



ADVENT LESSONS *and* CAROLS



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
NOVEMBER 27, 5 PM
CHRIST CHURCH CHARLOTTE



Christ Church Charlotte

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcome to worship in your Spiritual Home.
Special greetings to our visitors! We invite you to chat with one of our clergy, check in with a greeter,
or email visitor@christchurchcharlotte.org so we can connect with you.

Advent: In the Episcopal tradition the season of Advent marks the beginning of the Christian year. Advent has long been understood to be a "little Lent" (the season leading up to the celebration of Easter). During Advent, Christians are meant to prepare themselves for Christmas through prayer, reflection, quietness, repentance, and waiting.

We observe Advent by sharing prophetic words and stories in scripture, lighting Advent wreath candles to mark time, and using the color blue with hints of purple. These practices help us reframe and reorder the busyness of the Christmas season as we wait for the coming of Immanuel. May your marking of time and creating room for Christ this season make the joy of Christmas morning new all over again!

This bulletin is designed for use with the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and Hymnal in your pew rack. Text in **bold italics** is read aloud or sung by the congregation. Text in *regular italics* provides directions or details.

Opening Voluntary Toccata XII in A minor

Johann Jacob Froberger

Introit Vigilate

William Byrd

Vigilate, nescitis enim quando Watch ye therefore for you know not
dominus domus veniat, when the lord of the house cometh, at even,
sero, an media nocte, an gallicantu, an mane. or at midnight, or at the cock crowing, or in the morning:
Vigilate ergo, ne cum venerit repente, Watch therefore, lest coming suddenly,
inveniat vos dormientes. he find you sleeping.
Quod autem dico vobis, omnibus dico: vigilate. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch. *-Mark 13:35-37*

Processional Hymn Come, thou redeemer of the earth (*Sung by all, please stand.*)

Puer nobis



1 Come, thou Re - deem - er of the earth, And ma - ni - fest thy vir - gin birth:
2 Be - got - ten of no hu - man will, But of the Spi - rit, thou art still
3 The vir - gin womb that bur - den gained With vir - gin hon - or all un - stained;
4 Forth from his cham - ber go - eth he, That roy - al home of pu - ri - ty,
5 From God the Fa - ther he pro - ceeds, To God the Fa - ther back he speeds;
6 O e - qual to thy Fa - ther, thou! Gird on thy flesh - ly man - tle now:
7 Thy cra - dle here shall glit - ter bright, And dark - ness breathe a new - er light,
8 All laud, e - ter - nal Son, to thee Whose ad - vent sets thy peo - ple free;



1 Let ev - ery age a - dor - ing fall; Such birth be - fits the God of all.
2 The Word of God, in flesh ar - rayed, The pro - mised fruit to man dis - played.
3 The ban - ners there of vir - tue glow; God in his tem - ple dwells be - low.
4 A giant in two - fold sub - stance one, Re - joic - ing now his course to run.
5 His course he runs to death and hell, Re - turn - ing on God's throne to dwell.
6 The weak - ness of our mor - tal state With death - less might in - vig - or - ate.
7 Where end - less faith shall shine ser - ene, And twi - light nev - er in - ter - vene.
8 Whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore, And Ho - ly Ghost for ev - er - more.

A Bidding Prayer (*Remain standing. Said by Celebrant.*)

Beloved in Christ, in this season of Advent, let it be our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, to see the Babe lying in a manger.

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 his holy Child; and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless; the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who 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 before God his pure and lowly Mother, and 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 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 (*Said in unison.*)

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.

You may now extinguish your candle.

Please sit during each of the lessons and stand for the congregational hymns as indicated. The customary response after each lesson is omitted.

The First Lesson Genesis 3:1-5

John Crehore

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.' The Lord God said to the serpent,

'Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.'

Carol: O mortal man

Herbert Howells

O mortal man, remember well when Christ our Lord was born.
He was crucified betwixt two thieves, and crowned with the thorn.
O mortal man, remember well, when Christ died on the rood,
'Twas for our sins and wicked ways Christ shed his precious blood.
God bless the master of this house with happiness beside;
where e'er his body rides or walks, Lord Jesus be his guide.

The Second Lesson Isaiah 40:1-11

Alice Adams

God comforts his people and calls them to prepare for redemption.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.' A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, 'Here is your God!' See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
 2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
 3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
 His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
 His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
 Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
 All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

The Third Lesson Jeremiah 31:31-34

Derek Luther

A new covenant is promised which will be written in our hearts.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the Lord', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Carol: O come Immanuel

Natalie Sleeth

The Children's Choir

O come, O come Immanuel, come now to earth and with Thy people dwell.
 The world awaits from heav'n a holy sign, O come and show to us the Light divine.
 O come, O come Immanuel, as age to age the prophets did foretell;
 Redeemer, come to save us one and all, be born again in Beth'hem's manger stall.
 For Thy coming we prepare, Wisdom from on high.
 Gracious Spirit, Lord, most fair: now to us draw nigh.
 O come, O come, Immanuel, and free Thy children, Israel.
 Be now our hope, our comfort from above, and bless us all with everlasting love.

The Fourth Lesson Micah 5:2-4

Kim Hanson

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

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

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

The Fifth Lesson Isaiah 35:1-10

Genie Hufham

The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus 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. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you.' Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray. 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. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Carol: A tender shoot

Kerensa Briggs

A tender shoot hath started up from a root of grace,
 As ancient seers imparted, from Jesse's holy race,
 it blooms without a blight, blooms in the cold bleak winter,
 turning our darkness into light.

This shoot Isaiah taught us from Jesse's root should spring;
 The Virgin Mary brought us the branch of which we sing;
 Our God of endless might gave her this child to save us,
 thus turning darkness into light.

The Sixth Lesson Zephaniah 3:14-18

Scott Geyer

The Lord will be among us; we are summoned to rejoice and sing.

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



1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple - nish them with oil;
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

The Seventh Lesson Luke 1:26-38

The Reverend Connor Gwin

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Carol: Magnificat, Second Evening Service

Jerrick Cavagnaro

The Song of Many may be found on page 65 in the Book of Common Prayer.

The Greeting

The Reverend Connor Gwin

Offertory Anthem Jesus Christ the apple tree

Anthony Piccolo

The tree of life my soul hath seen,
Laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell
The glory which I now can see
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,
And pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,
Here I will sit and rest awhile:
Under the shadow I will be,
Of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,
It keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

The Collect and Blessing *(said by Celebrant)*

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

The Advent Blessing *(said by Celebrant)*

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Vesper Responsory

G.P. da Palestina adapted Philip Ledger

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed:
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.
Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Hymn 57 Lo! he comes, with clouds descending

Helmsley

1 Lo! he comes, with clouds de - scend - ing, once for
 2 Ev - ery eye shall now be - hold him, robed in
 3 Those dear tok - ens of his pas - sion still his
 4 Yea, a - men! let all a - dore thee, high on

our sal - va - tion slain; thou - sand thou - sand
 dread - ful ma - jes - ty; those who set at
 daz - zling bo - dy bears, cause of end - less
 thine e - ter - nal throne; Sa - vior, take the

saints at - tend - ing swell the tri - umph of his
 nought and sold him, pierced, and nailed him to the
 ex - ul - ta - tion to his ran - somed wor - ship -
 power and glo - ry; claim the king - dom for thine

train: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
 tree, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing,
 ers; with what rap - ture, with what rap - ture,
 own: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.
 deep - ly wail - ing, shall the true Mes - si - ah see.
 with what rap - ture gaze we on those glo - rious scars!
 Al - le - lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and thou a - lone.

Postlude Nun komm der Heiden Heiland, BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach

The altar flowers are given by the Anderson family to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for Jane Coulter and her family.

The Advent wreath is given with thanks to God and in loving memory of Mary Kee Hood White, Frank Lee Hood III, David R. White, Margaret Hood Schuth, James Noel Schuth, Shirley Moser Marshall, John Edward Marshall, James Paxton Marshall, Hazel Procter Schuth, and Samuel Dunton Tankard III from Jim, Kee, and Frank Marshall and Sam Schuth.