

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

Established 1680 • Charleston, SC



A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

DECEMBER 10, 2023 • 10:30 AM



WELCOME

To all who are spiritually weary *and seek rest*,
to all who mourn *and long for comfort*,
to all who struggle *and desire victory*,
to all who sin *and need a Savior*,
to all who are strangers *and want fellowship*,
to all who hunger *and thirst after righteousness*,
to all who have been blessed *and wish to give thanks*,
and to whoever will come—*this church opens wide her doors*
and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Restrooms are available in the Parish House, located at the corner of Church and Cumberland Streets. A greeter or usher will be happy to direct you.

Headsets for the hard of hearing are available in the video/sound booth at the end of the north side aisle.

A nursery for children three years old and younger and **Children's Church** for children ages four through third grade are available in the Parish House on the corner of Church and Cumberland Streets. A greeter or usher will be happy to direct you.

Our Family Respite Room is available on the ground floor of the Parish House in room 107. It is equipped with rocking chairs, a changing table, toddler toys, and a smart TV, which will be showing the worship service via livestream. Families are welcome to use this facility as they feel is needed during the service. No unaccompanied children, please.

Visiting? We are delighted to have you with us today! If you are looking for a church home, come visit our hospitality table after the service so we can share more with you about our parish family. We would love to reach out to you—please fill out our visitor card either in the pew, at the table, or via the QR code. Cards can be placed in the offering plate or dropped off at the tent. If you'd like to learn more about St. Philip's, please visit our website, saintphilips.church, where you can also find our teaching ministry podcasts (including sermons, Bible studies, and C.S. Lewis studies). May God bless your time with us today!



WELCOME TO LESSONS AND CAROLS AT ST. PHILIP'S!

Following the choral introit this morning, after a brief hush, a solo treble voice will ring out from the balcony with the joyous tidings that “Once in Royal David’s City” Jesus Christ was born, the fulfillment of God’s plan of salvation from the dawn of time.

And so Lessons and Carols begins each year—the glorious unfolding of God’s plan of salvation told once again in the words of nine lessons from the Holy Scriptures, read by parishioners from across the spectrum of ministries at St. Philip’s, beginning in Genesis and carrying through to the Gospel of St. John with the unimaginably good news of the Incarnation: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.” Following each reading, from our choirs and instrumentalists will come marvelous musical offerings accompanied by a wide variety of instruments, carefully chosen to help us reflect on the wonder and glory and beauty of the Lord and His most gracious gift, Jesus Christ.

2018 marked the 100th anniversary of the first Lessons and Carols service in the format we have come to know and love. In 1918, in the dark despair that gripped England after the Armistice that ended World War I, having left many of the best and brightest of that generation buried in the battlefields of France, a young British Army Chaplain, the Reverend Eric Milner-White, was appointed the Chaplain at King’s College, Cambridge. Having been in the trenches and having served as a stretcher bearer, he knew well the horrors of war and the loss of loved ones, and came to a university that was in mourning for the nearly fifteen hundred students that had died in the war. Milner-White prayed for guidance on how to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ in that context, and came up with the idea of a Lessons and Carols service that would proclaim the good news of God’s glorious plan of salvation by starting at the Book of Genesis and carrying right through Scripture to the great Incarnation Gospel passage in the first chapter of St. John’s Gospel, with carols to illustrate and celebrate each passage. The service was an immediate success and has now become one of the best-loved traditions in the Anglican world. Milner-White wrote the heartfelt words of the Bidding Prayer which opens the service, words that are especially poignant as one considers the context in 1918 of those empty pews and silent voices: “... 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 in the Lord Jesus we are one for evermore.”

We at St. Philip’s do indeed rejoice that our hope is in the Word made flesh, and we are delighted to welcome all of you to ponder this wondrous gift as we worship together this morning!

—The Reverend Brian Kenneth McGreevy

A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE INTROIT

O Come Little Children

The Cherub, St. Nicholas, and St. Cecilia Choirs

Away in a Manger

The St. Nicholas and St. Cecilia Choirs

Jean Breza, *director*; Pam Dickson, *flute*; Heather Dawson, *piano*

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

John Gardner (1917–2011)

The St. Philip's Choir

He Shall Feed His Flock

G.F. Handel (1685-1759)

The St. David Choir Trebles

Pam Dickson, *flute*; Heather Dawson, *piano*; Austin Fitzhenry, *cello*

THE WORD OF GOD

All stand. The first stanza of the hymn is sung by a solo chorister. Please join in singing all other stanzas.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 236

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Solo: 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.

Soloist: May Bibee, *The Canterbury Choir*

All Sing: 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.
And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey.
Love and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay;
Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.
For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew;
He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew;
And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth all our gladness.
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.
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;
When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Words: Sts. 1-2 and 4-6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850 -1929); Descant and organ part by David Willcocks © 1970 Oxford University Press.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

Officiant Let us pray.

All kneel. The officiant says

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a 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 his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill 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 this of all things 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:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant and People pray

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.***

The people stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN

Lo! He Comes With Clouds Descending

Helmsley

Lo! He comes with clouds descending, once for favored sinners slain;
Thousand thousand saints attending swell the triumph of his train.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.

Ev'ry eye shall now behold him, robed in glorious majesty;
Those who set at naught and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the tree,
Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, shall their true Messiah see.

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

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.

Words: Charles Wesley, 1758 alt. Music: *Helmsley* from *Select Hymns with Tunes Annex*, 1765. Descant from *The Christ Church Descant Book*, Lois Fyfe. Copyright © The Cumberland Press (Vester Music).

The people are seated for the reading of God's Word.

THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 3:8-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

Reader: Baxter Murray

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. ¹⁶ Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. 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; ¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹ In 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.**

The people remain seated for the singing of the carol.

CAROL

Feed My Lambs
The St. Cecilia Choir
Pam Dickson, *flute*

Natalie Sleeth (1930–1992)

Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, over all a vigil keep;
In My name, lead them forth gently as a shepherd.
When they wander, when they stray, their protector be.
As ye do unto My flock, thus ye do to me.
Unto all who lose the way Hope and comfort be.
As ye do unto My flock, thus ye do to Me.
Feed My lambs, tend My sheep, over all a vigil keep;
In My name, lead them forth gently, gently as a loving shepherd of the Lord.

Words and music by Natalie Sleeth (1930–1992)

THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 22:15-18

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

Reader: Meredith Gale

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, ¹⁶ and 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.**

The people remain seated for the singing of the carol.

CAROL

People Look East

John Leavitt (b. 1956)

The Canterbury and St. David Choirs

People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east and sing today: Love, the guest, is on the way.
Stars, keep the watch when night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together,
People look east and sing today: Love, the star is on the way.
Angels announce with shouts of mirth Him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People look east. And sing today: Love, the Lord, is on the way!

Words: translated from the French by the Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: Basque Carol, arr. John Raymond Howell, ©1986 Boosey & Hawkes, Inc. ICS.ARR.

THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah.

Reader: Caroline Fitzgerald

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.**

The people remain seated for the singing of the carol.

CAROL

O Radiant Dawn

James MacMillan (b. 1959)

Schola Singers of the St. Philip's Choir

O Radiant Dawn, Splendor of eternal Light, Sun of Justice:
Come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
Isaiah had prophesied, the people who walked in darkness have seen the great light
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. Amen.

Text: *O Antiphons*, 6th cent. Music: James MacMillan (b. 1959).

THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Reader: Lula Galván

¹And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:
²And 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; ³And 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: ⁴But 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. ⁵And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. ⁶The 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. ⁷And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. ⁹They 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.**

The people remain seated for the singing of the carol.

CAROL

Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon (1886–1943)

The Canterbury and St. David Choirs

Marisa Rivera, *soprano*; John Gardner, *tenor*;
Pam Dickson, *flute*; Austin Fitzhenry, *cello*

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang. The grateful earth rejoiced.
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.
Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, its King of love and light.
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell!
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.
Venite adoremus, Christ the Lord.

Text: Frederick H. Martens (1874-1932). Music: Pietro Yon (1886-1943) Public Domain.

All stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN 9

Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding

Merton

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding. "Christ is nigh," it seems to say;
"Cast away the works of darkness, O ye children of the day."

Wakened by the solemn warning, let the earth-bound soul arise;
Christ, her sun, all sloth dispelling, shines upon the morning skies.

Lo! the Lamb, so long expected, comes with pardon down from heaven;
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow, one and all to be forgiven;

So when next he comes with glory, and the world is wrapped in fear,
May he with his mercy shield us, and with words of love draw near.

Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son,
With the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt.

Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855-1933)

The people are seated for the reading of God's Word.

THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Virgin Mary.

Reader: Gantt Folline

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. ³⁶ And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing shall be impossible. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. ³⁸ And the angel departed from her.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people remain seated for the singing of the carol.

CAROL

Magnificat

William H. Harris (1883–1973)

Ladies of the St. Philip's Choir

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 henceforth 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 scatter'd the proud in the imagination 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 rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:
As he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed forever.
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.

Music: William Henry Harris (1883-1973) ©1958 Novello & Co Ltd. Used by permission.

THE SIXTH LESSON

Matthew 1:18-23

St. Matthew tells the birth of Jesus.

Reader: John Settle

¹⁸ Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. ¹⁹ Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. ²⁰ But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. ²² Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people remain seated for the singing of the carol.

CAROL

Fum, Fum, Fum

George L. O. Strid (b. 1956)

The Canterbury and St. David Choirs

On December five and twenty, fum, fum, fum.
On that day a child was born so long ago on Christmas morn.
In a manger He lay sleeping, Mother Mary watch was keeping.
Vienti cinco de diciembre, fum, fum, fum.
Naci do ha por nuestro amor, el Niño Dios;
Hoy de la Virgen Maria, en esta noche tan fria.
Friends and neighbors will be singing.
Now with all our voices raised in grateful praise.
And we'll celebrate the story, ever singing of His glory.

Spanish Carol by Mary Donnelly (b. 1964), Arranged by George L. O. Strid. Copyright © 2001 by Alfred Music.

All stand and sing the hymn.

HYMN 27

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

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!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the Newborn King!

Christ, by highest heav'n 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*

Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.
Ris'n with healing in his wings,
Light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain*

Charles Wesley, 1739, alt. Music: Adapted from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn, 1840

The people are seated for the reading of God's Word.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

Reader: Foster Gaillard

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 Saviour, 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.**

The Gentlemen of the St. David and St. Philip's Choirs

Masters in this hall, Hear ye news today, brought from oversea, and ever I you pray:
 Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel, sing we clear!
 Hopen are all folk on earth, born is God's Son so dear
 Noel! Noel! Noel! Noel, sing we loud!
 God today hath poor folk raised and cast adown the proud.
 Going o'er the hills through the milk white snow,
 Heard I ewes bleat while the wind did blow.
 Then to Bethlehem town we went two by two,
 And in a sorry place heard the oxen low: Noel! Noel! Noel!
 Ox and ass Him know, kneeling on the knee,
 Wondrous joy had I this little Babe to see: Noel! Noel! Noel!
 This is Christ, the Lord, Masters, be ye glad!
 Christmas is come in, and no folk shall be sad! Noel! Noel! Noel!

Music: Traditional French Carol arr. John Walters (b. 1953) ©1994 Laudamus Press. Used by permission

THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men are led by the star to Jesus.

Reader: Penn Hagood

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. ⁹ When 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. ¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. ¹¹ And 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. ¹² And 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.**

The people remain seated for the singing of the carol.

CAROL

The Magi's Dream
The St. Philip's Choir

James Whitbourn (b. 1963)

Night has come to Bethlehem, the family is asleep
Exhausted by the wonders seen, the news outrageous, deep.
"That I may come and worship him."
Ox and ass have closed their eyes, their ears now hear no sound
Shepherds have gone back to their flocks, the mouse still noses around.
Kings have left for their distant lands, fractious camels moan.
At a desert spring they make their farewells: "It's a mighty way to home!"
Later that night their heads are filled with a dream-drenched holy ray.
"Do not return to Herod the king; go back another way."
And so our Christ is saved from death, his mission to complete
To change the world by selfless love Satan's legions to beat.

Text: Robert Tear (1939-2011)

Music: James Whitbourn (b. 1963). ©2011 Chester Music. Used by permission.

All stand.

THE NINTH LESSON

John 1:1-14

Saint John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

Reader: The Rector

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.**

The people are seated for the singing of the carol.

CAROL

Serenity

Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978)

The St. Philip's Choir

*O magnum mysterium
et admirabile sacramentum,
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,
iacentem in praesepe.
Beata Virgo,
cujus viscera meruerunt
portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
Alleluia!*

O great mystery
and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the new-born Lord
lying in their manger.
Blessed is the Virgin
whose womb was worthy
to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

Text: *Responsory of Matins for Christmas Day*

Music: Ola Gjeilo (b. 1978) ©2012 Walton Music Corp. Used by permission.

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Rejoice, Rejoice, Jerusalem

Simon Mold (b. 1957)

The St. Philip's Choir

Rejoice, rejoice, Jerusalem, Our Lord is born in Bethlehem,
The noble flower of Jesse's stem, rejoice, rejoice, Jerusalem, Alleluia!
Our Lord is born in Bethlehem, in humble stall the Lord of all sleeps on,
Mankind befriending, hold his reign unending! Alleluia!
Poor shepherds hear the angels sing Alleluia,
They humbly kneel before their King, Alleluia!
From eastern lands come monarchs three, Alleluia!
To Mary's son they bow the knee, Alleluia!
So make we joy on Christmas morn, sing praise to God whose Son is born,
No more grieving race forlorn, so make we joy on Christmas morn, Alleluia!
Thrice blessed be the Trinity, the fount of our endeavor to thank our God forever, Alleluia!

Text: adaptation of *Puer Natus*

Music: Michael Praetorius (1571-1621) arr. Simon Mold (b. 1957) ©2021 St. James Music Press. Used by permission.

The people stand and sing the Doxology.

THE DOXOLOGY, HYMN 30 (S. 6)

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

Then let us all with one accord sing praises to our heav'nly Lord;
That hath made heav'n and earth of naught and with his blood mankind hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the king of Israel.

Words: Old English carol, 18th cent.

Music: *The First Nowell*, Traditional English carol, pub. 1833

THE CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Priest The Lord be with you.*People* ***And with thy spirit.****Priest* Let us pray.*All kneel.*

After the blessing, all stand and sing the processional hymn.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

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

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

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, who ord'rest all things mightily;
To us in path of knowledge show, and teach in her ways to go. *Refrain*

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, in majesty and awe. *Refrain*

O come, thou Rod of Jesse's stem, from every foe deliver them
That trust thy mighty power to save, and give them victory o'er the grave. *Refrain*

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

Words: Hymnal Version, based on Latin, c. 9th cent.; St. 1, 3, 4 pub. Cologne, 1710

Music: *Veni Emmanuel*, Melody adapted from plainsong, Mode I, by Thomas Helmore, 1854.

THE DISMISSAL

The priest dismisses the people, and the people respond:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Toccata on Veni Emmanuel

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

A L T A R G R E E N E R Y

***The greenery on the altar is given to the glory of almighty God
and in loving memory of beloved husband and father***

Steven Lee Dixon



S E R V I N G I N W O R S H I P

Officiant

The Rev. Jeffrey S. Miller

Greeters

Margaret and Robert McKenzie

Ushers

Chris Osborne, Jeff Tibbals,
Dexter Rumsey, Lee Batchelder

Acolyte Mentor

Cordes Ford

Acolytes

Cecilia Ford, Simon Ford, Wright Ghegan,
Henson Norvell, Ford Norvell,
Palmer Lancaster, Davis Dobbins

Flower Guild

Garden Frampton, Cammie Furber, Jane Jilich,
Nancy McGowan, Tamera Dengler

*Thank you to the choirs and musicians
for their invaluable contributions to today's music.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Wassail Bowl Reception is in the Parish Hall immediately following this service. Please enjoy some savory bites, sweet treats, and hot mulled cider—otherwise known as wassail—as you mingle!

Poinsettia Delivery: Every year at Christmas time, the St. Philip's Compassion Committee provides poinsettias and cards to parishioners who are especially in our hearts this season. We need your help to get them delivered! As you're leaving the Wassail Bowl, please go by the downstairs entryway of the Parish House and pick up a plant (or a few!) to deliver to someone who lives near you or on your route home. The poinsettias will be sorted by ZIP code and the cards will have complete addresses.

Theology on Tuesdays: The name has changed slightly, but everything else is the same! Young adults, join Justin Hare and Brian McGreevy at 7:00 p.m. on December 12 in the Whiskey Room of Henry's on the Market for the final Theology on Tuesdays of 2023, when they will discuss "Gratitude & Giving: Cultivating Christian Virtues This Holiday Season."

The Greening of the Church is this Friday, December 15, at 9:00 a.m. The whole parish is invited to help prepare the sanctuary for our celebration of the Nativity! Bring gloves and clippers for yourself if you have them and a breakfast treat to share. All helping hands are welcome—there will be tasks for all activity levels!

Christmas flower memorial/thanksgiving dedications are due by December 15 for inclusion in the Christmas Eve bulletins. Scan the QR code at right or visit stphilipchurchsc.org/christmas-flowers to submit your loved ones' information (preferred method for accuracy). Forms are also available in the church office.



The Angel Trees will be here one more week! Thank you to all who have already donated gift cards or made online donations. If you haven't yet participated and would like to, please pick an ornament from the tree and make your donation online or drop your gift card(s) off at church this Wednesday or Sunday. You may also drop gift cards at the church office before 9:00 a.m. next Monday, December 18.

Wrapping up 2023:

- **Now in recess:** Sunday School, Rector's Forum (resume Jan. 7)
- **December 13:** Final Wednesdays Alive! service/supper/class (resumes Jan. 24)
- **December 14:** Rector's Bible Study (resumes Jan. 25)
- **December 15 and 17:** Final Youth Group meetings (resume Jan. 5 and 7)
- **December 25-January 1:** Church office closed

Save the Date:

- **January 18–20:** Mere Anglicanism Conference (register at mereanglicanism.org)

Please check your email inbox or visit stphilipchurchsc.org/news for further information about the above announcements and the rest of this week's news.

Fourth Sunday in Advent Worship

December 24 ~ livestream available

10:30 a.m.

Morning Prayer (no sermon)

Christmas Eve Worship

livestream available

4:30 p.m.

Children's Christmas Pageant and
Holy Eucharist

7:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

with brass and the Canterbury and St. David Choirs

10:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

with brass and the St. Philip's Choir

Christmas Day Worship

in-person only

10:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist



ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

An Anglican Congregation

142 Church Street | Charleston, SC 29401
(843) 722-7734

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Friday

Clergy

The Rev. Jeffrey S. Miller, *Rector*

The Rev. Andrew R. O'Dell, *Senior Associate*

The Rev. Brian K. McGreevy, *Assistant for Hospitality Ministry*

The Rev. William K. Christian III, *Assistant for Pastoral Care*

The Rev. Justin C. Hare, *Assistant for Young Adult and Family Ministry*

The Rev. Dr. William P. Rhett, *Priest Associate*

The Rev. Gerry L. McCord, *Deacon*

Clergy contact information is available at stphilipchurchsc.org/clergy

Program Staff

David L. Gilbert, *Youth Minister*

Alexandra "Zippy" Hood, *Director of Children's Choirs*

Dorothy H. Lancaster, *Director of Ministry to Children and Families*

Paul F. Reese III, *Associate Director of Music and Organist*

Christopher L. Walchesky, *Director of Music and Organist*

Staff contact information is available at stphilipchurchsc.org/staff

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Jason Ayers, Ashley Davis, Polly Dickson, Gantt Folline, Cordes Ford,

Jayne Gurley, Langdon Hartsock, Suzanne McCord, Jill Settle, David Wright

Additional vestry contact information is available at stphilipchurchsc.org/vestry