There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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 the fear of the Lord. . . . . .

Isaiah 11:1-2

A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

The First Sunday of Advent
December 2, 2018
Five-thirty in the Evening
Welcome

WELCOME to St. Catherine’s Episcopal Church. We are glad that you have joined us this evening for our service of Advent Lessons and Carols. If you are new or visiting with us, we invite you to fill out a visitor card found in the pew rack in front of you. Completed cards may be given to a member of the clergy after the service. After the service, please stay and join us for refreshments. We hope that you will return to St. Catherine’s and worship with us again soon. For more information about our parish, including a complete schedule of services, please visit our website at https://stcatherinesal.com.

Before the service begins, please take a moment to silence your electronic devices.

About the Service

The season of Advent, beginning with the Sunday nearest November 30 and lasting until December 24, is significant for Christians who observe the liturgical calendar. There are two distinct themes. First, Advent is a time of preparation for the anniversary of our Lord’s birth to the Blessed Virgin Mary at Bethlehem two thousand years ago, culminating in the celebration of Christmas, the twelve-day season lasting from December 25 until January 6. The other theme of Advent is the Second Coming of our Lord at the end of the age, when Christians believe that Jesus will return with great power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.

The double emphasis on both the first and second advents of Christ gives to the season a unique combination of joy and awe—joy in the redemption that has come to us in the Incarnation and awe as we await the day of our Lord’s return.

The service of Advent Lessons and Carols originated at King’s College, Cambridge, England, in 1934. Originally composed by Dean Eric Milner-White, who was also responsible for the more widely-known Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas Eve, the service was intended to provide the opportunity for a fuller, more enriching experience of the Advent season. As he wrote in his preface to the Advent Carol Service, the purpose of the service is “not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it.”

The procession of the Ministers and Choir symbolizes the movement from the prophetic expectation of the Messiah to the very brink of messianic fulfillment, both in the birth of the Son of God and his final coming in judgment and glory. We are bidden to keep awake and watch, to prepare and expect, for our God will come and save us, and deliver us from the bondage of sin and death, and bring us into the radiance of his kingdom.
Ministers of the Liturgy

OFFICIANT
The Reverend Eric N. Mancil, Rector

MUSICIANS
Matthew West, Organist/Choirmaster
Brent McLarty, Guitarist
The St. Catherine’s Choir

LECTORS
First Lesson
Michelle Caiola
Second Lesson
Jim Cawthon
Third Lesson
Phillip Dewitt
Fourth Lesson
Gene McCall
Fifth Lesson
Teresa McLarty
Sixth Lesson
Jane Keeton
Seventh Lesson
Chelsea Mancil
Eighth Lesson
Clyde Pearce

ACOLYTES
Gene McCall, Sophie Mancil, and Emily Tate

GREETERS
Norm and Gini Weed

ALTAR GUILD
Wanda Wheeler

VESTRY PERSON OF THE DAY
Brent McLarty
A SERVICE OF ADVENT
LESSONS AND CAROLS

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

THE PRELUDE  Wachet Auf  J.S. Bach

At the sound of the bell, all stand for

THE GREETING

Officiant  Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
People  Thanks be to God.
Officiant  Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY GOD, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

During the following anthem, the candles on the Altar and Advent Wreath are lighted.

THE LUCERNARIUM

Come and save us, O Lord God of hosts.
All remain standing for the Hymn in Procession.
COME thou Redeemer of the earth,
Come, testify thy wondrous birth:
All lands admire, all times applaud:
Such is the birth that fits our God.

2 Forth from His chamber goeth He,
That royal home of purity,
A giant in twofold substance one,
Rejoicing now His course to run.

3 From God the Father He proceeds,
To God the Father back He speeds;
Runs out his course to death and hell
Returns on God’s high throne to dwell.

4 O equal to the Father, Thou!
Gird on Thy fleshly mantle now;
The weakness of our mortal state
With deathless might invigorate.

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

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

The Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas, let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God’s eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk. The lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear. The dead are raised up, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them.

But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves; for those who have not heard the good news of God, or who do not believe it; for those who walk in darkness and the shadow of death; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear and may, in pure joy, lift up the light of the love of God. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer to God in the words which Christ himself taught us:
Officiant and People

O ur 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.

All sit for the first lesson.

THE LESSONS AND CAROLS

The traditional conclusion is omitted following each lesson.

THE FIRST LESSON

The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Holy One.

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.

Following the lesson, all stand and sing

**THE CAROL**  *Rejoice! rejoice, believers*

---

1. **Rejoice! rejoice, believers,** and let your lights appear!
2. See that your lamps are burning, replenish them with oil;
3. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;

The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
Look now for your salvation, the end of sin and toil.
Arise, thou Sun so longed for, above this darkened sphere!

The Bridegroom is arising, and soon he will draw nigh;
The marriage-feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand;
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
All sit for the second lesson.

**The Second Lesson**

*Isaiah 40:1-11*

_God comforts his people in exile and calls on them to prepare for redemption._

**Comfort, O comfort my people,**

says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord’s hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:
“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings; 
lift up your voice with strength, 
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, 
lift it up, do not fear; 
say to the cities of Judah, 
“Here is your God!”
See, the Lord God comes with might, 
and his arm rules for him; 
his reward is with him, 
and his recompense before him. 
He will feed his flock like a shepherd; 
he will gather the lambs in his arms, 
and carry them in his bosom, 
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Following the lesson, all stand and sing

THE CAROL  Prepare the way, O Zion

1 Prepare the way, O Zion, your Christ is drawing near!
2 He brings God’s rule, O Zion; he comes from heaven above.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zion; your Savior’s rule embrace.

Let every hill and valley a level way appear.
His rule is peace and freedom, and justice, truth, and love.
His tidings of salvation proclaim in every place.

Greet One who comes in glory, foretold in sacred story.
Lift high your praise resounding, for grace and joy abounding.
All lands will bow before him, their voices will adore him.

Refrain
Oh, blest is Christ that came in God’s most holy name.

All sit for the third lesson.
The Third Lesson

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as “God with us.”

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Following the lesson, the Choir sings

The Anthem  Come, thou long-expected Jesus

William Henry Havergal

Brent McLarty, Guitarist

Come, thou long expected Jesus
born to set Thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in Thee.

Israel’s strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child, and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by Thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.
The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand.

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem, and see the joy that is coming to you from God. Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away; they are coming, gathered from east and west, at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem, and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God. Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God; put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting; for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven. For God will give you evermore the name, “Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.”

Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height; look toward the east, and see your children gathered from west and east at the word of the Holy One, rejoicing that God has remembered them. For they went out from you on foot, led away by their enemies; but God will bring them back to you, carried in glory, as on a royal throne. For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low and the valleys filled up, to make level ground, so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God. The woods and every fragrant tree have shaded Israel at God’s command. For God will lead Israel with joy, in the light of his glory, with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.
Following the lesson, all stand and sing

THE CAROL  People, look East

1. 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
2. Fowrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow’r may
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Even the hour when wings are frozen God for fledgling time has
4. 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 to-
5. Angels, announce with shouts of mirth Christ who brings new life to earth. Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is

1. table. People, look East and sing today: Love the guest is on the way.
2. flour-ish. People, look East and sing today: Love the rose is on the way.
3. chosen. People, look East and sing today: Love the bird is on the way.
4. geth-er. People, look East and sing today: Love the star is on the way.
5. com-ing. People, look East and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

All sit for the fifth lesson.
The Fifth Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

The one who is to rule Israel will be born in the village of Bethlehem.

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth;

Following the lesson, the Choir sings

The Anthem  Hark! A Herald Voice is Calling

Richard Shephard

Hark! a herald voice is calling:
“Christ is nigh,” it seems to say;
“Cast away the dreams of darkness,
O ye children of the day!”

Wakened by the solemn warning,
Let her 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 heav’n;
Let us haste with tears of sorrow,
One and all to be forgiv’n.

So when next he comes in glory,
Wrapping all the earth in fear,
May he then as our defender
On the clouds of heav’n appear.
And with words of love draw near.
The Lord will be among us; we are summoned to rejoice and sing.

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!
Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!
The Lord has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.
The king of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.
On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.
The Lord, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;
he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;
he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.
I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

Following the lesson, all stand and sing

The Carol  Rejoice, the Lord is King!  Tune: Darwall’s 148th

Rejoice, the Lord is King! Your Lord and King adore!
Mortals, give thanks and sing, and triumph evermore.

Refrain: Lift up your heart! Lift up your voice! Rejoice! again, I say, rejoice!

2 The Lord the Savior reigns, the God of truth and love:
when he had purged our stains, he took his seat above.  Refrain.

3 His kingdom cannot fail; he rules o’er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell to Christ the Lord are given.  Refrain.

4 Rejoice in glorious hope! Our Lord the Judge shall come,
and take his servants up to their eternal home.  Refrain.
All sit for the seventh lesson.

THE SEVENTH LESSON

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

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, favoured 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 favour 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 for ever, 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.

Following the lesson, the Choir sings

THE ANTHEM Ave Maria

Hail, blessed Mary, perfect in grace,
Mary, beloved, perfect in grace,
Hail, blessed Mary, the Lord is with thee,
And favour’d art thou among all women,
hallow’d be the pure fruit that thou bearest, Jesus.

Hail, blessed Mary, perfect in grace,
Mary, beloved, perfect in grace,
Mary, the holy Mother of God,
Pray for us now and at the hour of death,
Most loving mother, pray for us. Amen.
Saint John unfolds the fulfillment of all creation.

And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new.’ Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’ Then he said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

‘See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone’s work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.’

The one who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
THE CAROL  “Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us

1 “Sleep-ers, wake!”
2 Zi-on hears
3 Lamb of God,

A voice a-stounds us, the
the watch-men sing ing; her
the heavens a-dore you; let

shout of rampart-guards surrounds us: “A-
heart with joyful hope is spring ing, she
saints and angels sing be-fore you, as

wake, Je-ru-sa-lem, a-rise!” Mid-night’s peace their
wakes and hurries through the night. Forth he comes, her
harps and cymbals swell the sound. Twelve great pearls, the

cry has bro-ken, their ur-gent sum-mons clearly spo-
Bride-groom glo-rious in strength of grace, in truth vic-to-
ici-ty’s por-tals; through them we stream to join the im-mor-
ken: "The time has come, O maid - ens wise!
rious: her star is risen, her light grows bright.
tals as we with joy your throne sur - round.

Rise up, and give us light; the Bride - groom is in
Now come, most wor - thy Lord, God’s Son, In - car - nate
No eye has known the sight, no ear heard such de -
sight. Al - le - lu - ia! Your lamps pre - pare and
Word, Al - le - lu - ia! We fol - low all and
light: Al - le - lu - ia! There - fore we sing to

has - ten there, that you the wed - ding feast may share.”
heed your call to come in - to the ban - quet hall.
greet our King; for ev - er let our prais - es ring.
The Officiant and People sing

**The Vesper Responsory**

- **Officiant**
  - Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed,

- **People**
  - Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

*(This response is sung after each of the following versicles)*

- **Officiant**
  - Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

- **Officiant**
  - Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

**The Collect**

- **Officiant** The Lord be with you.
- **People** And also with you.
- **Officiant** Let us pray.

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

**The Blessing for Advent**

- **Officiant**

May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.
All sing

**THE HYMN IN PROCESSION  Lo! he comes, with clouds descending**

**The Preamble**

1. Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, once for all
2. Every eye shall behold him, robed in glory:
3. Those dear tokens of his passion still his love implore:
4. Yea, amen! let all adore thee, high on thine eternal throne;

our salvation slain; thousand thousand
dreadful majesty; those who set at
azoning body bears, cause of endless
thy eternal throne; Savior, take the

saints attending swell the triumph of his
nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
exultation to his ransomed worship-
power and glory; claim the kingdom for thine

train: Alleluia! Alleluia!
tree, deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
ers; with what rapture, with what rapture,
own: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Al-le-lu-ia! Christ the Lord returns to reign.
deeply wailing, shall the true Messiahs see.
with what rapture gaze we on those glorious scars!
Al-le-lu-ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone.

**THE POSTLUDE**  Voluntary on “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending”  John Stallsmith

Bearing in mind that the Postlude is an offering to God’s glory, the Congregation is asked to remain seated or depart quietly, as some may wish to listen to the music or offer private prayers.

Please join us for a reception in the Annex immediately following the service.
Upcoming Special Services

**Monday, December 24**   *The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ*
4:30 PM   Holy Eucharist: Rite II with Children’s Nativity Play
7:00 PM   Festival Holy Eucharist with the Carols of Christmas

**Sunday, December 30**   *The First Sunday after Christmas Day*
10:30 AM   A Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas*

**Sunday, January 6**   *The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ*
10:30 AM   Festival Holy Eucharist for Epiphany*

* Childcare provided in our nursery
The Rt Rev'd John McKee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama
The Rev'd Eric N. Mancil, Rector
The Rev'd Maggie Taylor, Priest Affiliate
The Rev'd Dn. Clyde Pearce, Deacon
Julie Seal, Parish Administrative Assistant
Matthew West, Organist/Choirmaster
Mandi Gonzalez, Director of Children's Ministries
Amanda Seal, Nursery Coordinator

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CLERGY AND STAFF