

Christmas Schedule 2024

December 22 - Lessons and Carols at the 10:30am service. Reception to follow in the Commons.

December 23— Angel tree gifts delivered to Carriage Court.

December 23 - Greening of the Church at 9am - We invite all from the church to come and help decorate.

December 24 - Christmas Eve Service 4:30pm

December 31—Rite 1 at 8am and Rite II at 10:30am. The Rev. Donald Fishburne will be joining us.

If you would like to help deliver the packages to Carriage Court please meet at the church on Monday the 23rd at 9am.

The Church office will be closed December 25 - January 1, 2025.

Mark your Calendars:

Annual Parish meeting will be Sunday, January 12th at 9am. Breakfast included!



Save the Date!

Thursday January 30th
6:30 PM
Rev. Les will be formally installed as our rector, by our Bishop, here at St Andrew's. It promises to be a lovely affair. Put it on your calendars now!

Fundamentals Episcopal Spiritual Structure (Episcopal 101)

Thursdays, Jan 9- Feb 13
6-6:30 Optional Gather for BYOB
Dinner
6:30-7:30 Class
7:30-8 Social and Q and A

Vestry and Convention Delegates

At the annual meeting on Jan. 12th, we will be electing a new class of vestry members to 3 year terms. If you are interested in running or wish to nominate someone please contact Rev. Les by Dec. 24th.

All Angel tree gifts must be wrapped and returned TODAY in the Commons.



Serving *Next Tuesday, Christmas Eve, December 24*

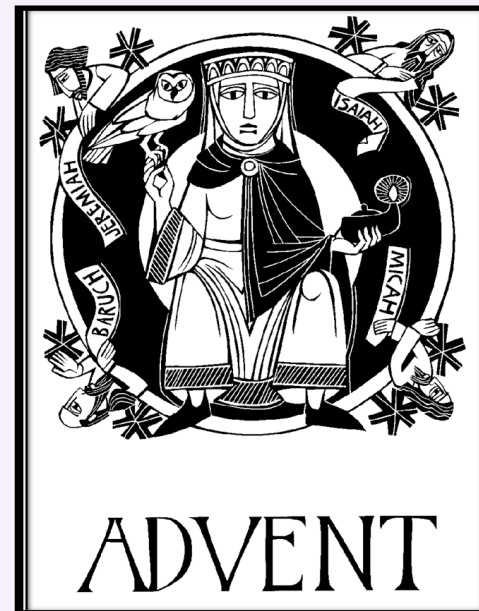
4:30pm

- LAY:** Pete Armstrong
- LEM:** Leslie Hall and Martha Lamm
- Acolytes:** . . Landon Newcomb, Jack Lea, and Lauren and Megan Renck
- Greeters:** Brad Earle
- Ushers:** Linda Hutcheson and TBD
- Pantry Volunteers:** Linda Hutcheson and Dotsy Royal

“For God is not unjust, he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.” Hebrews 6:10

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

301 South Circle Drive
Rocky Mount, North Carolina 27804
252-443-2070



The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Give us grace . . . that we may greet with joy
the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer...*

Advent IV Year B

December 22, 2024

8:00 AM Rite I

The Liturgy of the Word

The Opening Sentences p. 323

Collect of the Day *insert*

The Lessons

First Lesson Micah 5:2-5a

Psalm Canticle 3

Second Lesson Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Luke 1:39-55

The Homily The Rev. Les Carpenter

The Nicene Creed p. 326

The Prayers of the People p. 329

The Confession p. 331

The Peace

The Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer I p. 333

The Lord's Prayer p. 336

The Breaking of the Bread

Distribution

The Post Communion Prayer p. 339

Final Blessing and Dismissal

During the Administration of the Eucharist, all baptized Christians are welcome to come forward to receive the Blessed Sacraments.

All persons are welcome to come forward



*The greenery on the altar
are given to the Glory of God
by Martha and Marshall Gallop
In Thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren*

Going Deeper Into the Season of Advent

Advent is a time of preparation, of patience, of remembering what grounds and sustains us. The function of Advent is to remind us who God is and who we are meant to be. Advent is about the riches of emptiness. God coming as an infant without servants or riches is the metaphor of a humility that requires us to remember how really small we are in the universe. In our secular culture, a tone of wanting more, spending more, and accumulating riches on earth surround us.

As Christians, we long for our society to live up to God's vision, for the kingdom to come in its fullness outside of materialism. The cry of Advent, "Wake up! Be alert! Watch for his coming" is difficult with all the coming and going of the season. We can practice some simple, but not easy, disciplines. We can fast from the media in order to become more aware of God's still, small voice. We can focus on the giving of ourselves to God. Plan to spend time apart from the busyness of the season each day so you can be alert to God in the silent, the small, and the simple.

Prayer Requests

Catherine	Teresa	Stephanie
Lisa	Patty	Penny
Chris	Richard	Ben
Rains	Rachel	John
Jinx	Zanetta	Barbara
Wayland	Steve	Steve N.

Serving in our Armed Forces: Sean, Veronica H., Jericca S., Matt K., Eric O., Fletcher, Jonathan K., Will M., Rodney M., Jeffery B., Adam M., James W., Thomas, and for all Veterans of the United States.

For those who have died:

Final Collect and Blessing

Offertory

Doxology

Officiant The Lord be with you.

Response And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

All Amen.

Officiant Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Hymn 87	Hark! The Herald Angels Sing	Congregation
Beth Kupsco—Flute	William Alson—Trumpet	

Dismissal: Alleluia, Alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ

Response: Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church



Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Order of Service

The Anglican tradition of performing the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols during the season of Advent dates back to 1880, when Edward White Benson (later to become Archbishop of Canterbury) designed the service for use on Christmas Eve in Cornwall, England.

In 1918, King's College in Cambridge, England, began performing the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols each year on Christmas Eve, and in the United States, the Groton School in Groton, Mass., has been performing the festival annually since 1928. Performances of the Nine Lessons and Carols have become an Advent tradition throughout much of the Anglican Communion.

The nine traditional readings begin with Genesis and end with the Gospel of Luke, following the story of the fall of man, the promise of a new covenant and the coming of a Messiah, and ending with the birth of Jesus Christ. Interspersed with the readings are traditional Christmas carols, hymns and choir music.

Prelude

Candle Lighting	O Come, O Come	V. 8
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Bidding Prayer

Our Father...

Notes on Music

The congregation is invited to stand and sing all noted "hymns". The choir will perform the "anthems".

The Ninth Lesson

Read by Sissy Dunton

John 1:1-14

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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

Hymn 324	Let all mortal flesh keep silence	Congregation
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The Eighth Lesson

Read by Sheryl Love-Johnson

Matthew 2:1-12

The Wise Men are led by a star to Jesus

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 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.’ When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, ‘In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: “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.”’

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 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.’ 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. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 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. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Anthem

Gesu Bambino (The Infant Jesus)

Flute

The First Lesson

Read by Terry Shackelford

Genesis 3: 8-15, 17-19

*God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise
and that his seed will bruise the serpent’s head.*

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.’

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.’

Anthem

Jesus Christ, the Apple Tree

Choir

The Second Lesson

Read by Martha Lamm

Genesis 22:15-18

God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, ‘By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, 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, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.’

Hymn 93 Angels From The Realms of Glory Congregation

The Seventh Lesson

Read by Landon Newcomb

Luke 2:8-16

The Shepherds go to the manger

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

When 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.’ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

Anthem O, Splendor of God’s Glory Choir

Sixth Lesson

Read by Lauren Renck

Luke 2:1-7

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Anthem

Infant Holy

Choir

The Third Lesson

Read by Elizabeth Pope

Isaiah 9:1-6

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Hymn 67

Comfort Ye My People

Congregation

The Fourth Lesson

Read by Brad Earle

Isaiah 11:1-9

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. 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. 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; 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. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 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. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. 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.

Anthem

The Kingdom of Love

Choir

The Fifth Lesson

Read by Ramona Orzell

St. Luke 1:26-38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

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 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.

Anthem

The Jesus Gift

Choir

Announcements

Mark your calendars:

Annual Parish Meeting will be
 Sunday, January 12th at 9am.
 Breakfast included!



Meeting Schedule:

- Election of New Vestry Members
- 2024 Highlights Search Committee Report
- Every Member Canvas Report
- Budget Overview Committee Reports

The greenery on the altar is given to



The Glory of God

By Martha and Marshall Gallop

In thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren

Save the Date!

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Reminder the church office is closed
 December 24-January 1, 2025.

Join us Monday, December 23rd
 at 9am to help green the church.
 All are welcome!



We will have both services on Sunday,
 December 29th with the Rev. Donald Fishburne presiding.

Serving *Next* Tuesday, Christmas Eve, December 24th

4:30pm

- LAY:**Pete Armstrong
- LEM:**Leslie Hall and Martha Lamm
- Acolytes:**Landon Newcomb, Jack Lea, and Lauren and Megan Renck
- Greeters:** Brad Earle
- Ushers:** Dan Melnyk and Don Mucci
- Pantry Volunteers:** Linda Hutcherson and Dotsy Royal

“For God is not unjust, he will not overlook your work and the love that you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.” Hebrews 6:10

Welcome to St. Andrew's on this Fourth Sunday in Advent.
If you are visiting this morning, please sign our *Guest Book*
on the welcome table in the Commons. Also located
there are Visitor's Packets and our parish newsletter, *The Call*.



Visit our web page at <https://www.standrewsrmt.org>

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