



December 31, 2023

The First Sunday After Christmas

A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Welcome to
St. David's Episcopal Church

Readings for a Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Processional Hymn

Once in Royal David's City, vv. 1, 2, 4

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, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

4) For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew;
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.

Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

Bidding Prayer

Leader:

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas season our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

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, dedicated to his pure and lowly Mother, glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood and the mission of the Church he came to build and for which He died, and especially for His Church in our country and in this city:

And let us at this time remember in His name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light,

that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom 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:

Leader and People:

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name,

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us;

And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

Leader:

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.***

Hymn

In the Bleak Midwinter, vv. 1 & 2

Hymnal 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.

2) Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

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

⁸ 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.

⁹ And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

¹¹ 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?

¹² And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

¹³ 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.

¹⁴ 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:

¹⁵ 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.

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

¹⁹In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Hymn

Blest Be the King Whose Coming, vv. 1 & 4

Hymnal 74

1) Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
For him let doors be opened, no hearts against him barred!
Not robed in royal splendor, in power and pomp, comes he;
but clad as are the poorest, such his humility!

4) Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
He offers to the burdened the rest and grace they need.
Gentle is he and humble! And light his yoke shall be,
for he would have us bear it so he can make us free.

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

¹⁶And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

¹⁷ That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

¹⁸ And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Hymn

Angels from the Realms of Glory, vv. 1 - 3

Hymnal 93

1) Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the new-born King.

2) Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with man is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the new-born King.

3) Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
 come and worship, come and worship,
 worship Christ, the new-born King.

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

² The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

⁶ For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder:

and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Hymn

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear, vv. 1&4

Hymnal 89

1) It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

4) For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years

shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-4, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

¹ And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

² 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 of the fear of the Lord;

³ And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

⁴ But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove 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 shall he slay the wicked.

⁶ The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

⁹ They shall not hurt nor 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 The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Hymn

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming, vv. 1, 2

Hymnal 81

1) Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

2) Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

Fifth Lesson

St Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

²⁶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

²⁷ To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

³⁰ And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

³¹ And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

³² 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:

³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

³⁴ Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

³⁵ 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.

³⁸ 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

Hymn

Silent Night, vv. 1, 2, 3

Hymnal 111

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.
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!
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.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth

Sixth Lesson

St Luke 2:1, 3-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

1 And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Hymn

Away in the Manger, vv. 1 – 3

Hymnal 101

1) Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay;
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2) The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3) Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care;
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Seventh Lesson

St. Luke 2: 8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us.

¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Hymn

The First Noel, vv. 1 & 2

Hymnal 109

1) The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

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]

Eighth Lesson

St. Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

¹ Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

² Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

³ When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

⁵ And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet,

⁶ And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.

⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

⁸ And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child;

and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

⁹When they had heard the king, they departed;
and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came
and stood over where the young child was.

¹⁰When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

¹¹And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child
with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him:

and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts;
gold, and frankincense and myrrh.

¹²And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to
Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Hymn

We Three Kings, vv. 1&5

Hymnal 128

1) We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

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: alle-
luia the earth replies.

[Refrain]

Lesson

St. John 1:1-14

The congregation stands for the Ninth Lesson.

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

² The same was in the beginning with God.

³ All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

⁴ In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

⁹ That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

¹² But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:

¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful, vv. 1 – 3

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;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
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 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]

Offertory and Announcements

Collect & Blessing

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Leader Let us pray.

Leader and People

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore,
the dignity of human nature:

Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to
share our humanity,

thy son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader

May He who by His Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and
heavenly, grant us the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the
blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be
upon us and remain with us always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Joy to The World, vv. 1, 2, 4

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,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, 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,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4) He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Announcements:

- ◆ Join us for our **Conversational Social Time** between Sunday School and our service, and again following the service. We'll enjoy a light snack and pleasant chat in the Chapel. This will also help preserve the quiet of the Sanctuary.
- ◆ St. David's invites you to **Sunday School Bible Study** Sundays, in the Chapel Library. We're studying the first seven chapters of First Samuel. Please come join us. The class starts at 9:30 and finish around 10:10.
- ◆ St. David's Daycare & Preschool has great long-sleeve **tee-shirts** on hand, with the school logo on the back and the school name on the front. They come in sizes from 2T to 3XL. See Jimmy Carol Avent, Director/Principal, for more information.
- ◆ Fr. Jeff has a weekly time of **conversation and prayer** with staff members and anyone who wishes to come, most **Tuesdays at 1:00** in his office. The purpose is to lift up and encourage, and to inform one another about projects and events going on in the church. All are welcome!
- ◆ St. David's Episcopal Church is a distribution point for the Chesterfield County **FoodShare** program, which makes fresh produce available to local citizens at reasonable cost. Our next delivery day is:
Order by **Friday, Jan 5**pick up on **Thursday, Jan 11** (12:30-3:30)



ST. DAVID'S
Episcopal Church
CHERAW, SOUTH CAROLINA

Welcome!

Regardless of whether or not you regularly attend here, we are happy to have you as one of us today! Feel free to come up close, and kneel before our Lord's altar and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. All Baptized Christians, regardless of denomination (or status as Protestant or Roman Catholic) are welcome here, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. If you need a gluten-free wafer, then please indicate this to one of the ushers.

Of course, if you prefer to remain seated during Eucharist, we are fine with that as well. We merely hope that your experience with us today is divinely positive and truly meaningful.

As Priest-in-Charge, I would be glad for us to have a conversation during the coffee hour or to have a scheduled appointment for another time. I love answering questions about why we do what we do and about who we are as Episcopalian Christians. If you have a confidential matter to voice, I can be trusted as a priest and as a certified grief counselor.

Again, I am very happy that you have chosen to be with us this day. Feel free to contact me personally. On Sunday afternoons, I am only available for pastoral emergencies.

Blessings, Father Jeff+

Church Phone 843-253-5295

Fr. Jeff Wallace Cell Phone 843-421-0101

Church Email: cherawepiscopalians@gmail.com

Fr. Jeff Wallace Email: rector@stdavidsepiscopalcheraw.org