

# ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

The Cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee

*A Festival of Christmas Lessons & Carols*  
Sunday, December 22nd, 2024 10:30 AM

*Service items listed in red can be found in the red Book of Common Prayer. Hymns, listed in blue, can be found in the blue Hymnal.*

## Prelude

Four Carols for Brass Michel Rondeau (b. 1948)  
*The holly and the ivy | O Tannenbaum*  
*Greensleeves | In dulci jubilo*

## The Opening Sentence

*(Stand at the bell)*  
Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
People AND BLESSED BE HIS KINGDOM,  
NOW AND FOR EVER. AMEN.

## Hymn 102: *Once in royal David's city*

(v. 1 & 2 sung by choir; 4 & 6 by all)

## The Christmas Prayer of Invitation and The Lord's Prayer

*The People remain seated for the Lessons & Hymns*

## The First Reading

*Isaiah 11: 1–9*

Reader: Benjamin Bryan

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. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People THANKS BE TO GOD.

## Hymn 56: *O come, O come, Emmanuel* (v. 1, 7, 8)

## The Second Reading

*Luke 1: 26–38*

Reader: James Wolfenbarger

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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People THANKS BE TO GOD.

## Anthem

Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

*Bogoroditse djévo*

Bogoróditse Dyévo, ráduisya,  
Blagodátnaya Maríye, Gospód s tobóyu.  
Blagoslovyéna ty v zhenákh,  
i blagoslovyén plod chryéva tvoyevó,  
yáko Spása rodilá yesí dush náshikh.

*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 Savior of our souls.*

## The Third Reading

*Luke 1: 39–46*

Reader: Alex Bowden

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me?"

For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord." And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord!"

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* THANKS BE TO GOD.

**Anthem** Herbert Sumsion (1899–1995)  
*Magnificat in G*

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 scattered 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 remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel :  
as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for  
ever.

*Luke 1.46-55*

**Hymn 78: O little town of Bethlehem** (v. 1 & 2)

**The Fourth Reading** *Luke 2: 1–7*  
Reader: Ryan Connor

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* THANKS BE TO GOD.

**Hymn 101: Away in a manger**

**Anthem** John Rutter (b. 1945)  
*Mary's Lullaby*

See that child Mary bore  
On her lap so softly sleeping  
In a stable cold and poor  
Ox and ass their vigil keeping

*Sing lullaby, sing lullaby*  
*My own dear son, my child*  
*Lullaby, sing lullaby*  
*Lullaby, my little baby*

Flights of angles round His head  
Sing him joyful hymns of greeting  
Peace on earth, goodwill to men  
Each to each the song repeating  
*Sing lullaby...*

Shepard's kneeling by his bed  
Offer homage without measure  
Wise men, by a bright star led  
Bring him gifts of richest treasure  
*Sing lullaby...*

**The Fifth Reading** *Luke 2: 8-16*  
Reader: Diana Samples

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* THANKS BE TO GOD.

**Anthem** Kenneth Leighton (1929–1988)  
*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child*

*Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child*  
*Bye bye, lully, lullay*

O sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we do sing

"Bye bye, lully, lullay?"

Herod the king, in his raging  
Chargèd he hath this day  
His men of might in his own sight  
All young children to slay

That woe is me, poor child, for thee  
And ever mourn and may  
For thy parting neither say nor sing  
"Bye bye, lully, lullay."

*Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child  
Bye bye, lully, lullay*

### **Hymn 94: While shepherds watched their flocks by night**

**Anthem** Daniel Kantor (b. 1960)  
*Night of Silence*

Cold are the people, winter of life  
We tremble in shadows this cold, endless night  
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping  
Flowers that will echo the sunrise  
Fire of hope is our only warmth  
Weary, its flame will be dying soon

Voice in the distance, call in the night  
On wind you enfold us you speak of the light  
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly  
Rumours of a dawn so embracing  
Breathless love awaits darkened souls  
Soon will we know of the morning

Spirit among us, shine like the star  
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar  
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely  
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love  
Star unknowing of night and day  
Spirit we wait for your loving Son

**The Sixth Reading** *Matthew 2: 1–11*  
Reader: Stella Suddereth

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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* THANKS BE TO GOD.

**An offering will be taken during the singing of the following anthem.**

**Anthem** Andrew Carter (b. 1939)  
*A maiden most gentle*

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing:  
Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King.  
Ave Maria.

How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child,  
Who came to redeem us in Mary so mild.  
Ave Maria.

The Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call  
The Lord of creation, and Savior of all.  
Ave Maria.

Three Kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare,  
And marvelled in awe at the babe in her care.  
Ave Maria.

Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray;  
Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave'.  
Ave Maria.

**Collects and Blessings**

*All stand for Hymn*

**Hymn 87: Hark! the herald angels sing**

**Dismissal**

**Postlude: The twelve days of Christmas**

arr. Michel Rondeau (b. 1948)

*All music is reprinted under OneLicense.net A-724978*

## The Festival of Lessons and Carols began

in 1880 at Truro Cathedral in England. In 1918 it was adopted by King's College, Cambridge and from there has made its way into churches throughout the world. Through the reading of scripture and the singing of hymns and carols, the story of God working in and through the people of Israel and in the mystery of the Incarnation is told. We participate in this sacred story by reading, listening, singing, and taking the story out into the world.

### Altar Flowers

Flowers in the Church are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wallace McClellan, Sr. by Matthew and Martha McClellan.

AND

In loving memory of David Miller, Chris Rogers, and Aaron Smallen by Evelyn Miller, Becca Burress, and Meghan Rogers Hubbs.

### Lay Ministries

<b>Usher</b>	Mark Love, Jay Baker, Adam Brock, Bob McClellan, & Taylor Preston
<b>Greeter</b>	Anne Wilson
<b>Crucifer</b>	Caleb Rogers
<b>Thurifer</b>	Samer Shatara
<b>Verger</b>	Braxton Hunter
<b>Safety Team</b>	Sid Hankins
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Suzanne Rogers & Team
<b>Flower Guild</b>	Karen Gilbertson, Martha McClellan & Team
<b>Trumpets</b>	Christian Pagnard, Joe Fowler
<b>Trombones</b>	Sean Copeland, James Perez
<b>Timpani</b>	Steven Rodgers

## Announcements

### Today at the Cathedral

8:00 am	Worship (Rite I) - Chapel
9:15 am	Nursery Opens (newborns to 4 yrs. old) - 2nd Floor
9:30 am	Coffee, Cards, & Conversation - MS & HS Youth -Rm 7
9:30 am	Lectionary Bible Study - Rm 9
10:30 am	Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols - Church
11:30 am	Visit with St. Nick and holiday treats - Great Hall

### Angel Tree for Hampton High School

Great Hall & Online

This holiday season we are supporting Hampton High School by hosting an Angel Tree with needed classroom items and student needs in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene. The school and community experienced extreme flooding and damage. Please stop by the Great Hall to see how you and your family can contribute to making a direct impact on the start of classes on January 7, 2025. You may donate directly online at [www.stjohnscathedral.org](http://www.stjohnscathedral.org). Click on the give button and then select Angel Tree from the drop down menu.

### Christmas Eve Services

Tuesday, December 24th

**10:00 am | 2:00 pm | 5:30 pm | 10:45 pm**

**10:00 am** - Children & Families | Nursery available

**2:00 pm** - with Choir | Nursery & S.K.i.P. available

**5:30 pm\*** - Choir & Brass Prelude: Rutter's Gloria begins at 5:30 pm. Service at 6 pm | Nursery available

**10:45 pm\*** - String Quartet Prelude begins at 10:45 pm.

Service at 11 pm

*\*Streamed on YouTube and on Knoxville Community Media TV*

### Christmas Day Service

Wednesday, December 25th | 10 am

### Cathedral Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 25th and Thursday, December 26th