THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST ON CHRISTMAS EVE AT 5 PM

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 evening. 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

FESTIVAL OF CAROLS

Presented by the Chancel Choir of The Church of the Good Shepherd with Orchestra

Variations on *Greensleeves* Setting: Louis Fleur

Let Our Gladness Know No End Setting: Hermann Schroeder

Let our gladness know no end, Hallelujah! Unto earth did Christ descend, Hallelujah!
On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.

See the loveliest blooming Rose, Hallelujah! From the branch of Jesse grows, Hallelujah!
On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.

Into flesh is made the Word, Hallelujah! 'Tis the Refuge and our Lord, Hallelujah!
On this day God gave us Christ, His Son, to save us.

The Coventry Carol Setting: Douglas Wagner

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, By, by, lully, lullay.
Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child, By, by, lully, lullay.

What is this Lovely Fragrance! Setting: Gerald Near

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!
Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, Hear you not heav'nly caroling?
What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!

Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps Seek the Saviour born today.
Low at His feet we lay our treasure, Heart's adoration, love for aye.
Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps Seek the Saviour born today.

Angels' Carol Setting: 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, 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; Un a simple stable we have seen his birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, 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 nations When he comes 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, Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born'.

Congregational Hymns please see *The Hymnal 1982* (blue book)

Good Christian friends, rejoice	Hymnal 107
Go tell it on the mountain	Hymnal 99
The first Nowell the angel did say	Hymnal 109

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.

Voluntary

Introit: Hodie, *from A Ceremony of Carols* Benjamin Britten

Today is Christ born; today the Savior has appeared; today the Angels sing, the Archangels rejoice; today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

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

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: Angels we have heard on high Hymnal 96

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.**

First Lesson Isaiah 62:6-12

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted
sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the
earth.
The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.
Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The LORD has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
"See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him."
They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken."

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

The Response: 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 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.

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 3:4-7

Lector A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn: Once in royal David's city *(first verse solo)* Hymnal 102

1 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.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor and meek and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

4 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
set at God's right hand on high;
there his children gather round,
bright like stars, with glory crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818-1895

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 Rev. Imogen Rhodenhiser

The Nicene Creed BCP, p. 358

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor: God of unimaginable love, on the first Christmas You became one of us.

People: **We celebrate Your love for every person in every place and time.**

Intercessor: God of all humanity, You offered Your Peace to anyone who would be satisfied with Your presence.

People: **We celebrate Your Peace in Your Church and accept Your commission to share it in all the world.**

Intercessor: God of the shepherds, You announced Your arrival among us to the poorest, the most humble.

People: **We celebrate Your good news to each of us and to everyone, right here where we are.**

Intercessor: God of the manger, You came to us through Your Son in a small and simple place.

People: **We celebrate Your presence with us this day in this small place made glorious by Your being in it.**

Intercessor: God of deliverance, You came to be one of us in order to deliver all of us.

People: **We celebrate Your protection and mercy toward all who are sick or in trouble.**

Intercessor: God of birth, when You became as we are, You opened Yourself to each of us, no matter who or what we are.

People: **We celebrate this day Your Kingdom and that we are welcome in it right now and always. Keep us close, now and in the life to come.**

Intercessor: God of Christmas, bless us as we once again celebrate Your coming into Your creation.

People: **Amen.**

The Peace BCP, p. 360

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem: Mid-winter — Mark Shepperd

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, on snow, in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.
Our God, heaven cannot hold him nor earth sustain: Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.
Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim thronged air;
But only his mother in her maiden bliss worshipped the beloved with a kiss.
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb;
If I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Offertory Hymn: What child is this, who, laid to rest *(verse 3*) — Hymnal 115

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

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

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

Sanctus: Holy, holy, holy Lord — Hymnal S 125

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 in the Book of Common Prayer

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 Anthem: Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree — Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green;
The trees of nature fruitless be,
Compared with Christ the Apple Tree.

His beauty doth all things excel,
By faith I know but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see,
In Jesus Christ the Appletree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought;
I missed of all but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the Appletree.

I'm weary with my former toil -
Here I will sit and rest awhile,
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the Appletree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the Appletree.

Communion Hymns:

What child is this, who, laid to rest — Hymnal 115

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

The first Nowell the angel did say *(verses 1-4)* — Hymnal 109

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, 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: 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!
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.**

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 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.

Instrumentalists

Qi Cao, violin I
Joyu Lee, violin II
Seula Lee, cello
Pamela Nelson, flute
Helga Fasciano, flute
Paul Randall, trumpet
Les Webster, percussion
Laura Byrne, harp
Andy Lang, organ
Dwayne Holloway, Director of Music

Serving This Evening

Ushers	John Boyne, Mac and Leslie Gilbert, and Harold Ramsey
Verger	Evan Meade
Acolytes	Ashelyn Gilbert, Leighton Livengood, Mason Livengood, Allison Elliot, Isabel Elliot, and Juliet Gilbert
Lectors	Ian Finley and Susan Lewellen
Chalicist	Ian Finley
Livestream & Audio	Noom Baggett and Sam DeShong

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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.

The clergy and staff of The Church of the Good Shepherd in thanksgiving for the Front Desk Volunteers.

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.

