

Advent 4

Lessons & Carols

The Book of Common Prayer, ACNA 2019

The congregational responses are in ***bold italic*** print.
Please join us in saying the responses.

Please silence your cell phones.



Welcome to Advent 2024

Happy New Year! Once again it seems strange in our culture to wish one another Happy New Year on December 1st, but that is exactly what happens, all over the globe, as Christians enter the season of Advent. Advent means “coming”. It is a season of preparation and, as such, is the beginning of the Church’s year. We are preparing our hearts for the proper celebration of Christmas; that God has arrived as our “Rescuer” in the person of Jesus. We are at the same time simultaneously preparing for His second coming, another “Advent”, where He will complete the Kingdom that he inaugurated upon His first advent.

This year, we will spend the Advent season in the Year “C” New Testament passages in the Lectionary. By looking into these Letters of the Apostle Paul, we can maintain an expectant perspective in our day, as well as a hopeful one.

Welcome to Advent 2024 dear Christ Church family. As we begin our journey, may this year be filled with authentic Holy Spirit transformation, in each and every one of our lives.

Yours in Jesus alone,
Gene

Prayer Meeting Dates & Times

Morning Prayer – Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Mid-Day Prayer – 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.

Corporate Prayer – Sunday, December 22nd after the 10:00 am Service

Welcome

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Heavenly Father, you exalted the humble and meek: give us humble and contrite hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, you grew towards birth in the Virgin's womb: be planted also in our hearts and lives.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Holy Spirit, you overshadowed Mary, that she might become the God-bearer: fill us with your heavenly gifts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Almighty God, *who in Jesus Christ has given us a kingdom that cannot be destroyed, forgive us our sins, open our eyes to God's truth, strengthen us to do God's will and give us the joy of his kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The people stand.

Processional Hymn

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn 56, vv. 1-3



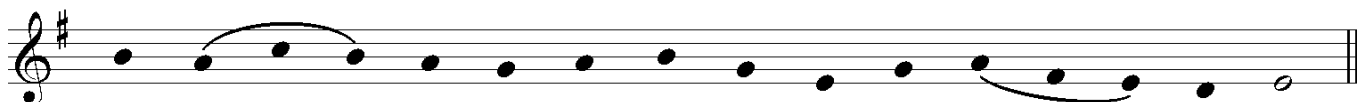
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.; Music: *Veni, veni, Emmanuel*, plainsong, Mode 1, Processionale, 15th cent.; adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890); acc. Richard Proulx (b. 1937); Copyright: Words: © The Church Pension Fund

Introduction

The people sit.

Reading

Genesis 1:2, 26 – 31

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus

#196, Trinity Hymnal

Verse 1

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.

Verse 2

Joy to those who long to see thee,
Day spring from on high, appear,
Come, thou promised Rod of Jesse,
Of thy birth we long to hear!
O'er the hills the angels singing news,
Glad tidings of a birth:
"Go to him, your praises bringing,
Christ the Lord has come to earth."

Verse 3

Come to earth to taste our sadness,
he whose glories knew no end,
By his life he brings us gladness,
Our Redeemer, Shepherd, Friend.
Leaving riches without number,
Born within a cattle stall;
This the everlasting wonder,
Christ was born the Lord of all.

Verse 4

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.

St. 1, 4 Charles Wesley, 1744 | St. 2-3, Mark E. Hunt, 1978, Text of stanzas 2 & 3 © 1978,
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. Used with permission.

The people sit.

Reading

Genesis 3:8 – 19

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stir up your power, *O Lord, and with great might come among us; and as we are sorely hindered by our sins from running the race that is set before us, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.*

The people sit.

Reading

Micah 5:2 – 5a

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Hymn 89

The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a treble and bass clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are arranged in four lines, with the first line starting with a numbered list (1-4) and the subsequent lines continuing the text. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and melodic lines in both hands.

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King.” The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

The people sit.

Reading

Luke 1:26 – 38

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymn 56, vv. 7-8

Verse 7

O come, O king of nations,
bind in one the hearts of all mankind.
Bid all our sad divisions cease,
and be thyself our King of Peace.

Refrain

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

Verse 8

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

Refrain

The people sit.

Reading

Luke 1:39 – 56

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, vv. 1-3

Hymn 87

Verse 1

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!
Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!

Verse 2

Christ, by highest heaven 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 us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!

Verse 3

Mild he lays his glories by,
born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the new-born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

The people stand.

Reading

Hebrews 10:1 – 10

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Message

Rev. Gene Sherman

“Mary’s Song”

The people stand.

Once In Royal David’s City, vv. 1, 2, 4, & 6

Hymn 102

The musical score is written for a single voice and piano accompaniment. It features a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a range of approximately two octaves. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes in the bass line, providing harmonic support for the vocal line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line, with line numbers 1 through 6 corresponding to the verses of the hymn.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
 *3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 *5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885, Music: *Picardy*, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860; harm. after *The English Hymnal*, 1906

The people sit.

The Reading

Matthew 2:1 – 12

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

O Little Town of Bethlehem, vv. 1, 2, 3 & 5

Hymn 79

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893); Music: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

The people sit.

Reading

John 1:1 – 5, 14

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

The First Nowell, vv. 1-3

Hymn 109

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

Music: The First Nowell, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968). Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Offertory

The people stand.

Doxology

The First Nowell, v. 6

Hymn 109

Then let us all with one accord,
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.

The people sit.

Announcements/Birthdays/Anniversaries

Birthdays:

John Ryan 12/22

The Blessing

The people respond: Amen.

The people stand.

Recessional Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymn 96



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Corporate Prayer – Today, Sunday, December 22nd directly after the 10:00 am service. Please consider joining us.

Gifts for Our Senior Saints – Thank you to Jane & Peggy for putting together the lovely gift bags for our precious senior saints. Also, thanks to everyone who helped deliver them! Praise God!

Flower Calendar for 2025 – The 2025 flower calendar is available on the board in the narthex. Please sign up for any of the dates you would like to donate altar flowers for this year. The suggested offer is \$25. Note, we will not have any flowers during the season of Lent and those dates are not included in the calendar.

CRS Update – CRS is currently in need of cereal, jams or jellies, hearty soups, snack crackers, canned fruit, apple sauce, boxed macaroni & cheese, & canned meats. In addition, they are completely out of pasta! Donations can be brought to church and placed in the collection area outside the sanctuary.

2025 Offering Envelopes – We are happy to provide offering envelopes to all who would like to use them. If you did not have 2024 envelopes and would like them for 2025, please contact Sybil in the office. Anyone who had 2024 envelopes is already on the list. 2025 envelopes will be available for pickup in the narthex beginning December 1.

Needs & Blessings

Music With Meghan – Hello, my name is Meghan McCarty. I offer both music and voice lessons. I have been instructing and coaching ages 4 to 18 for 10+ years. If you're interested or would like to talk with me, my phone number is 216-225-8141.

Prayer Focus of the Week

Pray that the Lord would reveal a “Person of Peace” (Luke 10:6) in your life (where you live, work, or play), who you can invite to attend one of our Christmas Eve services.

We can often recognize the person of peace because they welcome you, receive you, are open to you and your friendship, are open to what you have to say about Jesus & interested/ open to the life you live as a follower of Jesus.

Prayer Meeting Dates & Times

Morning Prayer – Mondays, Tuesdays, & Thursdays at 10:00 a.m.

Mid-Day Prayer – 1st, 2nd, 4th & 5th Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.

Corporate Prayer – Today, Sunday, December 22nd directly after the 10:00 am service. Please consider joining us.

Christmas Eve 2024 Services

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

4:00 PM Children’s Communion Service

(Nursery & Kid Cat available)

6:00 PM Traditional Communion Service

Christmas Day 10:00 AM

Communion Service



TrueNorth Cultural Arts Chorale and Chamber Choir

present

Let the Stable Still Astonish

Saturday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Concert 2024

Open Admission - Free Will Offering

Avon Lake Presbyterian Church

32340 Electric Blvd



Sermon Text: Luke 1:39 – 56

³⁹In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, ⁴⁰and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, ⁴²and she exclaimed with a loud cry, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! ⁴³And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? ⁴⁴For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.”

⁴⁶And Mary said,

“My soul magnifies the Lord, ⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, ⁴⁸for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name. ⁵⁰And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. ⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud, in the thoughts of their hearts; ⁵²he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. ⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, ⁵⁵as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever.”

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.



Giving

**The flowers at the Altar are given to the glory of God
by Chris & Nancy Hund
in loving memory of their parents, Doc & Rusty Davis,
Harry & Virginia Hund, & for all that God has blessed us with including
the Two-Year Anniversary of our long-awaited CHURCH HOME!**

2024 Financials

Through Sunday	12/15/2024
<u>Offerings</u>	
Current Month Total Expense Budget	\$45,026
Current Month Actual Revenues	\$41,000
YTD Total Expense Budget	\$555,002
YTD Actual Revenues	\$530,363
Annual 2024 Total Expense Budget	\$555,002

Attendance for 12/15/2024

10:00 am — 102

Wednesday — 15

Online — 27