I ask for communion to be brought to me? *Please ask an usher to receive by intinction in your seat.*

Communion Hymns

Hymnal 640, Watchman, tell us of the night

Aberystwyth

Hymnal 325, Let us break bread together on our knees

Let Us Break Bread

Sending Out of Eucharistic Visitors

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **Because we who are many are one body in Christ. We share one bread, one cup. Amen.**

The Post Communion Prayer

BCP, p. 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Committal of John Richard Netherby

BCP, p. 501

Celebrant Everyone the Father gives to me will come to me; I will never turn away anyone who believes in me.

He who raised Jesus Christ from the dead will also give new life to our mortal bodies through his indwelling Spirit.

My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures for evermore.

Then, while the urn is placed in the niche, the Celebrant says these words

In sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord Jesus Christ, we commend to Almighty God our brother John, and we commit his body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless him and keep him, the Lord make his face to shine upon him and be gracious to him, the Lord lift up his countenance upon him and give him peace. **Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

Celebrant Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;

People **And let light perpetual shine upon him.**

Celebrant May his soul, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

People **Amen.**

Anthem: Going Home

Antonin Dvorak

Chancel Choir

*Going home, I'm a-going home;
Quiet-like, some still day; I'm just going home.
It's not far, just close by, through an open door;
Work all done, care laid by, going to fear no more.
Mother's there expecting me, Father's waiting too;
Lots of folk gathered there, all the friends I knew.*

*Morning star lights the way, restless dream all done;
Shadows gone, break of day, real life just begun.
There's no break, there's no end, just a-living on;
Wide awake with a smile, going on and on.
Going home, I'm just going home;
It's not far, just close by through an open door.
I'm just going home.*

-William Arms Fisher

Serving Today

Ushers	Drew Elliot and Jason Hingerton
Verger	Caryl Fuller
Acolytes	Callin Fee, George Hill, Ryan Fee, William Scanlon, and Ella Bray Sharp
Lectors	Jason Hingerton and Ian Finley
Chalicer and Intercessor	Ian Finley
Altar Guild	Pattie Lamb, Becky Anderson, Whitney Cain, Peg Dorer, Brenda Fentress, and Ginger Harris
Flower Guild	Lisa Jennings and Randy Roberts
Livestream and Sound	Ed Sharp and Sam DeShong

Today's Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory by Randy Roberts in loving memory of his husband, Michael Riddle, and their mothers.

The Church of the Good Shepherd Prayer List

Catherine and Bob Williams; JoAnn Kistler and Charles Latimer; Roy Wright; Janet Gilliam; Ralph Sanders; Pete Taylor; Martha Bailey; Janie Ward-Newton; William Short; Brinley Harris; Don Caudill; Jerry Smith; Margaret Park; Lynda Terrell-Rea; The Rev. Sallie Simpson; Patricia Harris; Susie Rahal; Larry Phearse and Family; David Lovelace; Dana Babbs; Mike Newton-Ward; Melissa Habel; Gary Blaettler; Dennis McKinnie; Bob Kochersberger and Family; Susan and Jane Jackson and Family; The Mogilski, Bormann, and Dangerfield Families; The Ellington Family; The Netherby Family; the people of Israel and Palestine; the people of Ukraine and Russia; victims of gun violence; and those affected by drought, heat, floods, storms, and fires.

And we pray for those who mourn, including the family and friends of Michael Riddle, Al Bass, Smith Lingerfelt, Paul Hoch, The Rev. Janet Watrous, Mary Best, A.B. Swindell, and Peggy Hawks.

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for The Diocese of North Carolina.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil (The Episcopal Church of Brasil).

Give to The Church of the Good Shepherd Online

Use the QR code to the right to give online.



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Vestry

Dan Harris, Sr. Warden James Deal, Jr. Warden
Gregg Knepley, Treasurer Carolyn Manley, Registrar

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