

*A Service of*  
**LESSONS and CAROLS**  
*at Christ Church in Woodbury*



Virgin and Child in an Apse, Copy after Robert Campin (Netherlandish, ca. 1480)

Friday, December 19, 2025, 6:30 pm  
**Christ Church**  
Woodbury, New Jersey  
*A Parish in the Diocese of New Jersey*





## A SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

**VOLUNTARY:** Fantasia on 'Veni Emmanuel' ..... Alec Rowley(1892-1958)

**CHORAL INTROIT:** *Responsory* ..... G. P. da Palestrina (1525-1594)  
*Sung from the west end of the Church.*

I look from afar:	High and low, rich and poor, one with
And lo, I see the power of God coming,	another,
And a cloud covering the whole earth.	Go ye out to meet him and say:
Go ye out to meet him and say:	Hear. O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that
Tell us, art thou he that should come	leadest Joseph like sheep,
To reign our thy people Israel?	Tell us, art thou he that should come?
	Stir up thy strength, O Lord and Come
	To reign over thy people Israel.

Glory be...I look from afar...

**PROCESSIONAL:** 56 “O come, O come, Emmanuel” ..... *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*  
*(Third verse lower voices only, sixth verse upper voices only)*

### BIDDING PRAYER

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in the manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this holy Child; 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 good will over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because of this of all things that would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude

which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

*Officiant and 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.**

*Officiant*

The almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

*Except where noted otherwise;  
Please sit for the lessons, anthems, and carols  
and stand to sing the hymns.*

*No congregational response is made following the readings.*

## THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:1-15

Read by Mr. Evan Shomo, Member of Christ Church

Reader begins:

*God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpents head.*

Now the serpent was more subtle than any other wild creature that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat of any tree of the garden?'" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you 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, 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 themselves aprons.

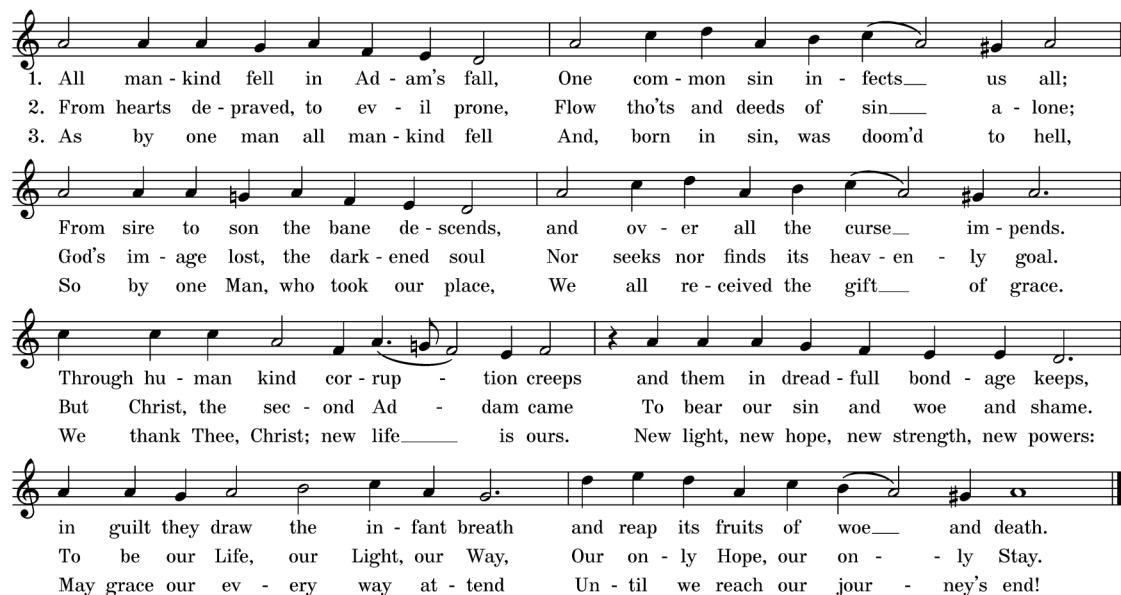
And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of thee 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 of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me fruit of 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 beguiled me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent,

"Because you have done this,  
cursed are you above all cattle,  
and above all wild animals;  
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 seed and her seed;  
he shall bruise your head,  
and you shall bruise his heel."

Reader: Thanks be to God.

**HYMN :** *All mankind fell in Adam's fall.....Durch Adams Fall*



1. All man - kind fell in Ad - am's fall, One com - mon sin in - fects\_\_ us all;  
2. From hearts de - praved, to ev - il prone, Flow tho'ts and deeds of sin\_\_ a - lone;  
3. As by one man all man - kind fell And, born in sin, was doom'd to hell,  
From sire to son the bane de - scends, and ov - er all the curse\_\_ im - pends.  
God's im - age lost, the dark - ened soul Nor seeks nor finds its heav - en - ly goal.  
So by one Man, who took our place, We all re - ceived the gift\_\_ of grace.  
Through hu - man kind cor - rup - tion creeps and them in dread - full bond - age keeps,  
But Christ, the sec - ond Ad - dam came To bear our sin and woe and shame.  
We thank Thee, Christ; new life\_\_ is ours. New light, new hope, new strength, new powers:  
in guilt they draw the in - fant breath and reap its fruits of woe\_\_ and death.  
To be our Life, our Light, our Way, Our on - ly Hope, our on - ly Stay.  
May grace our ev - ery way at - tend Un - til we reach our jour - ney's end!

Lazarus Spengler (1479-1534), translated Matthias Loy (1828-1915)

**THE SECOND LESSON:** Isaiah 40:1-11

Read by: Ms. Maya Sanchez, Member of Christ Church

Reader begins:

*God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.*

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, Make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people is grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, fear not; say to

the cities of Judah, "Behold your God!" Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.

He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will gather the lambs in his arms, he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM:** "Zion Hears the Watchmen's Voices"..J.S. Bach (1685-1750) arr. John Rutter

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Zion hears the watchmen's voices,<br>With gladness all her heart rejoices,<br>She eager wakes to greet the day.<br>See, her Lord from heav'n descending<br>With grace and truth and power unending,<br>Her day-star dawns with brightest ray.<br>O come, thou blessed One, Lord Jesu,<br>God's own Son. Hosanna! | 2. Glory now to God we render,<br>Who reigns on high in heavenly splendour;<br>Let every tongue in praise unite.<br>Lo, we enter heaven's high portal<br>To join the song of saints immortal<br>With angels round Thy Throne of Light.<br>No mortal joy can e'er with heaven's true<br>bliss compare; Alleluia! |
| We follow there Thy feast to share,<br>And taste the joys beyond compare.   | Rejoice below, i-o, i-o,<br>Sing out In dulci iubilo!   |

**HYMN 67:** "Comfort, comfort ye my people" .....*Psalm 42*

**THE THIRD LESSON:** Isaiah 7:10-15

Read by: Ms. AnnaLisa Rodano, Member of Christ Church

Reader begins:

*God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as "God with us. "*

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, "Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test." And he said, "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Imman'u-el. He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

**HYMN 81:** "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming".....*Es ist ein Ros*

**THE FOURTH LESSON:** Micah 5:2-4

Read by: Ms. Gwendolyn Simpson, Member of Christ Church

Reader begins:

*The one who is to rule will be born in the village of Bethlehem.*

But you, O Bethlehem Eph'rathah, who are little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in travail has brought forth; then the rest of his brethren shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM:** "O Little Town of Bethlehem" .....H. Walford Davies (1869-1941)

1 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 ev-  
erlasting light;

the hopes and fears of all the years are  
met in thee tonight.

2 For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all  
above,

while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of  
wond'ring love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men  
on earth.

*Refrain*

Refrain : O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;

cast out our sin and enter in; be born  
in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels, the  
great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord  
Emmanuel!

3 How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is  
giv'n!

So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His  
heav'n.

No ear may hear His coming, but in this world of  
sin,

where meek souls will receive Him still, the dear  
Christ enters in.

Refrain

**HYMN 265:** "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven came" ..... *Gabriel's Message*

**THE FIFTH LESSON:** Isaiah 11:1-9

Read by: Mr. Frank Gwalthney, Member of Christ Church

Reader begins:

*The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One.*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall slay the wicked. Righteousness shall be the girdle of his waist, and faithfulness the girdle of his loins. The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall feed; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The sucking child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

**HYMN 57:** "Lo! He comes with clouds descending" .....*Helmsley*

**THE SIXTH LESSON:** Saint Luke 1:26-.38

Read by: The Very Reverend Benjamin B. Maddison, Rector, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church & Acting Dean of the Woodbury Deanery

Reader begins:

*The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Hail, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and considered in her mind what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob for ever; .. and of his kingdom there will be no

end." And Mary said to the angel, "How shall this be, since I have no husband?" And 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 called holy, .the Son of God.

And behold, your kinswoman Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For with God nothing will be impossible." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM:** Magnificat in B Flat.....John Stainer (1840-1901)

My soul doth magnify the Lord.  
And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my  
Saviour.  
For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his  
handmaiden: For behold, from hence-  
forth: all generations shall call me  
blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me:  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him:  
throughout all generations.  
He hath shewed strength with his arm: he  
hath scattered the proud in the imagina-  
tion of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their  
seat: and hath exalted the humble and  
meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good  
things: and the rich he hath sent empty  
away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen  
his servant Israel:  
As he promised to our forefathers, Abra-  
ham and his seed for ever.  
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son: and  
to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now, and  
ever shall be: world without end. Amen.



**THE SEVENTH LESSON: John 1:1-14**

Read by: The Reverend Lawrence Civale, Priest-in-Charge, Christ Church

Reader begins:

*Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.*

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 were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came for testimony, to bear witness to the light, that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to bear witness to the light.

The true light that enlightens every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not. He came to his own home, and his own people received him not. 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 nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.

Reader: Thanks be to God.

**ANTHEM:** "In the Bleak Mid-Winter" .....H. Darke (1888-1976)

**HYMN 82:** "Of the Father's Love begotten" ..... *Divinium Mysterium*

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Reverend Lawrence Civale

*A collection will be taken for the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries.  
Your generosity is deeply appreciated.*

**OFFERTORY:** Meditation on a Theme by Praetorius .....Eric Thiman (1900-75)

*Please stand as the offering is brought forward*

**OFFERTORY HYMN 105:** “God Rest you merry gentlemen” ..... *London Carol*

**COLLECT FOR ADVENT**

Officiant: We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.

**People: In the midst of thy temple.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming: Grant that we who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

**Amen.**

**SOLEMN BLESSING FOR ADVENT**

*Facing the people, the officiant says the following blessing:*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. **Amen**

May he whose second coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN 83:** “O come, all ye faithful” .....*Adeste fideles*  
*(Verses 1—5 only)*

**VOLUNTARY:** “Noel X” .....Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

## Those Who Serve Today

Crucifer: Miguel Sanchez

Torches: Maya Sanchez & Riley Shomo

Usher: Steve Shomo

Music Director: Luke Staisiunas, Christ Church

Asst. Music Director: Lawrence De Pasquale, St John's Evangelist Episcopal Church

Thank you to the following churches that are represented in tonight's choir:

Christ Church

St. John the Evangelist Episcopal Church, Chew's Landing

First Baptist Church, Haddonfield

St. Peter's Episcopal Church in the Great Valley, Malvern, PA



## Special Thanks to the Choir Members

Petra Ares-Deterding 🎵

Matthew Baldwin

Audrey Daugherty

Michael Doheny 🎵

Aurora Holland 🎵

Erika Holland 🎵

Nate Holland 🎵

Rhonda Holland

Shaun Holland 🎵

Darrah McCreath 🎵

Linda Rosser

Lucille Russell

Joey Scales 🎵

Evan Shomo 🎵

Gwen Simpson



🎵 denotes Christ Church Choral Scholar

🎵 denotes Christ Church chorister



# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2025

Sunday, November 30 (1 Advent) ~ 8:00 am & 10:00 am Mass

Sunday, December 7 (2 Advent) ~ 8:00 am & 10:00 am Mass & Child Bishop

Friday, December 12 ~ Woodbury Christmas Tree Lighting 6:00 pm

Sunday, December 14 (3 Advent) ~ 8:00 am & 10:00 am Mass

Friday, December 19 ~ A Service of Lessons and Carols 6:30 pm

Sunday, December 21 (4 Advent) ~ 8:00 am & 10:00 am Mass

Wednesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) ~ 5:00 pm & 11:00 pm Choral Mass

Thursday, December 25 (Christmas Day) ~ 10:00 am Mass with organ

Sunday, December 28 (1st Christmas) ~ 8:00 am & 10:00 am Mass

Thursday, January 1 (Feast of the Holy Name) ~ 10:00 am Mass

Sunday, January 4 (2nd Christmas) ~ 8:00 am & 10:00 am Mass

Tuesday, January 6 ~ (Feast of the Epiphany) 6:30 pm Choral Mass with Reception



## AT CHRIST CHURCH WOODBURY

# Christ Church

62 Delaware Street,  
Woodbury, NJ 08096  
(856) 845-0190

[www.christchurch.woodburynj.org](http://www.christchurch.woodburynj.org)

*A Parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey  
and the worldwide Anglican Communion*

## Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM  
Wednesday: 10:00 AM Healing Mass  
Thursday: 6:30 PM Mass  
Friday: 5:30 PM Evening Prayer  
Sacrament of Penance (Confession)  
by appointment

## *Priest-in-Charge*

The Rev. Lawrence Civalè

## Our Vestry

Wardens: Tori Wishnick & Steve Lewis

Treasurer: Mark Novalsky

Clerk: Gwen Simpson

Class of 2026

Doreen Mills

Gwen Simpson

Sherm Yeiter

Class of 2027

Jim Bathurst

Charles Lewis

Tori Wishnick

Class of 2028

Laura Erasmus

Robertta Shomo

Nathan Wishnick

