The Church of the Good Shepherd

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Eucharist on Christmas Day at 9 am

Wednesday, December 25, 2024



Welcome to The Church of the Good Shepherd

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.

We are delighted to share this Christmas season with you! Please know that you are always most welcome here, and we look forward to worshipping with you in the New Year.

Are You Visiting?

Please do us the honor of filling out a Welcome 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 this morning. Thank you!

The Rt. Rev. Samuel Rodman
Bishop Diocesan of North Carolina

The Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson
Assistant Bishop of North Carolina

The Rev. Imogen Rhodenhiser, Rector
The Rev. Justin Gabbard, Associate Rector
The Rev. Hershey Mallette Stephens, Priest Associate
The Rev. Nancy Allison, Priest-in-Residence

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant I bring you good news of great joy.
People **A Savior has been born. Alleluia!**
Celebrant Unto us a child is born.
People **Unto us a Son is given.**
Celebrant Alleluia! This is Christ the Lord.
People **We worship and adore him. Alleluia!**

COLLECT FOR PURITY Book of Common Prayer (BCP), p. 355

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 52:7-10

Lector A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE: PSALM 98 (*read responsively by half verse*) *Cantate Domino*

1 Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
3 The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
5 Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

6 Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, when he comes to judge the earth.
10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

THE SECOND LESSON Hebrews 1:1-4

Lector A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE GOSPEL John 1:1-14

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON The Rev. Imogen Rhodenhiser

THE NICENE CREED BCP, p. 358

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE BCP, p. 383

THE PEACE BCP, p. 360

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B BCP, p. 367

THE LORD'S PRAYER BCP, p. 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD BCP, p. 364

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.*

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER BCP, p. 365

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; 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

Today's Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God by Callin, Ryan and Frank Fee
in loving memory of their mother, wife and best friend Mary Beth Fee
and by The West Family Trust in loving memory of
Mr. and Mrs. N. W. West and Dr. Louis Nelson West.

Serving Today

Usher	Esther Hall
Lector & Chalicist	Jacob Ferguson
Livestream & Sound	Ed Sharp

Give to CGS Online

Use the QR code to the right to give or pledge online to CGS.
Open your phone's camera, point the camera at the square, and tap the screen.