# THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

## CHRISTMAS EVE AT 2 PM

## FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

## TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 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 afternoon. 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**

**VOLUNTARY**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN:** O come, all ye faithful *(verses 1-3)* Hymnal 83

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;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Only begotten Son of the Father;
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 heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

**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* This is Christ the Lord.
*People* **We worship and adore him. Alleluia!**

**SONG OF PRAISE:** Angels we have heard on high *(verse 1)* Hymnal 96

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

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

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. ***Amen*.**

**PROLOGUE** The Rev. Imogen Rhodenhiser

**PART ONE: A MESSAGE FROM THE EMPEROR**

Once upon a time, there was an emperor whose name was Augustus. This emperor sent out a message to the whole world saying, "We must count up every single person. We must make a list of what their names are, and where they live. We need everybody to go to their hometown and sign in when you get there."

Now for some people, this was not a hard thing to do. Some people lived very near their home town. They could leave after breakfast and be back by dinnertime. But other people had to travel for days and days.

There was one person who needed to travel very far indeed. His name was Joseph. He was very hard-working and kind. He liked to make things out of wood. When Joseph heard this message from the emperor, he started to plan a trip to his hometown, which was called Bethlehem.

**CAROL:** O little town of Bethlehem *(verse 1)* Hymnal 79

*During the carol, children bring forward figures of Joseph.*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

**PART TWO: MARY'S BIG NEWS**

When Joseph set off for Bethlehem, he was not by himself. He was traveling with Mary, his wife. He knew that Mary was a very special person because of some incredible news she had received. While she was at home, going about her day, an angel had appeared to her saying, "Mary, you have found favor with God. You are going to have a baby, and you will name him Jesus. The Holy Spirit will rest on you; therefore the child to be born will be holy, too. He will be called the Son of God."

When Joseph told Mary that they needed to go to Bethlehem, she was just about to have her baby. Traveling a long way was the last thing she had planned on doing. But she trusted Joseph, and she trusted that God would look after them. So off they went, together, on the road to Bethlehem.

**CAROL:** The angel Gabriel from heaven came *(verse 1)* Hymnal 265

*During the carol, children bring forward figures of Mary.*

The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!

**PART THREE: THE JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM**

Joseph walked the whole way. After only a few hours, his feet hurt and he had to be very careful where he stepped on the rocky ground. He led Mary, who rode on a donkey. This donkey was so honored to be carrying Mary. The donkey knew she was going to be the mother of the Son of God, and he couldn't believe that of all the donkeys, he was lucky enough to be the one she was riding on this special journey. He made sure not to go too fast or too slow, and followed Joseph step by step. Sometimes the donkey got tired, and wondered when they might stop for a rest. But the donkey had never been to Bethlehem before, and he didn't know how far away it was. So the donkey kept going, carrying precious Mary and the baby she was expecting.

**CAROL:** Go tell it on the mountain *(verse 1)* Hymnal 99

*During the carol, children bring forward figures of the donkey and the sheep and cows.*

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

**PART FOUR: BABY JESUS IS BORN**

After days of traveling, Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem to sign in on the emperor's list. And while they were in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary to have her baby. Mary and Joseph had tried to find a room at a local inn, but Mary and Joseph didn't have a lot of money, and all the rooms were already full with other travelers.

Mary and Joseph feared they would never find any place to sleep, but the donkey spied a stable. There were some friendly-looking sheep lying there, and oxen, too. It was in that stable that Mary gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and then she laid him in a manger.

**CAROL:** Away in a manger, no crib for his bed *(verse 1)* Hymnal 101

*During the carol, children bring forward figures of Baby Jesus in a manger.*

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.

**PART FIVE: PATIENT SHEPHERDS WATCH THEIR SHEEP**

Now the sheep in the stable watching over Jesus were not the only sheep in Bethlehem. There were sheep living in the fields, too, with their shepherds keeping watch over them all through the night. When the sheep had fallen asleep, the shepherds helped each other stay awake, so that none of their sheep would get snatched away by a wolf or a thief. The shepherds kept counting their sheep, one by one, making sure all of their flocks were still there. The shepherds told each other stories to pass the time and to keep their minds off of how cold it was and how hungry they were. The ends of their noses were frozen, and it was so chilly that they couldn't feel their toes. But all the shepherds admitted to themselves that it was a beautiful night, as they gazed up at the shimmering sky.

**CAROL:** The first Nowell the angel did say *(verse 1)* Hymnal 109

*During the carol, children bring forward figures of shepherds.*

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

**PART SIX: ANGELS APPEAR WITH GOOD NEWS**

All of a sudden, in the middle of the night, there was an angel standing right in front of the shepherds! Light was everywhere, and glory of God was shining all around them! The shepherds were so scared that they went and hid behind the sheep! But the radiant angel said to them, "Don't be afraid. I'm bringing you good news of great joy for all people. Today, in the city of Bethlehem, a Savior is born to you, who is the Messiah, the Lord"

The shepherds thought this was amazing, but they were also kind of confused. So the angel decided to be more specific. "This will be a sign for you: if you go into Bethlehem, you will find a child wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

Then there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favors!"

**CAROL:** Once in royal David's city *(verse 1)* Hymnal 102

*During the carol, children bring forward figures of angels.*

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.

**PART SEVEN: THE ARRIVAL OF THE THREE KINGS**

When the angels left them, the shepherds said to each other, "Let us go to Bethlehem and see this marvelous thing that has happened." So they hurried along to Bethlehem, and found Mary and Joseph in the stable, and the baby Jesus lying in the manger. The shepherds were amazed to see the Son of God with their own eyes, just as the angel had told them. The shepherds told everyone what they had heard about this child, and they returned to their sheep, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. As they departed from the stable where the baby Jesus lay, three men arrived dressed in splendid robes and riding on camels. These men were kings from the East who had been following a bright start they had seen in the sky. The three kings knew it was the star of Jesus, the newborn king, and they had come to worship him.

**CAROL:** We three kings of Orient are *(verse 1)* Hymnal 128

*During the carol, children bring forward figures of kings and camels.*

We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

**PART EIGHT: A STAR SHINES IN THE DARKNESS**

Approaching the manger with the baby lying in it, the three kings were overwhelmed with joy. They had traveled a long way, not knowing where their journey might end. When they saw the child with Mary his mother, the three kings knelt down in the stable, surrounded by sheep and oxen and a donkey. They offer the most precious gifts they had to give: gold, frankincense and myrrh. And the star shone down upon them all: the animals who watched the baby with wonder and awe, Mary and Joseph whose baby had arrived, and the kings who at last had found the king they had been seeking. And in that starlight, the glory of the Lord shone all around them on that day, to each of them, was born the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

**CAROL:** What child is this, who, laid to rest *(verse 1)* Hymnal 115

*During the carol, children bring forward figures of angels.*

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

**EPILOGUE** The Rev. Imogen Rhodenhiser

**THE PEACE**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

**OFFERTORY HYMN:** Hark! the herald angels sing Hymnal 87

1 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!*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
*Hark! the herald angels sing*
*glory to the newborn King!*

3 Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
*Hark! the herald angels sing*
*glory to the newborn King!*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*The Celebrant continues:*

It is always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong.

You made us and the whole universe, and filled your world with life.

You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Savior, Mary's child.

When he was born, a new light came into the world and you became one with us so that we might become one with you.

And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Hymnal S 125
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.

Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me.

Great is the mystery of faith:

*People* **Christ has died.**
**Christ is risen.**
**Christ will come again.**

Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

For honor and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues:*
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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* This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world. Whoever eats this bread will live forever.
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**INVITATION AND COMMUNION**

*Celebrant* 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.

**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 HYMN:** Away in a manger, no crib for his bed Hymnal 101

1 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.

2 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.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, 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 POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**HYMN:** Silent night, holy night Hymnal 111

*During the hymn, God's children are invited to light up their glow sticks.*

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.

*A period of silence is kept after the hymn.*

**THE BLESSING**

*Celebrant* 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.**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN:** Joy to the world! The Lord is come Hymnal 100

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

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

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

**THE DISMISSAL**

*Celebrant* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia!
*People* **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**VOLUNTARY**

**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**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ushers | Peg Dorer and Grace Sved |
| Readers | Dan Harris and Harry Johnson |
| Chalicist | Dan Harris |
| Video & Audio | Noom Baggett and Sam DeShong |

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Open your phone's camera, point the camera at the square, and tap the screen.



**The poinsettias adorning the altar and decorating the church are given to the glory of God by**

Will and Christie Barbee in thanksgiving for The Church of the Good Shepherd.

John, Karen, Jack & Libby Boyne in loving memory of Bill & Jo Gazda.

Ashley and Margaret Davis in loving memory of Landy Davis and in thanksgiving for our family.

Elizabeth Buxton Dietz, The Burton Henry Dietz, Jr. Family & The Paisley Dietz Ward Family in loving memory of Mr. Burton Henry Dietz, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Walter Adolph Dietz, and Mr. and Mrs. Julian Thomas Buxton, Sr.

Anne Doster in loving memory of Richard Usanis.

Gail Duncan in loving memory of her husband, Noah, her parents, Carolyn and Bernard Shelley, Noah's parents, Trula and Herbert Duncan, her brother, Rowland, Noah's brothers, Richard and Herbert Wayne and in thanksgiving for her daughters, Shelley, Melissa, and Kathryn, her sons-in-law, Kevin and Luke, and her grandchildren, Noah, Frankie, William, Ella Bray, and Duncan.

Duke and Brenda Fentress in loving memory of our parents and in thanksgiving for our boys, Zach, Brandon and John, and our grand boys, Will, James and John, Jr.

Janet and Bob Gilliam in thanksgiving for Sarah, Hannah, Jacob, Nathan, Jack, and Anna Beth.

Dan and Ginger Harris in loving memory of Tom Moser and Freeland Harris and in thanksgiving for Pat Moser and Pat Harris.

Jan and Victor Harris in loving memory of Jo & John Spivey and Lettie & Vic Harris.

Peggy Hawks and Susan and Jane Jackson in loving memory of their beloved daughter, sister, and sister-in-law, Sharon Marie Jackson.

Dwayne Holloway and David Stroud in loving memory of Raymond Clyde Holloway and Lavere Dean Stroud.

Michael and Debbie Hostetter in loving memory of Charlie and Ginny Barber and Frank and Mildred Hostetter.

David and Anna Howard in thanksgiving for the marriage of Christian and Nya on October 26, 2024.

Ann, Mary, and Alex Kaneklides in loving memory of George Alexander Kaneklides, Mr. and Mrs. Sherwood Langdon, and Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Kaneklides.

Bob Kochersberger and Janet Watrous in loving memory of Bob, Marge, Joe, Kay and Charlie.

Rich Leonard in loving memory of Jesse and Libby Leonard.

Susan Lewellen in loving memory of Francis and Charlie Brice and John Mettrey.

The Moore Family in loving memory of Peter and Betty Moore.

The parishioners of The Church of the Good Shepherd in thanksgiving for our clergy, staff, vestry, and volunteers.

Molly Propst in loving memory of my brother, Jim Vitale, and in thanksgiving for Zoe, Frankie, Liam, Owen, and Palmer.

Fran Richardson in loving memory of her husband, Bill Richardson, and her parents, Madelon and T C Hyman.

The Family of Stephanie Rivers in loving memory of Stephanie.

The Rivers Family in loving memory of Bob, Hazel, Pearl, Roy, Rebecca, Pat, and George.

Patsy Rivers in thanksgiving for Jordan, Chase, Kennedy, Reagan, Ryan and their parents.

Randy Roberts and Michael Riddle in thanksgiving for our marriage.

Nan and Rob Robinson in loving memory of Joseph, Estelle, and Donnie Joe Wilkerson and Peggy and C.H. Robinson.

Tony and Marsha Sample in loving memory of John and Martha McLaughlin.

The Scanlon Family in loving memory of our parents, Noah Duncan and Liz and Gerry Scanlon, and in thanksgiving for our children Noah, Frankie, and William, and our family and friends.

Doug and Jill Sessoms in loving memory of our parents, Robert and Margaret Sessoms and John and Julia Dunivant, in loving memory of Sis and Buddy Cheshire, and in thanksgiving for our children and grandchildren.

Kathy Stefanou in loving memory of her parents, John and Henrietta Sanderson.

Rob Stone in loving memory of Joy and Clifton Stone.

Marguerite and Terry Sullivan in loving memory of Stephen Sullivan and Shaun Sullivan and in thanksgiving for our children Erin(Dan), Daniel (Morgan), and Martin (Rany) and our grandchildren Abby, Delia, Parker, Penny, and Everett.

Hunter and Matt Thomas in thanksgiving for Edward Thomas.

Phyllis Vail in thanksgiving for Meriwether Walker.

The Webb West Family in loving memory of Tamsen & Leland Webb, Marcus R. West.

The Wetmore Family in loving memory of Paul and Lucille Wetmore.

Lynn Wiss in loving memory of R. Garin Wiss, Fr. Bob and Juanita Kirchgessner, Barry Kent Kirchgessner and in thanksgiving for grandsons, Will and Jake Doherty.

Aileen & Bob Wood in loving memory of our parents Bob & Mary Kelley and Dean & Phyllis Wood.

The Zomorodi Family in loving memory of Joe Gambrell Jr and Charlotte Nelson.

