

A Procession of Advent Lessons & Carols

December 17, 2025 • 5:30 pm



The Church of the Holy Spirit (Episcopal)

Knowing • Loving • Serving
God + Neighbor

204 Monument Road
Orleans, Massachusetts 02653-3512
(508) 255-0433
www.holyspiritoreans.org

Photo: The Annunciation to Mary (France, 15th century; carved limestone and polychromy). Musée de Cluny, Paris.

During these weeks of Advent, we keep silence prior to the start of the liturgy.

The Prelude

'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

French folk tune, arr. C. Moglebust

The Belladonnas

Please stand as you are able.

The Opening Hymn 82 Of the Father's love begotten

Divinum mysterium



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,
Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that
bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the
and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on
and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have _____ been, and that fu - ture
world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in
and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____

The Greeting

The Bidding Prayer

Beloved in Christ, as we await the great festival of Christmas let us prepare ourselves so that we may be shown its true meaning. Let us hear, in lessons from Holy Scripture, how the prophets of Israel foretold that God would visit and redeem his waiting people. Let us rejoice, in our carols and hymns, that the good purpose of God is being mightily fulfilled. Let us celebrate the promise that our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will bring all people and all things into the glory of God's eternal kingdom. The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor hear God's saving news. But first, let us pray for the world which God so loves, for those who are anxious or isolated during this holy season; for those who are ill or dying, for those regions of our world torn apart by war and civil unrest; and for the Church in this place and everywhere, that it may be freed from all evil and fear, and may in pure joy lift up the light of the love of God.

Silence.

These our prayers and praises let us offer to God, in the words which Christ taught us.

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-21

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.”

To the woman he said, “I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

And to the man he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

The man named his wife Eve because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife and clothed them.

Anthem

God Set One Limit

Thomas Troeger / *Kedron*

God set one limit in the glade where tempting, fruited branches swayed,
and that first limit stands behind the limits that the law defined.
The line, the limit, and the law are patterns meant to help us draw
a bound between what life requires and all the things our heart desires.
But, discontent with finite powers, we reach to take what is not ours
and then defend our claim by force and swerve from life's intended course.
We are not free when we're confined to every wish that sweeps the mind,
but free when freely we accept the sacred bounds that must be kept.

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 64: 1-9a

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence —
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil —
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Anthem

O Antiphon: O Clavis David

Healy Willan

O Key of David and scepter of the house of Israel,
You open and no one can close,
You close and no one can open:
Come and rescue the prisoners who are in darkness
and the shadow of death.

The Third Lesson

Baruch 4:36-5:19

Look toward the east, O Jerusalem,
and see the joy that is coming to you from God.
Look, your children are coming, whom you sent away;
they are coming, gathered from east and west,
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing in the glory of God.

Take off the garment of your sorrow and affliction, O Jerusalem,
and put on forever the beauty of the glory from God.
Put on the robe of the righteousness that comes from God;
put on your head the diadem of the glory of the Everlasting,
for God will show your splendor everywhere under heaven,
for God will give you evermore the name,
“Righteous Peace, Godly Glory.”
Arise, O Jerusalem, stand upon the height;
look toward the east,
and see your children gathered from west and east
at the word of the Holy One,
rejoicing that God has remembered them.
For they went out from you on foot,
led away by their enemies,
but God will bring them back to you,
carried in glory, as on a royal throne.

For God has ordered that every high mountain and the everlasting hills be made low
and the valleys filled up, to make level ground,
so that Israel may walk safely in the glory of God.
The woods and every fragrant tree
have shaded Israel at God's command.
For God will lead Israel with joy,
in the light of his glory,
with the mercy and righteousness that come from him.

Anthem

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

Swedish folk tune, arr. K.Lee Scott

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh,
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.
The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near,
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting, the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory, the bridegroom is at hand!
The saints, who here in patience their cross and sufferings bore,
shall live and reign forever when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory the Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before him their diadems of gold.
Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for, over this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord,
to see the day of earth's redemption that sets your people free.
Rejoice!

The Fourth Lesson

Micah 5:2-4

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 labor 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;

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn 78 & 79 (alternating verses) O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verse 1 - Hymn 79 "O little town of Bethlehem"

Verse 2 - Hymn 78 "For Christ is born of Mary"

Verse 3 - **Choir only** "How silently"

Verse 4 - Hymn 78 "Where children pure and happy"

Verse 5 - Hymn 79 "O holy Child of Bethlehem"

*St. Louis
Forest Green
Walford Davies*

Please be seated.

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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

Anthem

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come

Paul Manz

Peace be to you and grace from him who freed us from our sins.
Who loved us all and shed his blood that we might saved be.
Sing holy, holy to our Lord, the Lord Almighty God,
 who was and is and is to come, sing holy, holy, Lord.
Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein,
Rejoice on earth, ye saints below,
For Christ is coming, is coming soon!
Even so, Lord Jesus, quickly come, and night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun, for Christ will be their all.

The Concluding Prayer

Let us pray.

Please stand as you are able.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming: Grant that we, who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

Offertory Anthem

The Work of Christmas

Dan Forrest

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations.
To bring peace among brothers.
To make music from the heart.
When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
 The work of Christmas begins:

Please stand as the offering is presented.

Hymn 81 Lo, how a Rose e'er

Es ist ein Ros

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,
Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;
It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and
cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

The Advent Blessing

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. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

The Closing Hymn 56 O come, O come Emmanuel

Veni, veni Emmanuel



(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



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



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!



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

Please be seated.

The Postlude

Come Now, Savior of the Nations

arr. Paul Manz

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| <i>Officiant</i> | The Rev. Patrick C. Ward |
| <i>Musicians</i> | Joan Kirchner, The CHS Choir Members |
| <i>Readers</i> | Earle Bailey, Celia Calhoun, Brian Skea, Diana Landau, Ruth Campbell |
| <i>Usher</i> | John Harter |
| <i>Audio/Video</i> | Brenda Ridgeway |

All music copyrighted under license One License.net #A-709079

*To connect to our Hearing Assist system via blue tooth, please see the instructions below.



Please connect to: “CHS_Hearing” and the
Password is: CHSOrleans. This is a case sensitive password.