



The
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
of the
EPIPHANY

AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

The Second Sunday of Advent

December 7, 2025 • 5:00 PM

This Evening's liturgy is similar to Christmas Lessons & Carols made popular in the 20th century by Kings College, Cambridge. The promise of the coming Messiah is told in prophesies from the Old Testament interspersed with antiphons, Advent carols, hymns, and choir anthems.

The forerunner to this Service of Lessons & Carols originated in 1880 with E. W. Benson, Bishop of Truro Cathedral in England. His service included readings and carols for Christmas, and was offered as a prelude to the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. It was adapted in 1918 by Dean Eric Milner-White for use at King's College Chapel, Cambridge, England. The BBC began broadcasting this service nationally in 1928. Today, it has been broadcast internationally for more than seventy-five years, and is among the most popular and widely-heard church services in the world.

In 1934, Dean Milner-White created "A Procession with Carols on Advent Sunday" for use at King's, basing it on his earlier Lessons & Carols for Christmas. In his preface to this new service, Milner-White wrote: "In the old English liturgies, the Advent Offices made a preparation for the coming of our Lord to this earth far more vivid and eager than those of our present Prayer Book. So an Advent Carol Service, if without precedent, is not without suitability, if it helps to express 'the desire of all nations and ages.'" The purpose of the service is "not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it."

This evening's Service of Lessons & Carols for Advent begins with the singing of a hymn as the choirs process. We are then bidden – in a prayer by Dean Milner-White – to await and prepare for the Incarnate God. "Veni, veni, Emmanuel", sung in Latin by the Hildegard Ensemble, introduces the Seven readings from scripture that form the heart of the service; each lesson is further illuminated by an antiphon and an appropriate carol. Our worship concludes with a liturgy for the close of day and the congregational hymn "O come, O come, Emmanuel."

In the words of Dean Milner-White, the main theme of this service is "the development of the loving purposes of God ..." seen "through the windows and words of the Bible." May this evening's time of scripture and song bring you a rich sense of God's love and presence this Advent season.

WELCOME TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY

Whether you just stopped in to visit, or you are looking for a place of belonging, we welcome you. In our worship, formation, fellowship, and community engagement work, we strive for justice and peace and to honor the dignity of every human being. Whoever you are and wherever you are on your journey, we are glad you are here. We believe God loves you—no exceptions!

For the latest news and events at Epiphany, visit our website at epiphany.org or subscribe to our weekly newsletter. There are newcomer cards available in the pew in front of you and on the newcomer page of our website. We hope that you will fill one out while you're here and hand it to one of the clergy so we can welcome you personally.

Recording/Livestreaming may be in progress: Liturgies and meetings at Church of the Epiphany may be live-streamed and/or recorded so that we may include those who cannot be with us physically. If you prefer to sit in a location where you will be less visible to the camera, please let an usher, clergy, or staff person know.

Our responses to the Word this evening are translations of the *O Antiphons* on which the Eighth century Latin hymn “O come, O come, Emmanuel” is based.

The *O Antiphons*, also known as *The great Os* are Magnificat antiphons used at Vespers on the last seven days of Advent in Western Christian traditions. They have been in use since the days of the early church.

They are referred to as the “O Antiphons” because the title of each one begins with the interjection “O”. Each antiphon is a name of Christ, one of his attributes mentioned in Scripture. They are:

- December 17: O Sapientia (O *Wisdom*)
- December 18: O Adonai (O *Lord*)
- December 19: O Radix Jesse (O *Root of Jesse*)
- December 20: O Clavis David (O *Key of David*)
- December 21: O Oriens (O *Dayspring*)
- December 22: O Rex Gentium (O *King of the nations*)
- December 23: O Emmanuel (O *With Us is God*)

AN ADVENT FESTIVAL OF LESSONS & CAROLS

You are invited to enter in silence as you prepare for worship

Use the water in the font as a remembrance of your Baptism

Voluntary—Meditation on *Conditor alme siderum*

Rebecca Groom te Velde

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.

The Bidding Prayer—Officiant

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.

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

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

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.**

The People may be seated

CAROL • Hildegard Ensemble

Veni, veni, Emmanuel • 8th century Latin hymn, arr. Howard Goodall

Veni, veni, Emmanuel captivum solve Israel, qui gemit in exilio, privatus Dei Filio. Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel, nascetur pro te Israel! Veni, O Sapientia, quae hic disponis omnia, veni, viam prudentiae ut doceas et gloriae. Veni, veni, Adonai, qui populo in Sinai legem dedisti vertice in maiestate gloriae. Veni, O Jesse virgula, ex hostis tuos ungula, de specu tuos tartari educ et antro barathri. Veni, clavis Davidica, regna reclude caelica, fac iter tutum superum, et claude vias inferum. Veni, veni O Oriens, solare nos adveniens, noctis depelle nebulas, dirasque mortis tenebras. Veni, veni, Rex Gentium, veni, Redemptor omnium, ut salvas tuos famulus peccati sibi conscios.



THE FIRST LESSON • GENESIS 3:1-15

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.”

ANTIPHON: O Sapientia

Reader O Wisdom, coming forth from the mouth of the Most High, reaching from the beginning to the end [of time], and sweetly ordering all things:

People **Come and teach us the way of prudence.**

CAROL • Epiphany Choir • Rebecca Follman, flute

Isaiah's Voice • John Ferguson

A word of comfort echoes; it is Isaiah's voice speaking the balm of pardon and God's forgiving choice. The valley lifted up; uneven ground made level; glory revealed: rejoice! God's word will come to pass. Fleeting is human nature, withered, fading grass. Ageless the promise: God's word will come to pass. And with a shepherd's arms, God gathers and sustains us close to his heart so vast. Nestled in fields of amber, when winter's zephyr blows, there is a bloom so vivid within the grass a rose.

THE SECOND LESSON • JEREMIAH 31:31-34

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.

ANTIPHON: O Adonai

Reader O Adonai, and leader of the House of Israel, who appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush and gave him the law on Sinai:

People **Come and redeem us with an outstretched arm.**

CAROL • Epiphany Choir

Thou shalt know him • Mark Sirett

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by any din of drums, nor his manners, nor his airs, nor by anything he wears.

Thou shalt know him when he comes, not by his crown or by his gown, but his coming known shall be, by the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.



THE THIRD LESSON • BARUCH 4: 36-5: 9

The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East because salvation is at hand.

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.

ANTIPHON: O Radix Jesse

Reader O Root of Jesse, standing as a sign among the peoples; before you kings will shut their mouths, to you the nations will make their prayer:

People **Come and deliver us, and delay no longer.**

CAROL • Junior Choir and Beginning Choristers

Arise, be clothed in the light • Lawrence M. Probes

Arise, be clothed in the light. Arise, be clothed in the light. Your light will come, you light will come. Alleluia. Though darkness covers the earth, the Lord will shine upon you. Alleluia!

THE FOURTH LESSON • ISAIAH 7:10-15

God promises that a child shall be conceived who will be known as “God with us.”

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.”

ANTIPHON: O Clavis David

Reader O Key of David and scepter of the House of Israel, which you open and no one can shut, you shut and no one can open.

People **Come and lead the prisoners from the prison house, those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.**

CAROL • Epiphany Choir

Let all mortal flesh keep silence • Gustav Holst

Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and trembling stand; ponder nothing earthly minded, for with blessing in His hand, Christ our God to earth descendeth, our full homage to demand. King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on earth He stood, Lord of lords, in human vesture, in the body and the blood; He will give to all the faithful his own self for heavenly food. Rank on rank the host of heaven spreads its vanguard on the way, as the Light of light descendeth from the realms of endless day, that the powers of hell may vanish as the darkness clears away. At His feet the six wingèd seraph, cherubim with sleepless eye, veil their faces to the presence, as with ceaseless voice they cry: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Lord Most High! Amen. Amen.



THE FIFTH LESSON • MICAH 5:2-4

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 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.

ANTIPHON: O Oriens

Reader O Morning Star, splendor of light eternal and Sun of Righteousness:

People **Come and enlighten those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death.**

CAROL • Epiphany Choir

A shoot shall come forth • Richard Horn

A shoot shall come forth out of Jesse, and a bud shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of life shall be with him, the spirit of wisdom and truth. Then the lamb shall lie down with the leopard, and the lion eat straw with the ox, for the hand of a Child shall lead them to the peaceable kingdom of God. From out of the wells of salvation will he draw us the water of life; his waist shall be girdled with justice, the heart of his heart shall be Love. He'll come from the end of his heaven, and the earth shall be torn from its place; our lives shall be filled with his radiance as floodwaters cover the sea.

THE SIXTH LESSON • ZEPHANIAH 3:14-18

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 judgments 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.

ANTIPHON: O Rex Gentium

Reader O King of the nations, and their desire, the cornerstone making both one:
People **Come and save humankind, which you fashioned from clay.**

CAROL • Epiphany Ringers

Savior of the nations, come • German Chorale, arr. Lee Afdahl

(Savior of the nations, come! Virgin's Son, make here your home! Marvel now, both heaven and earth, that the Lord chose such a birth.)



THE SEVENTH LESSON • ISAIAH 65:17-25

God promises a new heaven and a new earth.

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD ~ and their descendants as well. Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent-its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

ANTIPHON: O Emmanuel

Reader O Emmanuel, our king and our lawgiver, the hope of the nations and their Savior:
People **Come and save us, O Lord our God.**

CAROL • Epiphany Choir • Junior Choir • Alix Janke, soloist

Climb to the top of the highest mountain • Carolyn Jennings

Climb to the top of the highest mountain, joyous tidings proclaim to the world, Lift up your voice, shout the good news: behold, your Lord comes to you. He will feed his flock like a shepherd, he will carry the lambs in his arms, He will ever keep them safe from harm. Behold, your Lord comes to you. He who made the stars in the heaven, He who fashioned the earth and the sea, From time eternal he was God, the Alpha and Omega, he. Behold, your Lord! He will come in power and glory, he will rule with mercy and truth, Hope of the nations, light of all the world. He will love the little children, he will hold them in his arms. Love him and trust him as a little child. Behold, your Lord comes to you.

The People stand

Officiant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Together, let us pray.

A Collect for Advent—*Officiant and People*

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly expectation of your coming: grant that we, who with joy receive your only-begotten Son as our Redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our Judge, even your Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

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 Holy and undivided Trinity be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn 56—O come, O come, Emmanuel (*verses 2-8*)

Veni Emmanuel

2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som

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
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile

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!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.

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

The Dismissal

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary—Chorale Prelude on *Veni Emmanuel*

Flor Peters

Participants in Today's Liturgy

Officiant	<i>The Rev. Amy Dills-Wright</i>
Hildegard Ensemble	<i>Edie Brush, Shelle Bryant, Lane Burnett, Sara Cushing, Alix Janke, Brenda Lloyd, Kate Wierwille</i>
Epiphany Choir	<i>Jewel Allen, Susan Ashmore, Edie Brush, Patrick Bryant, Shelle Bryant, Lane Burnett, Caitlin Cox, George Councill, Sara Cushing, Freyja DePew, Paul DeSandre, Cliff Edge, Sheila Ferrell, Beth Floyd, Joe Follman, Rebecca Follman, Laura Gary, Bill Graves, Wally Hare, Brent Henderson, Paige Howell, Ron Hutcheson, Alix Janke, Brenda Lloyd, Dan Mundy, Keith Poole, Rosie Reily, Andrés Rojas, Mary Ann Schneider, Johanna Smith, Nick Theyerl, Marjorie Timmer, Kate Wierwille, Loren Williams, John Yntema</i>
Junior Choir	<i>Reya Alexander, Mary Eleanor Fraijo-Paul, Anna Hare</i>
Beginning Choristers	<i>Livie Fraijo-Paul, Jack Gibbs, Nduwa Hartman, George Janke</i>
Epiphany Ringers	<i>Lily Brandon, Edie Brush, Patrick Bryant, Lane Burnett, Cecilia Democko, Freyja DePew, Sheila Ferrell, Beth Floyd, Brent Henderson, Rebecca Harris, April Maa</i>
Readers	<i>Taylor Irwin, Kim Boswell, Jacob Geiger, Mary Beth Nelson, Holly Slater, Pam Tipton-Thierry, Dirk Zwemer</i>

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY, founded in 1898, is a parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta, The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, Bishop.

Clergy: The Rev. Amy Dills-Wright, Rector; The Rev. Carmie McDonald, Associate Rector

Staff: Julie P. Ryder, Organist & Choirmaster; L. Shea McNutt, Parish Administrator; Taylor Irwin, Director of Children & Youth Ministries; Susie Boyko, Bookkeeper; Jason Sullivan, Facilities Manager; Anna Democko, Childcare Worker; Jessica Tirado, Childcare Worker; Sierra Jamison, Childcare Worker

Assisting Priests: The Rev. Barbara Ryder, The Rev. Bobbi Patterson

Wardens: Sally Walker, Senior Warden; Matthew May, Junior Warden



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