

# A CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS



## **THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

December 20, 2009, 7:00 pm

St. Gregory Choir  
Dr. Scott Bennett  
Organist and Master of the Music

St. Nicholas Choir  
Jodi Bennett  
Director of Children's Choirs

The Rev'd Canon  
J. Michael A. Wright, Rector  
Officiant

**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
IN THE CITY OF CHARLESTON

## Lessons and Carols

Our Christmas service of Lessons and Carols is based on a similar service celebrated at King's College, Cambridge. The first Lessons and Carols service there was held on Christmas Eve in 1918. It was conceived by Eric Milner-White, the Dean of the College, whose experience as an army chaplain had led him to believe that more imaginative worship was needed by the Church of England. The order of service was adapted from an order drawn up by Edward White Benson, who would later become Archbishop of Canterbury, for use at a 10:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve in 1880 that took place in a temporary wooden shed serving as his cathedral in Truro, Cornwall. The purpose of the service, which was based on an idea of the future Bishop of Edinburgh, George Henry Somerset Walpole, was to keep men out of pubs on Christmas Eve.

The format of the service has not changed substantially from the one in use at King's College to this day. The order of the lessons was revised in 1919, and since that time the service has always begun with the hymn "Once in Royal David's City". These days, the first verse is sung unaccompanied by a solo boy chorister. To avoid putting him under undue stress, the chorister is not told that he will be singing the solo until just before the service is to begin.

We are pleased to share this tradition with our community. It is a true Christmas gift.

---

# GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

IN THE CITY OF CHARLESTON

Christmas Lessons and Carols

December 20, 2009

---

Welcome to Grace Church, celebrating our 163rd year of service and worship in Charleston. Page numbers on the right side of this leaflet refer to the Book of Common Prayer. Hymn numbers are on the left side; numbers preceded by 'S' are from the Service Music at the front of the Hymnal.

Please turn off all electronic paging devices and cellular telephones before the liturgy begins.

**Voluntary**    *In dulci jubilo, BWV 729*    J.S. Bach  
                  *Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich, BWV 605*    J.S. Bach  
                  *In dulci jubilo, BWV 751*    J.S. Bach  
                  *Toccata on 'Antioch'*    Craig Phillips

Please stand. Candlelight is shared among the congregation.

**Hymn**        *Once in royal David's city*

**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.

**Choir:** 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 and mean and lowly  
            Lived on earth our Savior holy.

*The procession begins.*

**All:**        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 in 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: Cecil Frances Alexander; James Waring McCrady  
Music: *Irby*; melody Henry John Gauntlett

---

## **Bidding Prayer**

*Officiant:*

My sisters and brothers in Christ, in this season when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the angels and go in heart and mind to Bethlehem to see the Son of God lying in a manger.

As we hear the reading of God's holy word, let us rejoice that the glory of the Lord has been revealed.

Let us find new hope in the promise that God is with us.

Let us join with Mary, the favored handmaid, and offer ourselves in service to God's holy and saving purpose for the world.

Let us bless the name of the God of our salvation who brings the dawn of forgiveness and salvation to those who live in the shadow of death and despair.

Let us raise our voices with the messenger who announces good news of great joy to all people.

And let us give thanks to the one whose power has made us the children of God.

As we mark once more the mystery of the Word made flesh, let us join with the song of angels and saints and make this place ring with our carols and hymns of praise.

But first, let us remember the poverty of the birth of the Prince of Peace, and pray for the poor, the cold, the hungry, and those among us who find that there is no room for them at the inn.

Let us remember the flight of the Holy Family into Egypt, and pray for the oppressed, refugees, the isolated, and those on the edges of our society.

Let us remember that the Lord of Glory experienced the pain of life and death, and pray for the sick, the anxious, the weary, and the bereaved.

And remembering the promise that he shall reign for ever and ever,

Let us pray for the rulers of the nations,

For peace and justice on earth,

For the unity and mission of the Church,

That we may be a sign that God's rule on earth has already begun.

And now, to sum up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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:*

With joy in our hearts, let us hear again the story of the birth of Christ, and join with Mary and Joseph, with shepherds and wise men, and with all our forbears in faith in offering our worship.

*Please be seated.*

## **The Invitatory**

Choir

***In the Bleak midwinter***

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
In the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed  
The Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,  
A breast-ful of milk and a manger-ful of hay:  
Enough for him, whom angels fall down before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)  
Music: Harold Darke

**I. CHRIST'S BIRTH AND KINGDOM ARE FORETOLD BY ISAIAH**

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

Reader: Julian Wright

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. 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. 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.

Choir

***Candlelight Carol***

How do you capture the wind on the water?  
How do you count all the stars in the sky?  
How can you measure the love of a mother,  
Or how can you write down  
a baby's first cry?

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow  
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

Shepherds and wise men will kneel  
and adore him,  
Seraphim round him their vigil will keep;  
Nations proclaim him their lord  
and their Savior,  
But Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep.  
Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow  
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

Words: John Rutter  
Music: John Rutter

Find him at Bethlehem laid in a manger:  
Christ our Redeemer asleep in the hay.  
Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation:  
A child with his mother that first  
Christmas Day.

Candlelight, angel light, firelight and starglow  
Shine on his cradle till breaking of dawn.  
Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Angels are singing; the Christ child is born.

*Please stand.*

*The candles are extinguished.*

**Hymn**      *Away in a manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
the little Lord Jesus no crying he makes,  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay,  
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Words: Traditional Carol

Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick

*Please be seated.*

**II. THE PEACE THAT CHRIST WILL BRING IS FORESHOWN**

Isaiah 11:1-10

Reader: Karen Rider

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem 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 of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The 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. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They 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.

**Choir**      *As lately we watched*

As lately we watched o'er our flocks thro' the night,  
A star there was seen of such glorious light;  
All thro' the night angels did sing,  
In carols, so sweet, of the birth of a King.

A King of such beauty was ne'er before seen,  
And Mary, His Mother, so like to a queen.  
Blest be the hour, welcome the morn,  
For Jesus our Savior, on earth now is born.

Then shepherds, be joyful, salute now your King,  
O'er hills and o'er valleys your song now shall ring.  
Blest be this day, welcome this morn,  
For Christ our dear Savior, on earth now is born.

Music: Austrian Carol, arr. Walter Ehret

Please stand.

Hymn *Manger Carol*

Piano

**Choir:** 1. Feeding stall, can it be true?  
Mark the one who rests in you.  
Welcome now your sacred guest.  
Stable place for ever blest.

**All:** 2. Ox and ass join the Noel;  
Child and Lord, Emmanuel.  
Shepherds come, angels adore;  
Room for all, unlatch the door.  
Holy Manger

**All:** 3. Manger born, humble he lay  
Tells a story, shows the way.  
Curing sick, calming the wave,  
Bursting from a darkened cave.

**Choir:** 4. Pilgrims meet this holy shrine  
In the feast of bread and wine.  
With our hands a manger make;  
Christ child now within, awake.

**All:** 5. So the tale lives on today;  
Christ still born amid the hay.  
Present still in manger's brace,  
Humble hearts and generous ways.

Words: J.M.A. Wright+

Music: *Holy Manger*

Please be seated.

### III. THE ANGEL GABRIEL SALUTES THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Luke 1:26-38

Reader: Allen O'Neal

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. 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. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. 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: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? 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. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

**Choir**

***Lord, when you came to earth***

Lord, when you came to earth,  
Humbled by virgin birth,  
Born of a maiden mild,  
Mary the undefiled;  
Told by the prophets long,  
God's own beloved Son,  
Now is salvation won,  
You come to save us;  
Hear as we sing the true story of Christmas!

Come to that stable bare,  
Watch o'er his mother's care,  
Join with the Kings to see  
Meekness in Majesty.  
Follow his star to day,  
Hear what the Gospels say,  
This is the only way;  
Christ comes to save us;  
Born in a manger,  
the true light of Christmas!

See, in the cattle stall  
Jesus, the child for all,  
Lying in helpless state,  
He whom the nations wait  
Long since the world began,  
This is God's timeless plan,  
Sending his Son, a man  
Dying to save us;  
We kneel to worship the glory of Christmas!

Words: Barry Rose

Music: Traditional Swedish melody; arr. Barry Rose

*Please stand.*

**Hymn**

***O little town of Bethlehem***

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

3. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks

Music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

*Please be seated.*

#### IV. ST. MATTHEW TELLS OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Matthew 1:18-23

Reader: Scott Bennett

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. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. 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. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, 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.

#### Choir *This Little Babe*

This little babe so few days old,  
Is come to rifle Satan's fold;  
all hell doth at his presence quake,  
Though he himself for cold do shake;  
For in this weak unarmed wise  
The gates of hell he will surprise.

With tears he fights and wins the field,  
His naked breast stands for a shield,  
His battering shot are babish cries,  
His arrow looks of weeping eyes,  
His martial ensigns Cold and Need,  
And feeble Flesh his warrior's steed.

His camp is pitched in a stall,  
His bulwark but a broken wall;  
The crib his trench, haystalks his stakes;  
Of shepherds he his muster makes;  
And thus, as sure his foe to wound,  
The angels; trumps a la-rum sound.

My soul, with Christ join thou in fight;  
Stick to the tents that he hath pight,  
Within his crib is surest ward;  
This little Babe will be thy guard;  
If thou wilt foil thy foes with joy,  
The flit not from this heavenly Boy.

Music: Benjamin Britten (*A Ceremony of Carols*)

#### V. THE SHEPHERDS GO TO THE MANGER

Luke 2:8-16

Reader: The Reverend Alastair Votaw

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 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. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one 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. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

**Choir*****I wonder as I wander***

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
 How Jesus, the Savior, did come for to die.  
 For poor ornery people like you and like I:  
 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus, 'twas in a cows' stall,  
 With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.  
 But high from God's heaven a star's light did fall,  
 and the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing:  
 A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing;  
 Or all of God's angels in heav'n to sing,  
 He surely could have had it, 'cause he was the King!

I wonder as I wander out under the sky,  
 How Jesus, the Savior, did come for to die.  
 For poor ornery people like you and like I:  
 I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.

Words: John Jacob Niles  
 Music: John Jacob Niles, arr. John Rutter

*Please stand.*

**Hymn*****Angels we have heard on high***

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
 and the mountains in reply, echoing their brave delight.  
 Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;  
 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.  
 Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick  
 Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes

*Please be seated.*

**VI. THE WISE MEN ARE LED BY THE STAR TO JESUS**

Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: The Reverend Paul Gilbert

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, 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." When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, "In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, '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.'" Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. 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." 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. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. 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. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

**Choir**

***Masters in this hall***

Masters in this hall,  
Hear ye news today  
Brought from over sea,  
And ever I you pray:

{Refrain}

*Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!*

*Nowell sing we clear!*

*Holpen are all folk on earth,*

*Born is God's Son so dear:*

*Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!*

*Nowell sing we loud!*

*God today bath poor folk raised*

*And cast a-down the proud.*

Going o'er the hills,  
Through the milk-white snow,  
Heard I ewes bleat  
While the wind did blow:

{Refrain}

Shepherds many an one  
Sat among the sheep,  
no man spake more word  
Than they had been asleep:

{Refrain}

Words: William Morris

Music: French traditional carol, arr. David Willcocks

*Please stand.*

**Hymn**

***Joy to the world! the Lord is come***

Joy to the world, the Lord is come: let earth receive her king;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world, with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts, alt.

Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel; adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason

*Please remain standing for the Gospel of the Incarnation.*

Quoth I, 'Fellows mine,  
Why this guise sit ye?  
Making but dull cheer,  
Shepherds though ye be?'

{Refrain}

'Shepherds should of right  
Leap and dance and sing,  
Thus to see ye sit,  
Is a right strange thing':

{Refrain}

Quoth these fellows then,  
'To Bethlem town we go,  
To see a mighty lord  
Lie in manger low':

{Refrain}

'How name ye this lord,  
Shepherds? then said I,  
'Very God,' they said,  
'Come from heaven high';

{Refrain}

This is Christ the Lord,  
Masters, be ye glad!  
Christmas is come in,  
And no folk should be sad:

{Refrain}

## VII. ST. JOHN UNFOLDS THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE INCARNATION

John 1:1-14

Reader: The Reverend Calhoun Perkins

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. 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: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. 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.

*Please be seated.*

### Choir *Gloria in excelsis Deo*

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Glory to God in the highest.

Words: From *The Ordinary of the Mass* – Roman Rite  
Music: Paul Halley

*Please stand. An offering will be received during the singing of the hymn.*

### Offertory

#### Hymn *O come, all ye faithful*

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come and behold him,  
born the King of angels;

*(Refrain)*

O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

2. God of God,  
Light of Light,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Very God,  
begotten, not created;

*(Refrain)*

3. See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:

*(Refrain)*

4. Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God,  
glory in the highest,

*(Refrain)*

Words: John Francis Wade  
Music: *Adeste fideles*, John Francis Wade

### A Collect for Christmas

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, world without end. *Amen.*

*Please be seated.*

**Choir*****Here is the little door***

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, O lift!  
 We need not wander more but enter with our gift;  
 Our gift of finest gold.  
 Gold that was never bought nor sold;  
 Myrrh to be strewn about His bed;  
 Incense in clouds about His head;  
 All for the Child that stirs not in His sleep,  
 But holy slumber hold with ass and sheep.

Bend low about His bed, for each He has a gift;  
 See how His eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift!  
 For gold, He gives a keen-edged sword  
 (Defend with it Thy little Lord!)  
 For incense, smoke of battle red  
 Myrrh for the honored happy dead;  
 Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet;  
 Touched by such tiny hands and  
 Oh such tiny feet.

Words: Francis Chesterton  
 Music: Herbert Howells

**A Christmas Blessing**

Shepherds journey, the wise bring gifts, angels adore and the Holy Mother ponders. So must we this holy season, journey, bear gifts and adore, all the while pondering the meaning and mystery of this holy birth. And the blessing of God, the Creator and Father of all, the Son of God and Christ Child and the ever Holy, Present and Sanctifying Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

*Please stand.*

**Recessional****Hymn*****Hark! The herald angels sing***

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.*

Christ, by highest heav'n adored,  
 Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
 Late in time behold him come  
 Offspring of a virgin's womb:  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
 Hail the incarnate Deity!  
 Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel.

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
 Glory to the newborn King.*

Mild he lays his glory by,  
 Born that we no more may die,  
 Born to raise us from the earth,  
 Born to give us 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

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
 Glory to the newborn King.*

Words: Charles Wesley  
 Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn

**Voluntary*****Toccata on 'Veni Emmanuel'***

Andrew Carter

† † †

***Service Participants***

**Officiant**

The Reverend Canon J. Michael A. Wright

**Ushers**

Tommy Thornhill, Chip Kelly

**Readers**

Julian Wright

Karen Rider

Allen O'Neal

Dr. Scott Bennett

The Reverend Alastair Votaw

The Reverend Paul Gilbert

The Reverend Calhoun Perkins

**Music**

Dr. Scott Bennett, Organist and Master of the Music

Paula Rossin, Assistant Organist

**St. Gregory Choir**

**SOPRANO**

Lynn Barber

Jodi Bennett

Marsha Callahan

Sarah Christian

Susan Gray

Kitty Rice

Karen Rider

Mary Rudisill

Laura Schroeder

Jean Wade

Esther Williams

**ALTO**

Mary Beth Berry

Karen Bostick

Mary Elizabeth Canaday

Barbara Christie

Ruth Goldsmith

Elsie Kohlenberg

Thu Leshner

Ansley Lucas

Camille Reynolds

Martha Rudisill

Terry Ritchen

Char Stricklin

**TENOR**

Graham Bridges

Wayne French

Aaron Leshner

Brian Scholtens

Alex Schroeder

Anna Lee Turner

**BASS**

William Christian

Barry Goldsmith

Lee Kohlenberg

Ed Ritchen

Jason Roberson

John Schroeder

Steve Skardon

Noah Smith

Roy Smith

Sam Stafford

Carl Stanitsky

Derek Wade

**St. Nicholas Choir**

Jodi Bennett, Director of Children's Choirs

Anna Rhett Allen

Bailey Allen

Chloe Belton

Marinesa Fabrizio\*

Kathryn Hart

Elizabeth Howell\*

Emma MacMillan

Leila Miles

Sarah Margaret Miles

Alex Moring

Mimi Moring

Kitty Rice\*

Amelia Rider

Bethany Schroeder

Jalin Simmons

Mary Patterson Suggs

Allison Wendt

Katherine Williams

Abbey Wright

Julian Wright

\* Head Choristers

# Christmas at Grace Church

**Wednesday, December 23**

**HOLY EUCHARIST WITH CAROLS**

**5:30 p.m.**

**Thursday, December 24**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Family Holy Eucharist, 5:00 p.m.

St. Cecilia Choir and St. Gregory Chamber Choir

Holy Eucharist, 8:00 p.m.

St. Nicholas Choir and St. Gregory Chamber Choir

Choral Eucharist, Rite I, 11:00 p.m.

St. Gregory Choir

**Friday, December 25**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Holy Eucharist with Carols, 10:00 a.m.

**Sunday, December 27**

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY**

Holy Eucharist with Carols at 8:00, 9:00 and 11:00 a.m.

Cookies and Carols at 10:10 a.m.

**Friday, January 1**

**THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME**

Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.



# Grace Episcopal Church

98 Wentworth Street, Charleston, South Carolina 29401

(843) 723-4575

[gracechurchcharleston.org](http://gracechurchcharleston.org)