

THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2025

FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5 PM



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 evening. Thank you!



FESTIVAL 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.

Pre-Service Music

Interlude from "A Ceremony of Carols"

Benjamin Britten

Two Couplets

Larry Visser

Congregational Carol: Hymnal 102, Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Glory to God from "Messiah"

George Frideric Handel

Variations Pastorales sur un Vieux Noel

Marcel Samuel-Rousseau

Congregational Carol: Hymnal 79, O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Karl Zinsmeister

Lo, How a Rose is Growing

R. Benson

Greensleeves

Traditional

Introit: The Glory of the Father

Egil Hovland

*The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.
We beheld the glory of the Father, full of grace and truth.
In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God.
In Him was life; and the life was the light of all.
He came to his own, and his own received him not.*

-Adapted from John 1

Processional Hymn: Hymnal 83, O come, all ye faithful (*verses 1, 2, 3, 6*)

Adeste fideles

1 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,
Christ the Lord.*

2 God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of God the Father;
Refrain

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;
Refrain

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;
Refrain

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!**

Song of Praise: Hymnal 96, Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

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.**

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.

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response: Hymnal 100, Joy to the world! The Lord is come

Antioch

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.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.

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.

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

Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

Lector A reading from Saint Paul's letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: Hymnal 115, What child is this, who, laid to rest Greensleeves

1 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.*

2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was 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 he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Gospeler The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Reverend Justin Gabbard

The Nicene Creed

BCP, p. 358

A Christmas Litany

Adapted from a Litany by Fran Pratt

Leader Gracious, generous God, on this day we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Your Self in human form.

All **We celebrate the Son of God.**

Leader We are transfixed by the story of Jesus. We looked for a warrior;

All **You sent a baby.**

Leader We looked for royalty;

All **You were born to peasants.**

Leader We looked for power;

All **You showed us meekness.**

Leader We looked among rulers and politicians;

All **You were found among cattle and shepherds.**

Leader We looked for military victory;

All **You gave us resurrection.**

Leader We looked for riches;

All **You gave us selflessness.**

Leader We looked for a king;

All **You gave us a servant.**

Leader Jesus you come in the voice of the poor, in the hurting of the sick, in the anguish of the oppressed.

All **Open our eyes that we may see you.**

Leader Jesus you come in the weakness of the vulnerable, in the questions of the doubting, in the fears of the dying.

All **Open our ears that we might hear you.**

Leader Jesus you come in the celebration of the saints, in the generosity of the faithful, in the compassion of the caring.

All **Open our hearts that we might embrace you.**

Leader Almighty God whose great love and compassion came into our world in the person of your incarnate son, Jesus Christ, plant in every heart your concern and care for all humankind. May the light of Christ ignite our hearts and shine out brightly from our lives, proclaiming your salvation to all the earth.

All **May the light of God shine on us,
May the love of Christ shine in us,
May the life of the Spirit shine through us.
This day and evermore.
Amen.**

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem: Angels' Carol

John Rutter

*Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
To the humble shepherds who have waited long?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels sing their joyful song.*

*He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light.
He is come in love as the child of Mary;
In a simple stable we have seen his birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing 'Peace on earth'.*

*He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
Like a bright star shining in the skies above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
When he comes to reign in purity and love.
Let the earth rejoice at the Saviour's coming;
Let the heavens answer with the joyful morn:
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born'.*

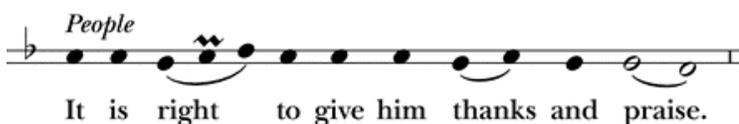
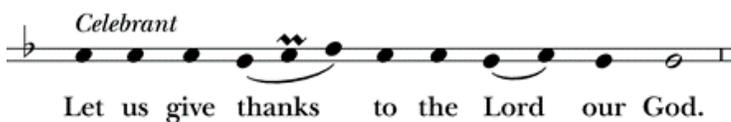
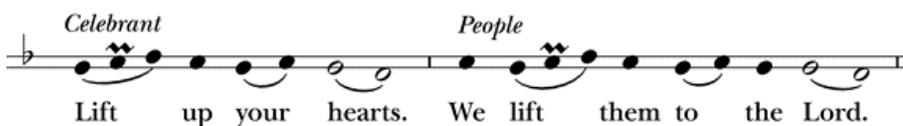
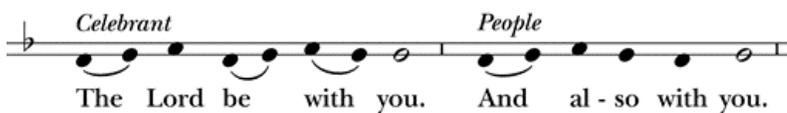
Presentation Hymn: Hymnal 107, Good Christian friends, rejoice stanza 1

In dulci jubilo

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, p. 367



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

Sanctus: Hymnal S 130, Holy, holy, holy

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues on p. 368

Celebrant ... Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

The Eucharistic Prayer continues on p. 369

Celebrant ...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.

All **AMEN.**

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.*

Communion Hymns:

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

Cradle Song

Hymnal 109, The first Nowell the angel did say

The First Nowell

Hymnal 104, A stable lamp is lighted

Andújar

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: Hymnal 111, Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

During the hymn, acolytes will assist the congregation in lighting of the candles.

- 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.
- 2 Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
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.**

Closing Hymn: Hymnal 87, Hark! The herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

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!
Refrain

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!
Refrain

The Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Voluntary: In dulci júbilo, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach

Many thanks to our volunteer, staff, and guest musicians this evening:

Chancel Choir and Senior Choristers

Anita Burroughs-Price, harp

Andy Lang, organ

Kirsten Homdrom, Director of Music & Organist

This Evening'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 Mary Beth Fee (we miss you) and by The West Family Trust in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. N. W. West and Dr. Louis Nelson West.

Serving This Evening

Ushers Mac and Leslie Gilbert, Harold Ramsey, and Rob Stone

Verger Caryl Fuller and Evan Meade

Acolytes Libby Boyne, Juliet Gilbert, Benjamin Zomorodi, Allison Elliot, Isabel Elliot, Frankie Scanlon, and Arianna Zomorodi

Lectors Dan Harris and Rich Leonard

Intercessor & Chalicist Dan Harris

Altar Guild Jan Harris, Jill Sessoms, Christie Barbee, Stephanie Bias, Anne Doster, Peter Miller, Phyllis Vail, and Carolyn Wilson

Flower Guild Kathy Acton

Livestream & Audio Mike Burkhart and Sam DeShong

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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

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

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