CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Cashiers, North Carolina



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 14 DECEMBER 2025 | 2:00 PM



Welcome to Christ Anglican Church! We are thankful for your attendance at our Lessons and Carols Service. We pray you will be filled with the hope, peace, joy, and love of the season as we worship together.

About the Service

The First Lessons and Carols service was offered in 1918 at King's College in Cambridge just after the close of the First World War. Rev. Eric Milner-White created a service to share the good news of God's plan of salvation beginning in the Book of Genesis and ending with the Incarnation Gospel passage in St. John.

This year, we offer a variation of this glorious service with Advent Lessons and Carols.

The Season of Advent is a time of expectation and anticipation of Christ's birth and is celebrated the four weeks before Christmas. The four themes of the season are hope, peace, joy, and love. While Advent remembers the time of preparing for Christ's first coming, it also is a time to look forward to Christ's Second Coming.

The Scripture Lessons will begin with the ancient prophecies foretelling Christ's coming to earth and will end as the Angel Gabriel brings the news to Mary. Through these Lessons and Carols, we hope you will encounter the Living Christ "who is, and who was, and who is to come."

Even So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come!

THE PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme BWV 645 Awake, the voice is calling us

Johann Sebastian Bach

Mr. Jamie Bryson, organ

THE WELCOME

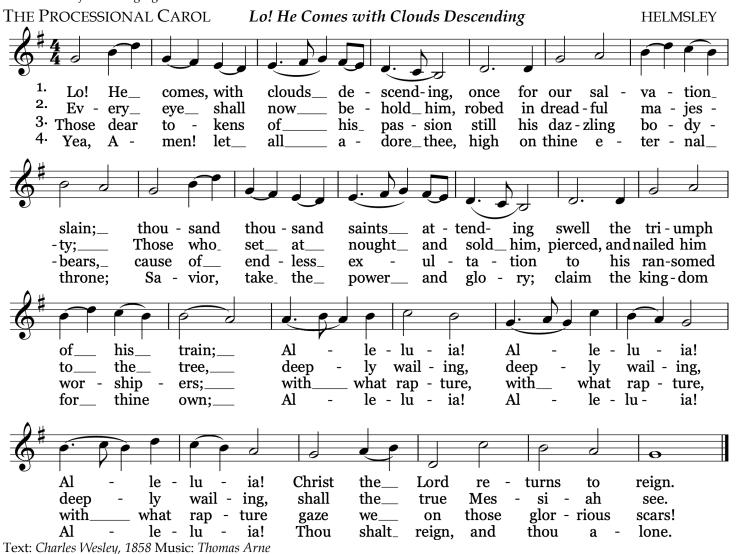
The Rev'd Dr. Marc Robertson

THE PEALING OF THE CHURCH BELLS

THE CHORAL INTROIT

Of the Father's Love Begotten Marcus Aurelius C. Prudentius Susan Kamerer, *soloist*

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the world began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore! Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts his praises sing: powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore! Amen.



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, 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 the 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 peoples 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 raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray for the needs of the whole world, and all his peoples; for peace upon the earth he came to save; for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for goodwill among all peoples. And particularly at this time let us remember, in his name, the poor, the cold, the hungry, the oppressed; the sick and those that 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 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 forevermore 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 Almighty God bless us with 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.

All Amen.

The people remain kneeling.

THE CHORAL MEDITATION Is Your Heart Prepared for a King?

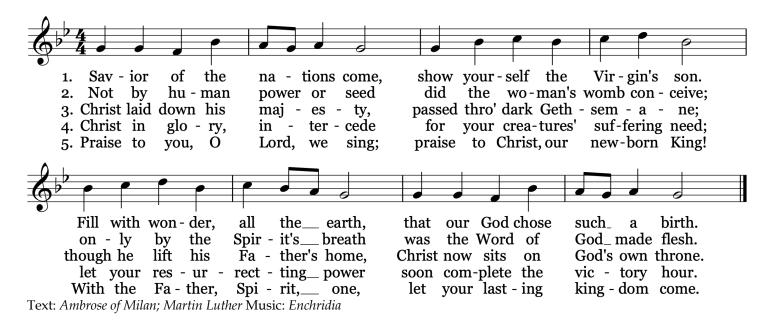
Robert Lau

Festival Choir

In the quiet of the night, or in morning's early light, is your heart prepared for a King? Will you hear an angel sing? Will your own hosannas ring? Is your heart prepared for a King? Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings hope to a wearied earth. Wait! Watch! Pray for the One who brings peace by His Birth. Can you see the shining star? Does it call you from afar? Is your heart prepared for a King? Is the babe of whom you sing born to be our God and King? Is your heart prepared for a King?

Text & Music: Robert Lau

Savior of the Nations, Come NUN KOOM, DER HEIDEN HEILAND Festival Choir & Congregation



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

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 60:1-5

The prophet foretells of a Light that will dispel the darkness of the earth.

Kevin McGinnis, reader

Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. ²For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will be seen upon you. ³ And nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising. ⁴ Lift up your eyes all around, and see; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from afar, and your daughters shall be carried on the hip. ⁵ Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and exult, because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

ANTHEM Arise, Shine arr. Crawford Thoburn Festival Choir

Arise, shine for thy light is come, and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee. For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people; but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee, And the gentiles shall come to thy light and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Text: Isiah 60:1-3 Music: George J. Elvey

"For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ²⁰ No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. ²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³ They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. ²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

ANTHEM

Creation Will Be at Peace Festival Choir

Anna Laura Page

In the holy mountain of the Lord all war and strife will cease; in the holy mountain of the Lord creation will be at peace. The wolf will lie down with the lamb, the cow and bear will feed, their young will play together; a little child will lead. The leopard and goat will graze; the lion will feed on straw. They will war no more, a child will lead them all.

Text: J. Paul Williams Music: Anna Laura Page

THE THIRD LESSON Isaiah 40:1-8

To God's people in exile in a faraway land, the prophet Isaiah announces good news: God is coming back and bringing the exiles Home! Bryan Gruskowski, reader

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴Every 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.⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." ⁶ A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field. ⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain made low; And the crooked made straight and the rough places plain. And the glory of the lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Amen.

Text: Isaiah 40: 4, 5 Music: John Ness Beck

THE FOURTH LESSON Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

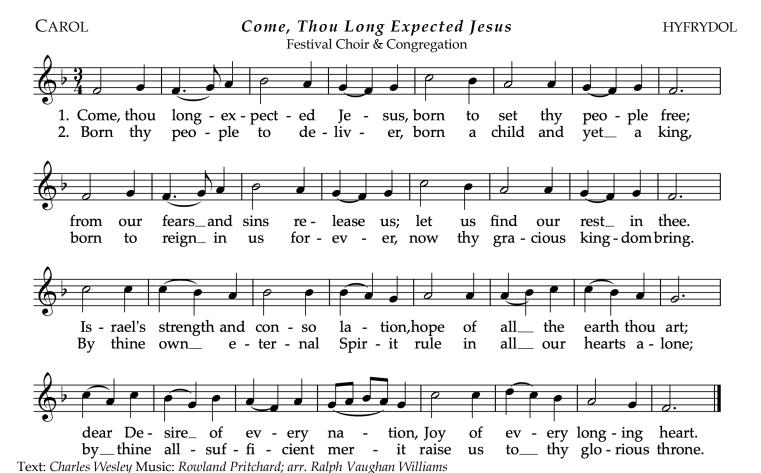
The Prophet announces the birth of a king to a people in darkness.

Dana Clay, reader

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The people stand to sing the carol.

The people are seated.



THE FIFTH LESSON Isaiah 35:1-10

The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us. Bill Caldwell, reader

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; ² it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. ³ Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. ⁴ Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." ⁵ Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; ⁶ then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; ⁷ the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. ⁸ And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. ⁹ No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. ¹⁰ And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

ANTHEM

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel Judy Gray, Susan Kay, Susan Kamerer, & Betty Morris, quartet

John A Behnke

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel, that mourns in lowly exile here until the Son of God appear. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to Thee, O Israel. O come, thou Dayspring, from on high, and cheer us by thy drawing night, disperse the gloomy clouds of night, deaths dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to thee, O Israel. Come, desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of all mankind, bid thou our sad divisions cease, and by Thyself our King of peace. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Shall come to Thee, O Israel.

Text: Traditional Latin Prose Music: John Benke

THE SIXTH LESSON Zephaniah 3:14-18

The prophet writes a new song to sing in the coming days.

Duval Acker, reader

Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! ¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. ¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: "Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. ¹⁷ The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. ¹⁸ I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach.

ANTHEM

Zion Hears The Watchmen Singing Festival Choir

arr. Mark Schweizer

Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing; She wakes, she rises from her gloom; For her Lord comes down all glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious. Her Star is risen, her Light is come. Ah come, Thou blessed One, God's own beloved Son: Alleluia! We follow till the halls we see Where Thou hast bid us sup with Thee.

Text: Phillip Nicolai, 1599. Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858 Music: Johann Gottfried Walther

THE SEVENTH LESSON

Jeremiah 23:5-6

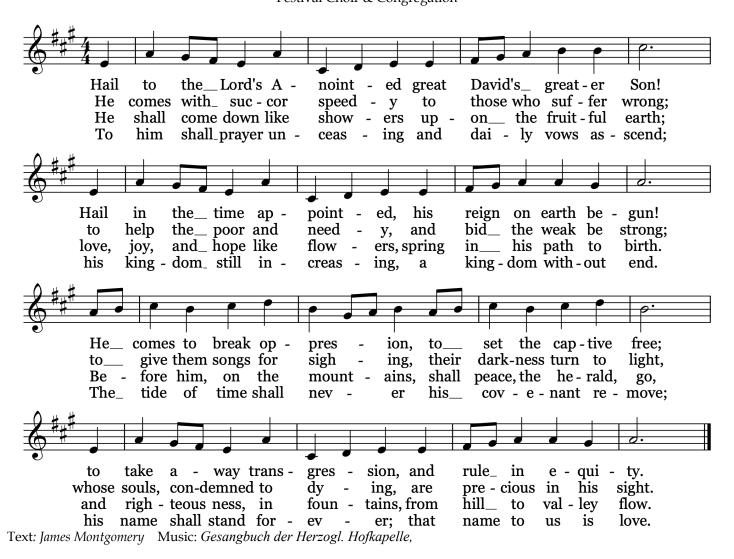
The prophet Jeremiah offers hope for a righteous branch, a just king who is yet to come. Wendy Carson, reader

"Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. ⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

CAROL

Hail to the Lord's Anointed Festival Choir & Congregation

ELLACOMBE

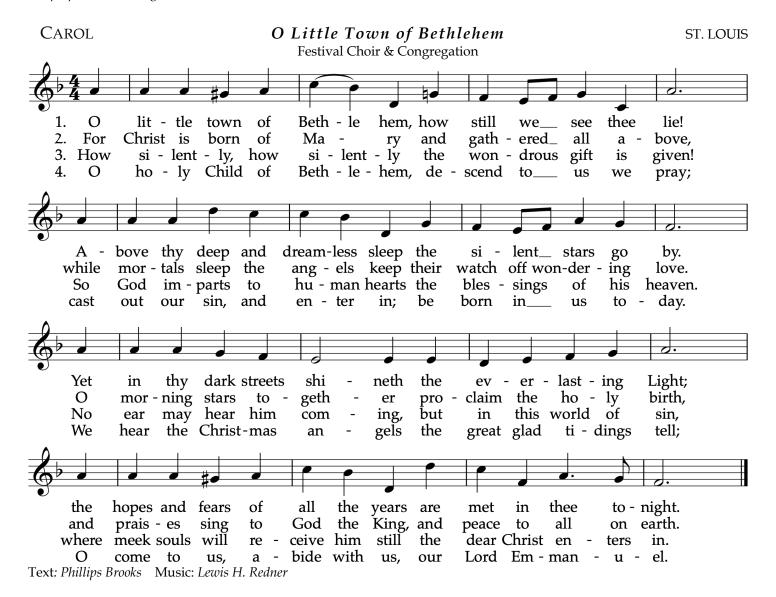


The people are seated.

THE EIGHTH LESSON Micah 5:2-4

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

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. ³ Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.



The people are seated.

THE NINTH LESSON Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will give birth to a ruler whose reign shall never end.

Father Marc Robertson, reader

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² 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 father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

ANTHEM The Joy of Mary
Festival Choir Don Nuen

My soul doth magnify the Lord, doth magnify the Lord; And my spirit doth rejoice, my spirit doth rejoice in God, in God my Savior. For He that is mighty hath done great things. And Holy is His name! His mercy is on them that fear him, from generation to generation. Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he hath visited and redeemed His people.

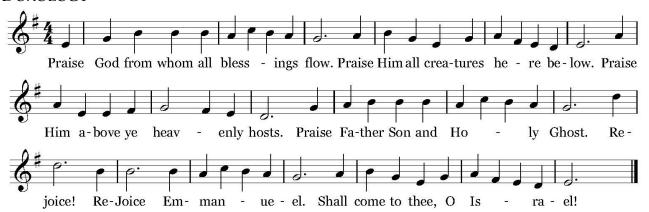
Text: Magnificat Music: Don Nuen

THE OFFERTORY

Today's Offering will benefit the Music Ministry of Christ Anglican Church.

All stand and sing

THE DOXOLOGY



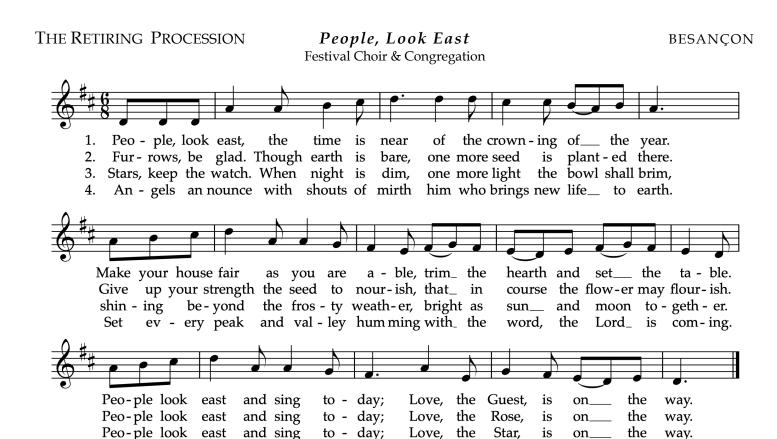
THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION

O Lord our God, make us watchful and keep us faithful as we await the coming of your Officiant

Son our Lord; that, when he shall appear, he may not find us sleeping in sin but active

in his service and joyful in his praise; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Amen.



Text: Eleanor Farjeon, 1845 Music: French Melody; arr. Martin Shaw

east

THE BLESSING

Peo-ple look

Officiant Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before

to - day;

your path; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be

Love, the

is

Lord,

 on_{-}

 on_{-}

the

way.

among you, and remain with you always.

and sing

People Amen.

THE CLOSING VOLUNTARY Wake, Awake for Night is Flying

arr. Robert Hobby

Jamie Bryson, organ

Please be seated for the playing of the Closing Voluntary.

Please join us for a Festive Reception in the Parish Hall immediately following the service.



Officiant
The Rev'd Dr. Marc Robertson

Festival Choir

Jamie Bryson, director

Judy GrayBetty MorrisSusan KamererJim PhilipsJim KayWesley RameySusan KayAlice RobertsonShari McGinnisFran Wilkinson

*Heolyte*Bill Kamerer

Greeters

Tom Acker & Kevin McGinnis

Join us for Christmas at Christ Anglican Church



Christmas Eve
Communion & Candlelight
Wednesday, December 24 | 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Day Worship
With Blessing of the Gifts
Thursday, December 25 | 10:00 a.m.

THE VESTRY OF CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

Shari McGinnis, Senior Warden
Jim Kay, Junior Warden
Deneece Harrell, Bill Hock, Bill Maddux, Betty Morris, & Jim Philips

THE STAFF OF CHRIST ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Rev'd Dr. Marc Robertson, *Interim Priest-in-Charge* The Rev'd Nick McGee, *Assistant Priest*

Mr. Jamie Bryson, Minister of Music and Administration

Mr. Kevin McGinnis, Treasurer

Ms. Cheyanne Bryson, Media Ministry Coordinator

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