THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY **DECEMBER 28, 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
BISHOP DIOCESAN OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE RT. REVEREND JENNIFER BROOKE-DAVIDSON
ASSISTANT BISHOP OF NORTH CAROLINA

THE REVEREND IMOGEN RHODENHISER
RECTOR

THE REVEREND JUSTIN GABBARD
ASSOCIATE RECTOR

THE REVEREND NANCY ALLISON
PRIEST-IN-RESIDENCE

THE REVEREND HERSHEY MALLETTE STEPHENS
PRIEST-IN-RESIDENCE

Festival of Christmas Lessons and Carols 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

Suzanne Polak, piano

Processional Hymn: Hymnal 93, Angels, from the realms of glory Regent Square

Welcome and Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God:

In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Genesis 3:1-15

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in

he middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said,

‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’ Then the Lord God said to the woman, ‘What is this that you have done?’ The woman said, ‘The serpent tricked me, and I ate.’ The Lord God said to the serpent,

‘Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life.

I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.’

Here ends the lesson.

Carol: Hymnal 105, God rest you merry, gentlemen — God Rest You Merry

The Second Lesson — Luke 1:5-25

An angel announces to Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son.

In the days of King Herod of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly order of Abijah. His wife was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both of them were righteous before God, living blamelessly according to all the commandments and regulations of the Lord. But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren, and both were getting on in years.

Once when he was serving as priest before God and his section was on duty, he was chosen by lot, according to the custom of the priesthood, to enter the sanctuary of the Lord and offer incense. Now at the time of the incense-offering, the whole assembly of the people was praying outside. Then there appeared to him an angel of the Lord, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. When Zechariah saw him, he was terrified; and fear overwhelmed him. But the angel said to him, ‘Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you will name him John. You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth, for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He must never drink wine or strong drink; even before his birth he will be filled with the Holy Spirit. He will turn many of the people of Israel to the Lord their God. With the spirit and power of Elijah he will go before him, to turn the hearts of parents to their children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the righteous, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.’ Zechariah said to the angel, ‘How will I know that this is so? For I am an old man, and my wife is getting on in years.’ The angel replied, ‘I am Gabriel. I stand in the presence of God, and I have been sent to speak to you and to bring you this good news. But now, because you did not believe my words, which will be fulfilled in their time, you will become mute, unable to speak, until the day these things occur.’

Meanwhile, the people were waiting for Zechariah, and wondered at his delay in the sanctuary. When he did come out, he could not speak to them, and they realized that he had seen a vision in the sanctuary. He kept motioning to them and remained unable to speak. When his time of service was ended, he went to his home.

After those days his wife Elizabeth conceived, and for five months she remained in seclusion. She said, ‘This is what the Lord has done for me when he looked favourably on me and took away the disgrace I have endured among my people.’

Here ends the lesson.

Carol: Hymnal 76, On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry — Winchester New

The Third Lesson Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Here ends the lesson.

Carol: Hymnal 81, Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming Es ist ein Ros

The Fourth Lesson Luke 1:39-45

The Virgin Mary is greeted by Elizabeth and proclaims her joy.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb.

And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Here ends the lesson.

Carol: Hymnal 438, Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Woodlands

The Fifth Lesson Luke 2:1-20

Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshiped by shepherds and angels.

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 Saviour, 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 favours!'

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.

Here ends the lesson.

Carol: Hymnal 96, Angels we have heard on high Gloria

The Sixth Lesson Luke 2:21-35

Jesus receives his name and is presented to Simeon in the Temple.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

Here ends the lesson.

Carol: Hymnal 112: In the bleak midwinter Cranham

The Seventh Lesson *(please stand)* John 1:1-18

The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.

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. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me." ') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Here ends the lesson.

The Concluding Collect

Celebrant Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

The Peace Book of Common Prayer (BCP), p. 360

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory

Presentation Hymn: Hymnal 100, Joy to the world Antioch

stanza 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,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B BCP, p. 367

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 him thanks and praise**

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:

All **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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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 89, It came upon the midnight clear Carol

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.

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.**

The Committal of Mary Harrison Cooke Best 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 sister Mary, and we commit her body to its resting place; earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. The Lord bless her and keep her, the Lord make his face to shine upon her and be gracious to her, the Lord lift up his countenance upon her and give her 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 her, O Lord;

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

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

People **Amen.**

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, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Hymnal 107**,** Good Christian friends, rejoice In dulci jubilo

Voluntary

We extend a warm welcome and our thanks to Suzanne Polak, our guest pianist today.

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

Serving Today

Ushers	Drew Elliot and Grace Sved
Verger	David Roten
Acolytes	Caryl Fuller, Leighton Livengood, Isabel Elliot, and Allison Elliot
Readers	Ian Finley, Grace Sved, Susan Lewellen, Jean Knepley, Phyllis Vail, and Gregg Knepley
Chalicist	Ian Finley
Video & Sound	Richard Netherby and Sam DeShong

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; Nannette Brown; Elise Abernathy; Bob Kochersberger and Family; Susan and Jane Jackson and Family; The Mogilski, Bormann, and Dangerfield Families; The Ellington 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.

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 the Anglican Church of Canada.

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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Esther Hall
David Howard
Gregg Knepley

CLASS OF 2027
James Deal
Dan Harris
Leslie Gilbert
Kay Stallings

CLASS OF 2028
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Susan Lewellen
Michael Riddle†

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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