



December 22, 2024
Fourth Sunday of Advent
A Service of Lessons & Carols



Welcome to
St. David's Episcopal Church

WELCOME VISITOR!

Welcome to St. David's! We are so glad that you have joined us today.

Is this your first time at St. David's or any Episcopal church? Our services change somewhat from week to week and from season to season, but in general this is what you can expect on a typical Sunday.

- We acknowledge our sins and ask for forgiveness, out loud and together. This is followed by an assurance that all our sins are indeed forgiven through the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- We look to Holy Scripture for guidance and usually hear four Bible passages; one from the Old Testament, one from the Book of Psalms, one from the New Testament, and one from the Gospels. Members of the congregation generally read all except the Gospel, which is read by the Priest, and the sermon is normally based on one of the Scripture passages.
- We declare our faith, publicly, speaking the words of either the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed.
- We do a lot of praying, out loud and together. Many of the prayers, drawn from the Book of Common Prayer, are led by members of the congregation rather than clergy.
- Most Sundays we receive Holy Communion as a tangible reminder that Christ died for all — and all are welcome to receive communion at St. David's.

Episcopalians are comfortable with a wide variety of physical expressions of devotion during worship. You may see people bowing, making the sign of the cross, kneeling or standing; none of these gestures are expected of visitors. It's a personal choice.

In general, we sit to listen and learn, we stand to praise God in song and to affirm our faith, and we kneel or sit (or stand!) to pray. Again, it's a personal choice. You should feel free to participate in whatever way is comfortable for you.

You will find three important books at each pew: a black Holy Bible, a blue hymnal, and a red Episcopal Book of Common Prayer. You are invited to spend a little time in reading or reflection. Aside from the Sermon, all of the service, compiled from these three sources, is contained in this leaflet. All you need to do is follow along and join in.

Confused and need a buddy? Any of us will be happy to help you find your way.

There are Connect Cards in front of you; please feel free to use them to communicate if you like, or linger after service so we can greet you personally.

Again, we are glad to have you with us today and hope to see you back at St. David's soon.

Readings for a Festival of Lessons and Carols

Processional Hymn

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY, vv. 1, 2, 4

Hymnal 102

1) 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.

2) 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, the scorned, the lowly
lived on earth our Savior holy.

4) For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew;
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.

Bidding Prayer

Leader:

Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmas season our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child;

and let us make this place, dedicated to his pure and lowly Mother, glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of His whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and brotherhood and the mission of the Church he came to build and for which He died, and especially for His Church in our country and in this city:

And let us at this time remember in His name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light,

that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom we for evermore 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

BCP 336

The Celebrant then continues:

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

People and Celebrant:

*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,
forever and ever. Amen.*

Leader:

The Almighty God bless us with his 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. Amen.

Hymn

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER, vv. 1 & 2

Hymnal 112

1) In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

2) 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.

First Lesson:

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head.

⁸ And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

⁹ And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

¹⁰ And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

¹¹ And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

¹² And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

¹³ And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done?

And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

¹⁴ And the LORD God said unto the serpent,

Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

¹⁵ And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

¹⁷ And unto Adam he said,

Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

¹⁸ Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; ¹⁹ In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God***

Hymn

BLEST BE THE KING WHOSE COMING, vv. 1 & 4

Hymnal 74

1) Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
For him let doors be opened, no hearts against him barred!
Not robed in royal splendor, in power and pomp, comes he;
but clad as are the poorest, such his humility!

4) Blest be the King whose coming is in the name of God!
He offers to the burdened the rest and grace they need.
Gentle is he and humble! And light his yoke shall be,
for he would have us bear it so he can make us free.

Second Lesson:

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

¹⁵ And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time,

¹⁶ And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son:

¹⁷ That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven,

and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

¹⁸ And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn

Angels we have heard on high, vv. 1-3 (*Gloria*)

Hymnal 96

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2) Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3) Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Third Lesson:

Isaiah 9:2, 6, 7

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

²The 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.

⁶For 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.

⁷Of 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn

IT CAME UPON THE MIDNIGHT CLEAR, vv. 1&4

Hymnal 89

1) It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth,
to touch their harps of gold:

"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

4) For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Fourth Lesson:

Isaiah II:1-4, 6-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

¹And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:

²And 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;

³And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord:
and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

⁴But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth:

and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. ⁶The 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.

⁷And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together:

and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

⁹They 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING, vv. 1, 2

Hymnal 81

1) Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
as seers of old have sung.

It came, a blossom bright,
amid the cold of winter,
when half spent was the night.

2) Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it,
the Virgin Mother kind.

To show God's love aright,
she bore to us a Savior,
when half spent was the night.

Fifth Lesson:

St Luke 1:26-35, 38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

²⁶ And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

²⁷ To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.

²⁸ 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.

²⁹ And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be.

³⁰ And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God.

³¹ And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS.

³² 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:

³³ And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end.

³⁴ Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?

³⁵ 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.

³⁸ And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.

And the angel departed from her.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn

SILENT NIGHT, vv. 1, 2, 3

Hymnal III

1) Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2) Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3) Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth

Sixth Lesson:

St Luke 2:1, 3-7

St Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed.

³ And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea,

unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

⁵ To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

⁶ And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

⁷ And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn

AWAY IN THE MANGER, vv. 1 – 3

Hymnal 101

1) 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.

2) The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but 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.

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

Seventh Lesson:

St. Luke 2:8-16

The shepherds go to the manger.

⁸ And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field,
keeping watch over their flock by night.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good
tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.

¹² And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in
swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host
praising God, and saying,

¹⁴ Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

¹⁵ And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into
heaven, the shepherds said one to 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.

¹⁶ And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe
lying in a manger.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn

Joy to The World, vv. 1, 2, 4

Hymnal 100

1) 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.

2) Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;

let us our songs employ,

while fields and floods,

rocks, hills, and plains,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

4) 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.

Eighth Lesson:

St. Matthew 2:1-12

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

¹Now 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, ²Saying,

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.

³ When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

⁴ And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born.

⁵ And they said unto him,

In Bethlehem of Judaea: for thus it is written by the prophet, ⁶ 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.

⁷ Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, enquired of them diligently what time the star appeared.

⁸ 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.

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

¹¹ 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.

¹² And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

WE THREE KINGS, vv. 1&5

Hymnal 128

1) We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

5) Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia: alle-
luia the earth replies.

Refrain

Ninth Lesson:

St. John 1:1-14

The congregation stands for the Ninth Lesson.

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

²The same was in the beginning with God.

³All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

⁴In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

⁵ And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

⁷ The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all men through him might believe.

⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light.

⁹ That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not.

¹¹ He came unto his own, and his own received him not.

¹² 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:

¹³ Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ 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.

Hymn

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL, vv. 1 – 3

Hymnal 83

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 from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of the Father;

Refrain

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

Refrain

The Prayers of the People, Form III

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest;
Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Offertory and Announcements

Collect & Blessing

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with thy spirit.*

Leader: Let us pray.

Leader and People:

O God, who didst wonderfully create, and yet more wonderfully restore, the dignity of human nature:

Grant that we may share the divine life of Him who humbled Himself to share our humanity, thy son Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader:

May He who by His Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, grant us the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon us and remain with us always. *Amen.*

Recessional Hymn

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN (*Go Tell It on the Mountain*) Hymnal 99

Refrain:

Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!

1) While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.

Refrain

2) The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

3) Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that bless'd Christmas morn.

Refrain

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: ***Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

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Announcements:



Welcome!

Regardless of whether or not you regularly attend here, we are happy to have you as one of us today! Feel free to come up close, and kneel before our Lord's altar and receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. If you need a gluten-free wafer, then please indicate this to one of the ushers.

Of course, if you prefer to remain seated during Eucharist, we are fine with that as well. We merely hope that your experience with us today is divinely positive and truly meaningful.

As Priest-in-Charge, I would be glad for us to have a conversation during the coffee hour or to have a scheduled appointment for another time. I love answering questions about why we do what we do and about who we are as Episcopalian Christians. If you have a confidential matter to voice, I can be trusted as a priest and as a certified grief counselor.



Again, I am very happy that you have chosen to be with us this day. Feel free to contact me personally. On Sunday afternoons, I am only available for pastoral emergencies.

Blessings, Father Jeff+

St. David's Episcopal Church Vestry

- Phil Powell, Senior Warden
- Sarah Spruill, Junior Warden
- Anne Pate, Treasurer (*ex officio*)
- Rob Wolfe, Secretary
- Jeff Buckner
- Van Pate
- Sally Powell
- Rosalie (Lie) Steele

•Michael Williams, Organist

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