

## *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 96	Angels We Have Heard On High	Congregation
	Dan Crocker —Trumpet	

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

**Response: Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude	What Star is This	Organ
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# *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	Festive Trumpet Tune	Organ & Trumpet
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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 Paul Stone*

### 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 102	Once In Royal David’s City v. 1-3	Congregation
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## *The Eighth Lesson*

*Read by Brian Westcott*

### **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**

**Blow Blow Bethlehem Wind**

**Choir**

## *The First Lesson*

*Read by Elizabeth Pope*

### **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.’

**Hymn 89**

**It Came Upon a Midnight Clear v 3-4    Congregation**

## *The Second Lesson*

*Read by Virgil Evans*

### **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 v. 1-3    Congregation**

## *The Seventh Lesson*

*Read by Elizabeth Pope*

### **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.

**Hymn 115**

**What Child Is This?**

**Congregation**



## *Sixth Lesson*

*Read by Pete Roy*

### **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**

**Love Come Down**

**Choir**

## *The Third Lesson*

*Read by Sissy Dunton*

### **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 66**

**Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

**Congregation**

*The Fourth Lesson*

*Read by Terry Shackelford*

**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.

*The Fifth Lesson*

*Read by Brad Earle*

**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.



# Welcome to Worship

## Thank you for joining us!

We have two different regular worship services on Sunday, both of which include Holy Communion. Holy Communion is a sacrament using bread and wine. It reminds us of Jesus, His teachings, His sacrifice on the Cross, and His continued presence in this church. A few more things about Holy Communion.

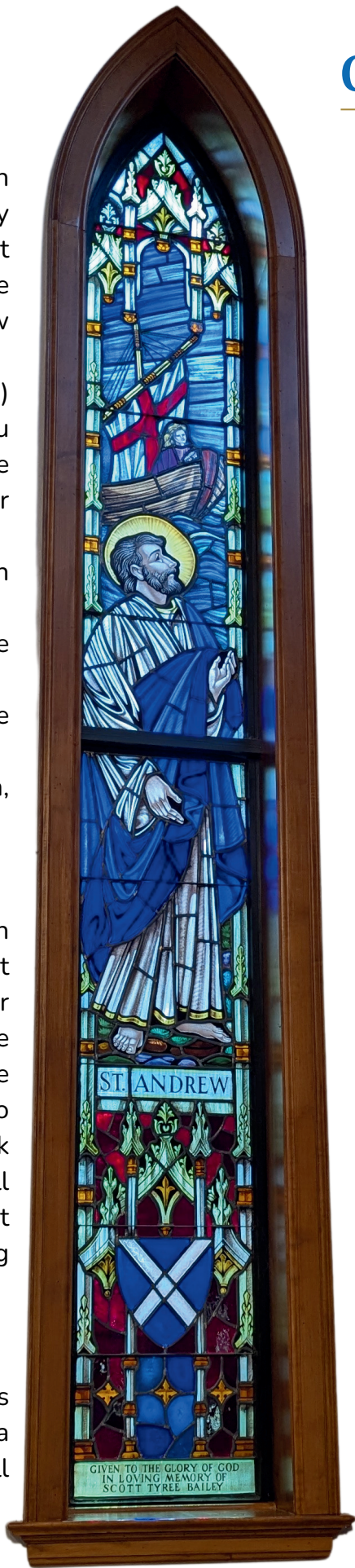
- All baptized people (regardless of Christian Tradition) are invited to receive Communion with us. If you prefer, you can come forward for a blessing. When the minister comes to you, cross your arms across your chest to indicate your preference
- If you don't want to come forward feel free to stay in your seat.
- If you have a gluten sensitivity, Gluten free wafers are available on request.
- If you have mobility concerns tell an usher and we would be happy to bring Communion to you.
- For more info on the basics of the Episcopal church, check out our "Priest Me" podcast on YouTube.

## 8 AM Rite I

Our 8 am service is smaller and more contemplative than our 10:30. Most Sundays, it is spoken (without music). It uses traditional (Old English) language throughout. For those new to this form of worship, it can take some getting used to, but it is also special to pray in the language of Shakespeare. For the service, you will need to use the *Book of Common Prayer*, which is the black book in your pews with the cross on the front. The priest will call out page numbers as we go. We also provide a sheet with today's readings, which will be helpful for praying the psalm and following today's teaching

## 10:30 AM Rite II

This is our principal (largest) service on Sunday. It includes music and singing in addition to prayer. We offer a "Sunday Booklet" to help you follow this service. You will also need the blue "1982 Hymnal" found in the pew.



# Other Regular Offerings

## Children's Chapel/Sunday School/Nursery

Children are always welcome in worship at St. Andrew's! To support our families, we do offer **nursery care** (0-PreK), and **Children's Chapel** (Elementary Age) during the 10:30 service. Ask an usher, and they will tell you where to drop off your kids prior to the service. Your children will join you for Communion.

## Youth Ministries and Acolyting

We love to see our youth grow in service and fellowship with us. There is an active youth group. Indicate your interest on the Connection Card and we would love to reach out to you with more Info. Also, children and youth often participate in our Sunday Worship by serving as acolytes (Those in red robes with a white top). If you are interested in learning more ask Rev. Les or any member of the Vestry (church board)

## Adult Sunday School

Meets at 9:15am in the Rector's Study. It is a lovely and informal Bible study. Join Us!

## Healing Service Wednesdays 10:30 AM

Each Wednesday, we offer an additional prayer service. This includes the option of Unction (prayers with anointing of Healing Oil). This is an ancient and beautiful practice in Christianity.

## Getting Involved

We have so many active ministries, it can be difficult to know where to start. If you want to get more involved here, but aren't sure how to start, fill out one of the **connection cards** in your pew. We will follow up and make sure that you find a meaningful way to start. The Connection card is a way to make sure we have your correct contact info and you are getting the news you want.

# Prayers and Celebrations

## Prayers Requested

For the Sick and Those in Need:			For those serving in our Armed Forces:		
Catherine	Phyllis	Dan	Sean	Fletcher	James
Lisa	Jeff	Alva	Veronica	Will	Thomas
Chris	Marvena	Dana	Jericca	Rodney	Austin
Jinx	Caroline	Marissa	Matt	Jonathan	Landon M.
Wayland	Dan	Pat	Eric	Adam	
Teresa	Ben		All Veterans		
Zanetta	Jan				
George	Barbara				
Pris	Joan				

## For the Deceased:

## On for Next Sunday? (check it out here)

### 8 AM

LAY: Dick Arnow

LEM: Ramona Orzell

### 10:30 AM

LAY: Terry Shackelford

LEM: Brad Earle

Lisa Stone

## Food Pantry

Elizabeth Mosley

Tim and Kaye Dowd

Acolytes: Walker Wells and Jack Lea

Ushers: Billy Suggs and Steve Thurkill

Vestry Greeters: Lori Joyner

Leslie Hall



**Altar Greenery today**  
are given to the **Glory of God**  
by **Jinx and Wayland Abernathy**  
in celebration of **Jesus's birthday**





# Announcements

## Mark Your Calendars!

### Epiphany Service

Jan 6, 2026 at 6:30pm

#### Church of the Good Shepherd

Come join our friends at Good Shepherd for an Epiphany Service. Rev. Les will be preaching.

### Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, Jan 11<sup>th</sup> at 9am in the Parish Hall

Breakfast provided by the Men's Club

### Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Supper

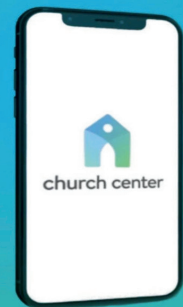
Feb 17<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in the Parish Hall

Our friends from Good Shepherd have been invited and it will be a fun party!

### Ash Wednesday

Feb 18<sup>th</sup>

Services at 7am, 10:30am, and 7pm



#### Download the Church Center App!

The Church Center App is one of the main sources for getting connected at St. Andrew's.

- Up-to-the-minute Event Information
- Groups, Serving, and Connection
- Register for Events
- Give via the App
- Check-in your kids

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google play



#### Liberation's Playbook: A workshop on the letter to the Romans

Saturday, December 27<sup>th</sup>  
9:30-11:30 am

Do you ever find yourself confused or frustrated by the current times? Does the political news haunt you? Do you find yourself skipping immediately from headline to hate? Or are you baffled by the division in our country and community?

If any of these things is true, then you have a lot in common with the Christians of the first century.

Join Reverend Les as we explore the Bible's ancient and practical wisdom on how to be both a faithful Christian and an engaged citizen at the same time.

Please register in the church app.

#### Healing Services Canceled Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

#### Christmas Caroling

TODAY after the 10:30am service.  
All Are Welcome!

#### Vestry and Convention Reps

Are you interested in running for our vestry or our Convention Representative to the diocese? Do you know someone else you would like to nominate? If so please contact Rev. Les before Christmas.

#### Epiphany Service

Jan 6, 2026 at 6:30pm

#### Church of the Good Shepherd

Come join our friends at Good Shepherd for an Epiphany Service. Rev. Les will be preaching.

#### RISE Against Hunger

Saturday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>

10am-12pm

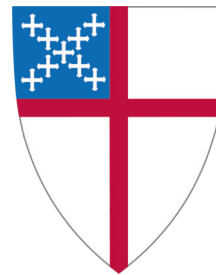
#### Church of the Good Shepherd

Join us in packaging over 15,000 meals to support nutrition, education, and health for children and families facing hunger right now around the world. Register online or on the app.



252-443-2070  
standrewsrmt.org

301 South Circle Drive,  
Rocky Mount, NC 27804



# St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

4 Advent  
12.21.25



Believe  
Become  
Belong

Led by the Spirit, we  
lovingly serve God through  
worship, fellowship, spiritual  
growth, and ministry.

## "God is With Us"

Title for Today's Homily  
Preacher: Rev. Les Carpenter