



Lessons & Carols
Church of the Advent

The Third Sunday of Advent
Gaudete Sunday | Lessons & Carols
December 14, 2025, 10:30 AM

Welcome to Advent. Thank you for joining us for worship. We hope you meet God here today.

Communion from the Reserved Sacrament is available after Morning Prayer at the altar rail. Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Parish Hall following the service.

Children of all ages are welcome in the service. Nursery is available for children four years and under in the Parish Hall across the courtyard. Older children are invited to follow the cross when noted in the liturgy for a children's homily. Find activity bags and coloring sheets for children in the narthex.

The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is the red book in the racks. The 1982 Hymnal is the blue book; the hymnal "S" pages appear in the front of this book. LEVAS (Lift Every Voice and Sing) is the black and red hymnal at both the pews' ends.

Our services are live-streamed and available to the public via our YouTube channel. Please speak to an usher if you prefer not to be on camera.

About the Third Sunday in Advent:

Gaudete Sunday is named for the Latin word "Gaudete," which means "Rejoice," perhaps most famously used in Scripture in Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always." The Third Sunday of Advent is celebrated as the Sunday of rejoicing, as the readings and music begin to turn our focus from the Day of Judgment to the Hopeful joy of the Incarnation dwelling among us. The vestments are often rose, rather than the usual purple, signifying the shift, and the pink candle in the Advent wreath is lit.

Lessons & Carols is a festive Anglican service of nine lessons dating back to the late 1800s that tells the story of Jesus Christ's birth from the Garden of Eden to Bethlehem. A corresponding carol and prayer follow each reading.



New or Visiting This Morning?

We would love to pray for you by name this week and have the opportunity to get to know you. Please fill out the welcome card found in the pew or through the QR code to the left.

Prelude *Little Prelude in F*

by J. S. Bach

Waldemar Wensell

A Service of Lessons & Carols

Processional

Rejoice, rejoice, believers

Hymnal #68

The 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 of Nashville.

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. 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.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people kneel or stand for the Collect of the Day

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let Your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with You and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

First Lesson

Genesis 3:8-19

The Fall of Humanity

Reader: A reading from the Book of Genesis

⁸They 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. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' ¹⁰He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' ¹¹He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' ¹²The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' ¹³

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.'¹⁴ 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.
¹⁵ 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.'
¹⁶ To the woman he said,
'I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing;
 in pain you shall bring forth children,
yet your desire shall be for your husband,
 and he shall rule over you.'
¹⁷ 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;
¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
 and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹ 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.'

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Carol *O come, O come, Emmanuel* (vv 1, 4, 5)

Hymnal #56

Second Lesson

Genesis 22:15-18

God's promise to Abraham

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Genesis

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, ¹⁶ and said, 'By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Carol *Comfort, comfort ye My people*

Hymnal #67

Third Lesson

Isaiah 9: 2-7

The coming of a new King

Reader: A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

64 O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² 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!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

⁴ 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.
⁵ 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.
⁶ 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.
⁷ 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.
⁸ Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
 we are the clay, and you are our potter;
 we are all the work of your hand.
⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
 and do not remember iniquity for ever.

Reader	The Word of the Lord.
People	Thanks be to God.

Carol	<i>We have this hope</i>	by . Waldemar Wensell	Advent Choir
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Fourth Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

The peace of the Messiah

Reader: A reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

11 A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
 and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

² The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
 the spirit of wisdom and understanding,

the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.
³ His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;
⁴ but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
⁵ Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.
⁶ The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
and a little child shall lead them.
⁷ The cow and the bear shall graze,
their young shall lie down together;
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
⁸ The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
⁹ They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Carol *Hark! The glad sound! The Savior Comes* **Hymnal #71**

Fifth Lesson Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will be the Son of the Most High

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

²⁶In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David.

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’ ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴‘Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!’

¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, ‘Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.’ ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Carol

Angels, from the realm of glory (vv 1-2)

Hymnal #93

Eighth Lesson

Matthew 2:1-12

The Visit of the Magi

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, ² asking, ‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.’ ³ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; ⁴ and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

⁶“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷ Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. ⁸ Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, ‘Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.’ ⁹ When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰ When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. ¹¹ On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Carol

Brightest and best of the stars of morning

Hymnal #117

Ninth Lesson

John 1:1-12

The Word became Flesh

A reading from the Gospel of John:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol

Alleluia! Sing to Jesus (vv 1-4)

Hymnal #460

The Welcome and Announcements

*The offering plates are on either side of the center aisle by the front pew.
You can also make a donation online using the QR code to the right.*



The Offertory *No more Night* by Walt Harrah

Advent Choir

Presentation Hymn *Praise God, from whom...* **Tune:** Old Hundredth

Closing Processional Hymn *There's a wideness in God's Mercy* **Hymnal #470**

The Dismissal

BCP p. 365

Postlude: *Fanfare in C* by H. Purcell

Waldemar Wensell

Reserved Sacrament is available at the Altar Rail.

There are no flowers on the altar during Advent, as this liturgical season is marked by solemn preparation, penance, and a spirit of hopeful anticipation for Christ's coming.

Thank You to our Servers Today:

Celebrant & Deacon: The Rev. Suzie Johnston

Acolytes: Joshua McVey, Lilian Williams, Katie Womack

Verger: Candida Bannister

Lector: Jeen Prosis, Candida Bannister, Carol LaNeve, Joshua McVey, John Womack, Pat Smith,
Rosemary Kelley, Robert McMillan

Choir Director: Waldemar Wensell

Vestry: Janet Brown

Ushers: Jonathan Williams
Altar Guild: Anne Williams, Jeri Platt, and Jane Simmons

MINISTRY CONTACTS

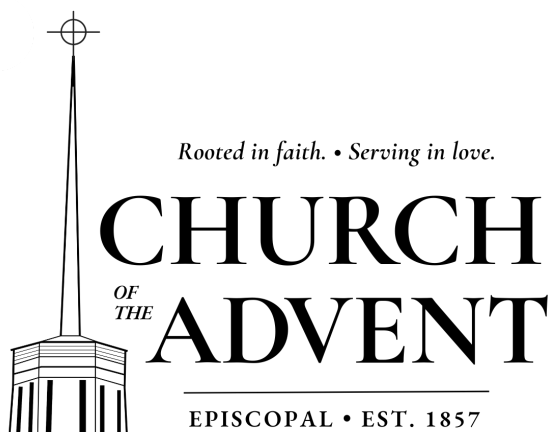
Fr. Brian McVey, *Rector*..... frbrian@adventnashville.net
Rev Suzie Johnston, *Deacon*..... deacon@adventnashville.net
Candida Bannister, *Verger* verger@adventnashville.net
Waldemar O. Wensell, *Music Dir* music@adventnashville.net
Hannah McVey, *Godly Play* children@adventnashville.net
Sarah McVey, *Parish Administrator* churchoffice@adventnashville.net
Lisa Gaines, *Bookkeeper* finance@adventnashville.net
Sally Chambers-Rhea, *Communications* communications@adventnashville.net
Nancy Allen, *Sr Warden & the Vestry* vestry@adventnashville.net

VESTRY

Nancy Allen (2026), <i>Senior Warden</i>	Janet Brown (2025)
Lindy Womack (2025), <i>Junior Warden</i>	Valerie Stogdill (2027)
Jeri Platt (2027), <i>Junior Warden</i>	Flora Ukoli (2027)
Jennifer Honeycutt (2026), <i>Clerk</i>	Hunter McCarty, <i>Treasurer</i>
Hilary Wagner (2026)	

DIOCESE OF TENNESSEE

Bishop John Bauerschmidt



5501 Franklin Rd, Nashville, TN 37220 | www.adventnashville.net