

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21, 2025 ~ 10:00 a.m.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fincastle

Welcome, we are so glad you are with us today for our special service of
Lessons & Carols!

We are so thankful for our music leaders and readers today

PRELUDE

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

arr. L. Shackley

OPENING HYMN

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

#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.

With the poor, and mean, and lowly,
Lived on earth our Saviour Holy.

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;

5 And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Source: Hymnal: according to the use of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America #233

THE BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 364

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.

[After each lesson the Reader says, "The Word of the Lord."
The Congregation responds, "Thanks be to God."]

THE FIRST LESSON: **GENESIS 3:8-15; 17-19**

*GOD TELLS SINFUL ADAM THAT HE HAS LOST THE LIFE OF PARADISE AND THAT
HIS SEED WILL BRUISE THE SERPENT'S HEAD.*

READER: CHARLOTTE HAGAN

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they 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."

And to the man he said,

"Because you have listened to the voice of your wife,
and have eaten of the tree
about which I commanded you,
'You shall not eat of it',
cursed is the ground because of you;
in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread
until you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;

you are dust,
and to dust you shall return."

CAROL #1: OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN arr. M. Hayes

THE SECOND LESSON: **GENESIS 22:15-18**

*GOD PROMISES TO FAITHFUL ABRAHAM THAT IN HIS SEED SHALL ALL THE
NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED.*

READERS: THE MURPHY FAMILY

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, "By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice."

CAROL #2: *O Come, Emmanuel* arr. M. Bober

THE THIRD LESSON: **ISAIAH 9:2, 6-7**

THE PROPHET FORETELLS THE COMING OF THE SAVIOUR.

READER: KIM PINKNEY

The people who walked in darkness
 have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--
 on them light has shined.
For a child has been born for us,
 a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
 and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
 Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
His authority shall grow continually,
 and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
 He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
 from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

CAROL #3: *The Holly and the Ivy* arr. Faber and Faber
 Duet played by Clara & Elena Preston

THE FOURTH LESSON: **ISAIAH 11:1-3a; 4a; 6-9**

THE PEACE THAT CHRIST WILL BRING IS FORESHOWN.

READER: GEORGE W. F. LOGAN

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.
With righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
as the waters cover the sea.

CAROL #4:

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (vs. 1, 4)

#112

- 1 In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.
- 4 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.

THE FIFTH LESSON: **LUKE 1:26-35, 38**

THE ANGEL GABRIEL SALUTES THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY.

READER: EMILY TALBOT-GUILLOTE

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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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." 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.

CAROL #5:

Bring a Torch, Jeannette Isabella
Played by Johannes Bosch

THE SIXTH LESSON: **LUKE 2:1; 3-7**

ST. LUKE TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS.

READER: SALLY WAID

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

CAROL #6:

The Welsh Lullaby
BMA Community Chorus

arr. K. L. Scott

THE SEVENTH LESSON: **LUKE 2:8-16**

THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER.

READER: JIM JOHNSTON

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.

CAROL #7:

THE FIRST NOWELL (vs. 1, 2)

#109

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

- 2 They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

The first Nowell the angel did say, #109 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: English Carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901); alt. refrain harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968). Alternative setting with descant, Copyright © 1926, by Oxford University Press, Inc.

THE EIGHTH LESSON: MATTHEW 2:1-12

THE WISE MEN ARE LED BY THE STAR TO JESUS.

READER: SUSAN MAZEK

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CAROL #8:

WE THREE KINGS (vs. 1,5)

#128

- 1 We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,

moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

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

- 5 Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies.

Refrain

We three kings of Orient are, #128 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891), alt. Music: *Three Kings of Orient*, John Henry Hopkins, Jr. (1820-1891).

THE NINTH LESSON: **JOHN 1:1-14**

ST. JOHN UNFOLDS THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

READER: WILLIS LOGAN

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.

CAROL #9: *What Child is This?* arr. I. Good

WELCOME

OFFERTORY *We'll Dress the House* arr. A. Burt
St. Mark's Cherub Choir

CLOSING COLLECT AND BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING #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

Hark! the herald angels sing, #87 from *The Hymnal 1982* — Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).

POSTLUDE

St. Mark's Weekly Prayer List

Prayer requests for individuals and families are left on for 4 Sundays unless requested. If you wish for someone to be left on longer, please let the office know at the time you make the request.

IN OUR ARMED FORCES: Patrick Funkhouser; Erin Funkhouser; Nathan Bradley; Mason Alexander; Reeve Alexander; Jimmy Brown; Eric Burton; Ali Taha; Griffith Wood; Logan Ching; and First Responders.

THANKSGIVING: For those celebrating birthdays this week:
Luke Layman (12/21); Anne Palmer (12/22); Art Heberer (12/23).

SEMINARIANS: Parker Hughes.

THOSE IN NEED:

Danielle Alexander
Carol Anderson
Jason Christian Bayer
The Rev. Sue Bentley
Cousin Beth
John Beverley
Lucile Bondurant
The Rev. Bob Brodie
Kris Browning
Adam Burkley
Kay Canham
Gabrielle Clouser
Marla Cook
Angela Coon
Cora
Jacob Crawford
Jeremiah Crawford
Suzanne Cronise
Bryce Dalton
Nonie Diebold
Connie Diez
Josh diPalma
Carma Duffy
Christine E.
Evelyn Edwards

Claire Ferguson
Brooke Forney
Chelsea G. H.
Chuck Geiger
Crofton Held
Pat Honts
Tommy Hunter
Meg Johnson
Ed Johnston
Sharon LaVonne Kidwell
Stephanie Keith
Yvonne Killers
Allen Layman
Helen Madine-Gregory
Si Mandros
Darlene Martin
Mary
Laura Holt McCann
Ella Mitchell
Joe Mix
Liz Moore
Charley Neil
Edward Neil
Matthew Neil
Penny Neil
Judy Newbern

Marie Nganele
David Ostrowski
Gary Overbay
Janet P.
Doug Paysour
Roderick Plenge
Sis Proffitt
Roman
Brook Roncinske
Mario Saade
Savannah
Sue Spickard
Al Suite
Suzanne
Mike Thompson
Sherry Vinson
Virginia
Krystal Weaver
Charlie Webb
Jerry Webb
Gary Welch
Chad Whitaker
Denise Williamson
Bruce Wilsie
Kim Wyrick

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE DIED: Dean Wilkerson; Bruce Edward Clouser; Bruce Clarkson.

FOR THOSE WHO ARE GRIEVING: Wilkerson family and Anna Talbot Guillote; Clouser, Cody, Gillies, James and Cook families; Clarkson family.

St. Mark's Prayer Ministries

Willis and Jake are available to talk and pray: call, email or text them.

We Care Ministry: A prayer and service ministry for St. Mark's

Contact: Carole Geiger (geiger.caroleb@gmail.com)

Prayer Chain: Emergency situations contact Susan Hays by phone (540) 884-2555

Parish Activities – Week of December 21, 2025

Sunday, December 21 – The Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00am - Adult Education class in the Education room – *Advent Begins in the Dark*

10:00am - **A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols at St. Mark's, Fincastle, followed by parish-wide potluck brunch and Hanging of the Greens**

Monday, December 22

12:00pm - Bridge Group meets

Tuesday, December 23

7:00pm - Open AA

Wednesday, December 24

Office Closed today

**4:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight
Service of Holy Communion**

Thursday, December 25

Office Closed today

MERRY
Christmas

Friday, December 26

Office Closed

Saturday, December 27

7:00pm - Open AA meeting

Serving Us Today

OFFICIANT: THE REV. G. WILLIS LOGAN, JR.

READERS: CHARLOTTE HAGAN,
THE MURPHY FAMILY, KIM PINKNEY,
GEORGE W. F. LOGAN, EMILY TALBOT-GUILLOTE,
SALLY WAID, JIM JOHNSTON, SUSAN MAZEK,
THE REV. G. WILLIS LOGAN, JR.

MUSICIANS: ANNA PRESTON, CLARA PRESTON,
ELENA PRESTON, JOHANNES BOSCH,
BMA COMMUNITY CHORUS

ALTAR GUILD: ALL MEMBERS

COUNTERS: CHARLOTTE HAGAN, TBD
USHERS: DAN & KAREN BEASLEY

The Rev. G. Willis Logan, Rector

Jake Webb, Assistant to the Rector

Gina Painter, Office Manager/Vestry Clerk

Jim Johnston, Treasurer

Tommy Hunter, Organist Emeritus Anna Preston, Music Minister

Allison Caldwell & Ana Uotinen, Children/Youth Ministers

Vestry (Lay Leadership)

Charlotte Hagan (Senior Warden) * Phil Coffey (Junior Warden)

John Alexander * Michelle Cook * Jenine Culligan

Meggan Laucher * Mike Parish

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