

# THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 21, 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

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PRIEST-IN-RESIDENCE    PRIEST-IN-RESIDENCE

# Christmas Pageant with Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

*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:** Meditation on Veni Emmanuel

Philip Moore

On this 4th Sunday of Advent, we find ourselves straddling the end of Advent and the beginning of Christmas. To open the service, we reflect on “O Come, O Come, Emmanuel” one last time. You will hear snippets of the melody, along with segments that almost feel improvised.

**Introit:** On this day earth shall ring

Personent hodie

Good Shepherd Choir; Nan Robinson, Shirley Sullivan, and Caryn Meade, handbells

*On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing  
To the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Father gave us.  
Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring,  
Praising Christ, heaven’s King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.  
Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo!*

**Processional Hymn:** Hymnal 72, Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes

Richmond

## 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.

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. **Amen.**

## The Christmas Pageant

Our Christmas Pageant offers us the opportunity to enter the story of the coming of Christ. Through words spoken and embodied, through humor and play, and through songs offered in praise, we invite you to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem, and to see the Son of God lying in a manger. This Pageant is offered as a gift for all who hear it, in response to the greatest gift of all—God-with-us in Jesus Christ. During the pageant, please join the cast and choir in singing the carols on the next page.

**What child is this, who, laid to rest**

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?

Refrain:

This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.

**O little town of Bethlehem**

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.

**Once in royal David's city**

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.

**Angels we have heard on high**

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

Refrain:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.  
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

**We three kings of Orient are**

We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain,  
moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading,  
still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!

**O come, all ye Faithful**

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;

Refrain:

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

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come**

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



**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

**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 Hymn:** Hymnal 60, Creator of the stars of night

Conditor alme siderum

### **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 Blessing**

*Celebrant* May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the shadows from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

*People* **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** Hymnal 57, Lo! He comes, with clouds descending

Helmsley

**The Dismissal**

BCP, p. 366

**Voluntary:** Postlude on Helmsley

James Vivian

Helmsley, along with the text "Lo! He comes, with clouds descending" is one of the most beloved Advent hymns. James Vivian sets the melody in the pedals while the hands dance around it in toccata-like fashion. "Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone."

**Come enjoy fellowship with beverages and snacks immediately following this service.**

### **Serving Today**

Ushers Sarah Boney and Harold Ramsey  
Verger Ed Gavin  
Acolytes Leighton Livengood, Libby Boyne, and Mason Livengood  
Chalicerist Bethany Pergerson  
Altar Guild Jan Harris, Jill Sessoms, Christie Barbee, Stephanie Bias,  
Anne Doster, Peter Miller, Phyllis Vail, and Carolyn Wilson  
Flower Guild Judi Mathis and Randy Roberts  
Livestream and Sound Craig DeShong 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.

### **Last Week's Altar Flowers**

The flowers on the altar last week were given by Katie Chimenti and Bruce Phearse in loving memory of our parents, Frank and Earline Horton and Eldridge and Freddie Mae Phearse.

### **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; Rose Hoppe; Bob Kochersberger and Family; Susan and Jane Jackson and Family; The Mogilski, Bormann, and Dangerfield Families; The Ellington Family; The Stroud Family; The Wilson 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.

We pray for those who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom, remembering especially Shirley Stroud and Tony Wilson.

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 Diocese of Costa Rica.

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we pray for The Anglican Church of Burundi.

### **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

### CLASS OF 2026

Ed Gavin  
Esther Hall  
David Howard  
Gregg Knepley

### CLASS OF 2027

James Deal  
Dan Harris  
Leslie Gilbert  
Kay Stallings

### CLASS OF 2028

Drew Elliot  
Harry Johnson  
Susan Lewellen  
Michael Riddle†

## Parish Staff

David Baggett  
Parish Administrator

Laura Dearth  
Bookkeeper

Dana Deaton  
Communications Specialist

Logan Dreifuss  
Facilities Assistant

Maria Gartner  
Nursery

Kirsten Homdrom, DMA  
Director of Music & Organist

Lisett Marquez Borges  
Nursery

Stephen McCann  
Facilities Coordinator

Valence Mukubu  
Facilities Assistant

Sthepanie Sierra Medina  
Children's Sunday School