



A Service of Lessons & Carols

The Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday, December 18, 10:15 am

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church

Liturgy of the Word

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Please stand as you are able.

Opening Carol

Once in Royal David's City

Gather 380, v. 1, 2, 5



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a
 2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is
 3. And through all his won - drous child - hood He would
 4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by
 5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his



low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
 God and Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a
 hon - or and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly
 day like us he grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; For that child so dear and



ba - by In a man - ger for his bed. Mar - y
 sta - ble, And his cra - dle was a stall. With the
 maid - en In whose gen - tle arms he lay. Chris - tian
 help - less, Tears and smiles like us he knew: And he
 gen - tle Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove: And he



was that moth - er mild, Je - sus
 poor and mean and low - ly Lived on
 chil - dren all should be Kind, o -
 feels for all our sad - ness, And he
 leads his chil - dren on To the



Christ her lit - tle Child.
 earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
 be - dient, good as he.
 shares in all our glad - ness.
 place where he has gone.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1805-1876;
 Tune: IRBY, 8 7 8 7 7; Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876; harm. by Arthur H. Mann, 1850-1929

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Watch and wait for Christ's coming.

Light candles of hope, peace, joy, and love, remembering the promises of God with prayer.

We light this candle in hope.

We light this candle for peace.

We light this candle in joy.

We light this candle with love.

Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, 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 justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The First Lesson

Genesis 3:1-15

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.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Gather 373



1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing From ten - der stem hath
 2. I - sa - iah 'twas for - told it, The Rose I have in
 3. O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der With sweet-ness fills the



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing As seers of
 mind, With Mar - y we be - hold it, The Vir - gin
 air, Dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor The dark - ness



old have sung. It came, a blos - som bright, A -
 Moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, She
 ev - 'ry - where; True man, yet ver - y God, From



mid the cold of win - ter, When half spent was the night.
 bore to us a Sav - ior, When half spent was the night.
 sin and death now save us, And share our ev - 'ry load.

Text: Isaiah 11:1; *Es ist ein' Ros' entsprungen*; *Speier Gesangbuch*, 1599; tr. sts. 1-2 by Theodore Baker, 1851-1934; st. 3, *The Hymnal*, 1940
 Tune: ES IST EIN' ROS' ENSTSPRUNGEN, 7 6 7 6 6 7 6; *Geistliche Kirchengesang*, Cologne, 1599; harm. by Michael Praetorius, 1571-1621

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-11

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 forever.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people. **Thanks be to God.**

The Third Lesson

Isaiah 7:10-15

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Carol

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Gather 377



1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For his bed a
2. Flocks were sleep - ing: Shep - herds keep - ing Vi - gil till the



cat - tle stall; Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing
morn - ing new. Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry,



Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing
Tid - ings of a gos - pel true. Thus re - joic - ing,



An - gels sing - ing, No - els ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:
Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing Greet the mor - row:



Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Christ the babe was born for you.

Text: Polish carol; para. by Edith M. G. Reed, 1885-1933
Tune: W ZLOBIE LEZY, 44 7 44 7 4444 7; Polish carol; harm. by A. E. Rusbridge, 1917-1969

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How
 2. For Christ is born of Mar - y, And
 3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The
 4. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De -



still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep and
 gath - ered all a - bove, While mor - tals sleep, the
 won - drous gift is giv'n! So God im - parts to
 scend to us we pray; Cast out our sin and



dream - less sleep The si - lent stars go by;
 an - gels keep Their watch of won - d'ring love.
 hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.
 en - ter in, Be born in us to - day.



Yet in the dark streets shin - eth The ev - er -
 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er Pro - claim the
 No ear may hear his com - ing, But in this
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad



last - ing Light; The hopes and fears of
 ho - ly birth! And prais - es sing to
 world of sin, Where meek souls will re -
 tid - ings tell; O come to us, a -



all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 God the King, And peace to all on earth.
 ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
 bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893
 Tune: ST. LOUIS, 8 6 8 6 7 6 8 6; Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

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, favored 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 favor 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 forever, 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

Anthem

Mary, Did You Know?

Lawry/Green

The Sixth Lesson

Matthew 1:18-25

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Reflection

The Rev. Kyle Carswell

Please stand as you are able.

Carol

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Gather 369



1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2. Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3. Sag - es, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4. Though an in - fant now we view him, He shall fill his



all the earth; You who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God on earth is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions,
heav'n - ly throne, Gath - er all the na - tions to him;



Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
Yon - der shines the in - fant light: Come and wor - ship,
You have seen his morn - ing star:
Ev - 'ry knee shall then bow down:



come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text: Sts. 1-3, James Montgomery, 1771-1854; st. 4, *Christmas Box*, 1825
Tune: REGENT SQUARE, 8 7 8 7 8 7; Henry Smart, 1813-1879

The Peace

Priest The Peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

Liturgy of the Table

Offertory

In the Bleak Midwinter

Rossetti/Cranham/Holst

Please stand as you are able.

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise, because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim your glory:

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

On the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of 11 systems of music. The first system begins with the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might.' The second system continues with 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4.

Music: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937). Copyright © 1985 GIA Publications, Inc.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Communion

You do not need to be a member of this church or of any church to receive communion.

To receive the sacrament, come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The wine is received by intinction, by dipping the wafer into the bowl.

*Please let the clergy know if you require a **gluten-free wafer**.*

*To indicate that you would prefer a **blessing only**, cross your arms across your chest.*

***If you are unable to come forward**, please notify an usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.*

Please stand as you are able.

Music at Communion

Love Came Down At Christmas

Ringwald


Prayer after Communion

God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name. Amen.


Blessing



1. The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
 2. They look - ed up and saw a star Shin-ing
 3. And by the light of that same star Three
 4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, O'er
 5. Then en - tered in those wise men three, Full
 6. Then let us all with one ac - cord Sing



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In
 in the east, be - yond them far, And
 wise men came from coun - try far; To
 Beth - le - hem it took its rest; And
 rev - 'rent - ly up - on their knee, And
 prais - es to our heav - 'nly Lord; Who



fields where they lay keep-ing their sheep, On a
 to the earth it gave great light, And
 seek for a king was their in - tent, And to
 there it did both stop and stay, Right
 of - fered there, in his pres - ence, Their
 with the Fa - ther we a - dore And



cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 fol - low the star where - ev - er it went.
 o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 gold and myrrh and frank - in - cense.
 Spir - it blest for ev - er - more.



Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell, Now - ell,



Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English Carol, 17th C.
 Tune: THE FIRST NOWELL, Irregular; English Melody; harm. from *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

Dismissal

Deacon Go forth now to do the work God has given us to do.
 People **We will with God's help.**

Postlude

Please join us following worship on Sunday for coffee & fellowship in the Parish Hall.

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

Presider/Preacher

The Rev. Kyle Carswell

Deacon

The Rev. Jeanie Smith

Organist

Don Agee

Acolytes

James Halbrook, Sophia Halbrook, Amelia Bylund

Chalice Bearer

Mary Crandell

Lectors

Peggy George, Marshall Little, Dan Montgomery,
Elsie Faber, Nina Kramer

Oblation Bearers

Lexi Faber, Rosemary McKinney

Ushers

Scott Andrews, Matt Faber

Altar Guild

Marty Wells

Livestream Coordinator

Neil Guy

Offering Counters

Larry Anderson, Chris Bice

Vestry Representative

Liz Brennan

2nd OFFERING PARTNER

The Angel Tree & St. Timothy's Faith & Food Fund



Once again, we “adopted” 6 families to purchase gifts for and once again, your generosity is evident around our altar today. Thanks to all who shopped, wrapped, and brought their gifts today.

Financial gifts will help fund this effort and our Faith & Food Fund, which allows us to assist individuals with immediate needs throughout the year. If you would like to help support this ministry financially, you can do so at: sttimothyiowa.org/donate

COMING UP

THE COMING WEEK

Monday, December 19

1 pm Casserole Baking
6:30 pm Scouts

Wednesday, December 21

7 pm Service of Remembrance & Hope

Thursday, December 22

9:30 am Bible Study

Saturday, December 24

5 pm Christmas Eve Service with Pageant
9 pm Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

10:15 am Christmas Day Service

Monday, December 26 thru

Friday, December 30
Church offices closed

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For those celebrating a birthday: Eli Burkhiser Reynolds, Mark Marshall, Barb Segelke, & Tim Whipple;

For those celebrating an anniversary: Nasa & Uzo Okpokiri, Julie & John McKinney and Sarah & Clayton Bunch.

Wednesday, December 21 | 7 PM

A SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE & HOPE

On the longest night of the year, we remember that it is often difficult to grieve during a season when everyone else is celebrating. In this solemn service, we will commemorate our loved ones who have died, acknowledge the challenge of celebrating the holidays when we are in pain, and hear again the hope of the gospel message.

CHRISTMAS AT ST. TIMOTHY'S

Christmas Eve Service with Pageant

Saturday, December 24 | 5 PM

At our early Christmas Eve Service, our children will tell the Christmas story through a pageant. All children present on Christmas Eve will be welcome to participate, even if they haven't been present for a rehearsal!

Traditional Christmas Eve Service

Saturday, December 24 | 9 PM

Our later service will ring in the joy of Christmas with carols led by a full choir and instrumentalists, the reading of the Christmas story from Luke's Gospel, communion, and concluding with the traditional singing of "Silent Night" by candlelight.

Christmas Day Service

Sunday, December 25 | 10:15 AM

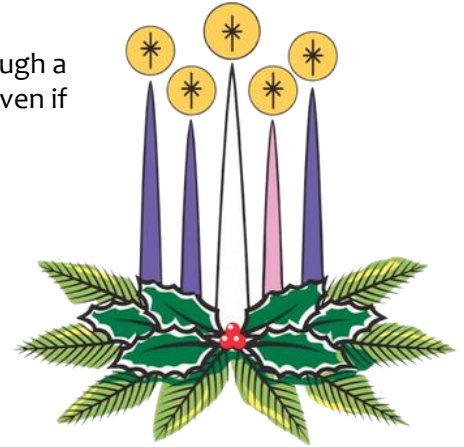
In-person only; no livestream available. No Christian formation this Sunday.

New Year's Day Service

Sunday, January 1 | 10:15 AM

No Saturday service on the 31st

On New Year's Day, we will conduct our service using the Book of Common Prayer rather than a bulletin. Come crack open that red book in the pews as we continue our celebration of the Christmas season. No Christian formation this Sunday.



IN 2023

Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 8 | 10:15 AM

Start the year off right by celebrating the arrival of the magi at Epiphany. After our worship service, we will gather for a potluck meal in the Parish Hall. There will be Epiphany-related activities for children, including crafts, cookie decorating, and chalking the door.



WE ARE CHRIST'S HANDS • FEET • VOICE IN THE WORLD

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