

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF WILMINGTON
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA



ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025

5:30 PM

OPEN DOORS. OPEN HEARTS. OPEN HANDS.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, celebrating 167 years of service and worship in Wilmington.

5:30 PM ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS

Please silence all electronic devices before the liturgy begins.

Voluntary

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

BWV 659 - Johann Sebastian Bach

Responsory

Matin Responsory

Palestrina

I look from afar: and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.

Go ye out to meet him and say: Art thou he that should come to rule thy people Israel?

High and low, rich and poor, one with another: go ye out to meet him and say:

Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep: art thou he that should come?

Stir up thy strength and come to rule thy people Israel.

All glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. Alleluia.

As the bell rings, please stand. Candlelight is shared among the congregation.

Hymn

Come, thou Redeemer of the Earth

Puer nobis

Solo:

1 Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,
And manifest thy virgin-birth:
Let every age adoring fall;
Such birth befits the God of all.

Choir:

2 Begotten of no human will,
But of the Spirit, thou art still
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,
The promised fruit to man displayed.

All join in singing as the procession begins:

3 The virgin womb that burden gained
With virgin honor all unstained;
The banners there of virtue glow;
God in his temple dwells below.

4 Forth from his chamber goeth he,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now his course to run.

5 From God the Father he proceeds,
To God the Father back he speeds;
His course he runs to death and hell,
Returning on God's throne to dwell.

6 O equal to thy Father, thou!
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

7 Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,
And darkness breathe a newer light,
Where endless faith shall shine serene,
And twilight never intervene.

8 All laud eternal Son to thee
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Holy Ghost for evermore. Amen.

Words by St. Ambrose,
translated by J M Neale and others

Bidding Prayer

The Officiant says

Beloved in Christ, in this Advent Season, it is time for us to wake out of sleep, for deliverance is nearer to us now than it was when first we believed. It is far on in the night; day is near. Let us therefore cast off the deeds of darkness and put on our armour of light.

Today we enter the solemn season of Advent in which the Church bids us prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ; a coming that we recall in the Child of Bethlehem; a coming that we experience in the gift of his Spirit, in the mystery of the Eucharist, in the joy of human lives that are shared; a coming we wait for when God gathers up all things in Christ.

Let us in this holy season reflect on the coming of Christ who brings light to the world. Let us leave behind the darkness of sin and walk in the light that shines on our path and renew within ourselves the hope of glory to which he beckons us. And as we turn towards the light, let us have on our hearts all those who see no light, for whom all is darkness and despair. Let us pray that they too may be illumined by Christ who is our light.

Finally, as we rejoice with the saints in heaven and on earth, we remember all who have gone before us with the sign of faith, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord, through whom we offer up our prayers for the coming of his kingdom, in the words he himself has taught us, saying:

All: 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: And may the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting, now and at all times.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson: Genesis 3: 1-15

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

Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat. And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons. And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Choir

Adam lay ybounden

Boris Ord

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took.
As clerkës finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
Then had never Our Lady, a-been heavene queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was!
Therefore we moun singen Deo gratias!

The Second Lesson: Isaiah 40: 1-11

Reader: The Prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low: and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough places plain: And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. The voice said, Cry. And he said, What shall I cry? All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the Lord bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass. The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Hymn 75

There's a voice in the wilderness crying

Ascension

Please be seated.

The Third Lesson: Isaiah 7: 10-15

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

The LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, 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. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The candles are extinguished.

Choir

O thou, the central orb

Charles Wood

O thou, the central orb of righteous love, pure beam of the Most High, eternal light
Of this our wintry world; thy radiance bright awakes new joy in faith: hope soars above.
Come, quickly come, and let thy glory shine; gilding our darksome heaven with rays divine.
Thy saints with holy lustre round thee move, as stars about thy throne, set in the height
Of God's ordaining counsel, as thy sight gives measured grace to each, thy power to prove.
Let thy bright beams disperse the gloom of sin: our nature all shall feel eternal day
In fellowship with thee, transforming ray to souls, erewhile unclean, now pure within. Amen.

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 1: 26-35, 38

Reader: The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Choir

Bogoroditse Devo

Sergei Rachmaninoff

Bogoróditse Dévo, ráduysi
Blagodátnaya Mariye, Ghospód s Tobóyu.
Blagoslovénna Tì v zhenáh,
ì blagoslovén Plod chréva Tvoyegó,
yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshih.

(English Translation)
Rejoice, virgin mother of God,
Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
for you have borne the Saviour of our souls.

The Fifth Lesson: Matthew 1: 18-23

Reader: Joseph dreams of the coming birth of the Saviour.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be pregnant from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to divorce her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Hymn 76

Please remain standing.

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

The Sixth Lesson: Mark 1:1-8

Reader: The proclamation of John the Baptist.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
“Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight”,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

An offering is received during the singing of the hymn. Members of the congregation will present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Hymn 57

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Helmsley

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending
swell the triumph of his train:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Christ the Lord returns to reign.

3 Those dear tokens of his passion
still his dazzling body bears,
cause of endless exultation
to his ransomed worshipers;
with what rapture, with what rapture,
with what rapture
gaze we on those glorious scars!

2 Every eye shall now behold him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at nought and sold him,
pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.

4. Yea, amen! let all adore thee,
high on thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the power and glory;
claim the kingdom for thine own:
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

The Advent Collect

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

An Advent Blessing

Hymn 56 (vs 1, 3, 4, 6, 8) O come, O come Emmanuel Veni, veni, Emmanuel

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear.

3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might,
who to thy tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times didst give the law
in cloud and majesty and awe. **Refrain**

6 O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by the drawing nigh!
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
and death's dark shadow put to flight. **Refrain**

Refrain:
*Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee,
O Israel.*

4 O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free the from Satan's tyranny!
That trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. **Refrain**

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. **Refrain**

The Dismissal

Officiant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ who is to come.
People: Thanks be to God.

Voluntary Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland BWV 661 - Johann Sebastian Bach

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

Officiant The Reverend Caleb J. Lee	Ushers Marilyn Tousignant Greg Kutrow Don Bobo
Verger Leon Tillery	Readers Herb Gant Louise Joyner Allen Lee Lisa Sanders-Park Sally Pope
Crucifer Cabe Lee	
Gospel Book Bearer Izzy Lee	
Torchbearers Charlie Nipper Bear Thompson	Music Dr. Brendan Conner, Organist and Director of Music The Choir of St. Paul's Annabelle Arends. Soloist

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC AT ST. PAUL'S

Tuesday, December 9

Hoggard High School Orchestra

7:30 pm *in the Sanctuary*

Friday, December 12

Handel's Messiah with the NC Baroque Orchestra

7:30 pm *in the Sanctuary*

Wednesday, December 17

Blue Christmas

6:00 pm *in the Sanctuary*

Sunday, December 21

Christmas Lessons & Carols

5:30 pm *in the Sanctuary*

Monday, December 22

Tallis Chamber Orchestra Baroque Christmas Concert

7:30pm *in the Sanctuary*

Wednesday, December 24

Christmas Eve

5:30pm Family Eucharist w/

The Presentation of the Nativity

8:00pm Choral Prelude

8:30pm Choral Eucharist