



Grace

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

LESSONS AND CAROLS | DECEMBER 6, 2025 | 7:00 PM

“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.’”
~ Luke 1:35

Welcome to Grace Church

Welcome to a cherished tradition that warms hearts and uplifts spirits—the Lessons and Carols Service, a harmonious blend of Christian worship and festive melodies. As we gather tonight, we invite you to immerse yourself in the timeless beauty of this ceremony that transcends generations.

A Tapestry of Tradition:

Rooted in the rich history of Christmas celebrations, the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols weaves together scripture readings and uplifting carols to narrate the story of the Nativity. This time-honored service invites reflection on the profound themes of hope, peace, joy, and love that the Christmas season represents.

Melodies that Stir the Soul:

Immerse yourself in the soul-stirring melodies of traditional carols and contemporary worship, expertly curated to enhance the worship experience. The choir, musicians, and congregation join in harmony, creating an atmosphere that invites reflection, joy, and a deep sense of connection.

A Celebration of Unity:

In the spirit of unity and community, the Lessons and Carols Service brings together people from all walks of life. As we share in this celebration, we recognize the common threads that bind us and the universal message of love that transcends boundaries.

Wishing you a joyous and meaningful Christmas season.

Our Christmas Services:

Dec. 21 - Children's Christmas Pageant at 12:00 pm

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve at 6:00 pm, Nursery provided

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve at 10:00 pm, Incense

Dec. 25 - Christmas Day at 10:00 am, Morning Prayer lead by Deacon Susan Moorehead

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Lessons and Carols

PRELUDE

HOLLY, IVY AND EVERGREEN

SUSSEX CAROL

STILL STILL STILL

arr B. JACOBSEN

arr RALPH VAUGHAN WILLIAMS

GEORG GOTSCH

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PROCESSIONAL

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the new-born King!

Hail! The Hev'n born Prince of Peace,
Hail the Son of Righteousness.
Light and life to all He brings,
Ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by,
Born that man no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth!
Hark! The herald angels sing
"Glory to the new-born king!"

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant

Beloved in Christ, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the babe lying in a manger.

Lessons and Carols

Therefore, let us read and mark in holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child.

But first, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace on earth and goodwill among all his people; for unity and brotherhood within the church he came to build, and especially in this, our own community.

And because this would rejoice his heart, let us remember, in his name, the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn, the lonely and the unloved, the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are one forevermore.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself has taught us:

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.

COME THOU LONG EXPECTED JESUS

HYMN 66

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art;
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

Born thy people to deliver,
born a child and yet a King,
born to reign in us forever,
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

Lessons and Carols

By thine own eternal spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all sufficient merit,
raise us to thy glorious throne.

FIRST LESSON:

GENESIS 3:8-15

Reader

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they 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."

ADAM LAY YBOUNDEN

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long;

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkes finden
Written in their book.

Lessons and Carols

Ne had one apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never Our Lady
A been Heaven's Queen.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was.
Therefore, we moun singen:
Deo Gratias!

SECOND LESSON:

GENESIS 22:15-18

Reader

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."

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

O come, all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of Angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Sing, Choir of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, Glory in the highest

Refrain

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Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

THIRD LESSON:

ISAIAH 9:2,6-7

Reader

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.
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.
His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

LO, HOW A ROSE E'ER BLOOMING

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung.
It came, a flow'r at bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind,
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

FOURTH LESSON:

MICAH 5:2-4

Reader

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;

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

HYMN 79

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie.
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

O Holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray.
Cast out our sin and enter in,
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell.
O come to us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel!

FIFTH LESSON:

LUKE 1:26-38

Reader

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.

AVE MARIA

Ave Maria, gratia plena,
Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui,
Jesus, Jesus.

*Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee.
Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb,
Jesus, Jesus.*

Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus,
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis,
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.

*Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners.
Holy Mary, pray for us now
and at the hour of our death.*

Amen.

Amen.

SIXTH LESSON:

MATTHEW 1:18-23

Reader

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

Lessons and Carols

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.’”

VENI, VENI EMMANUEL

**Veni, Veni, veni Emmanuel.
Captivum solve Israel,
Qui gemit in exsilio,
Privatus Dei Filio.**

*Come, come Emmanuel.
Release the captive Israel,
Who groans in exile,
Deprived of the Son of God.*

**Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel.
Nascetur pro te Israel!**

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
The great “I am” will be born for you!*

**Veni, veni Rex Gentium,
Veni Redemptor omnium,
Ut salvas tuos famulos,
Peccati sibi conscios.**

*Come, come King of all nations,
Come Redeemer of all,
That you may save your servants,
Conscious of their sins.*

**Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel.
Nascetur pro te Israel!**

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
The great “I am” will be born for you!*

Quis Veniet, Ero Cras

**Veni, veni O Oriens,
Solare nos adveniens,
Noctis depele nebulas,
Dirasque mortis tenebras.**

*Come, come O Morning Star,
Advancing to shine upon us,
Dispel the clouds of night,
And the terrible darkness of death.*

**Gaude! Gaude! Emmanuel.
Nascetur pro te Israel!**

*Rejoice! Rejoice!
The great “I am” will be born for you!*

Veni, Veni Emmanuel.

Come, come Emmanuel.

SEVENTH LESSON:

LUKE 2:8-16

Reader

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.

MY LORD HAS COME

Shepherds, called by angels, called by love and angels;
no place for them but a stable.

My Lord has come, my Lord has come, Lord has come.

Sages, searching for stars, searching for love in heaven;
no place for them but a stable.

My Lord has come, my Lord has come, Lord has come.

His love will hold me, His love will cherish me, Love will cradle me.

Lead me, lead me to see Him, sages and shepherds and angels;
no place for me but a stable, no place for me but a stable,
no place for me but a stable.

My Lord has come, my Lord has come, my Lord has come.

EIGHTH LESSON:

MATTHEW 2:1-11

Reader

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.

REJOICE WITH EXCEEDING GREAT JOY

Refrain:

**Oh when they saw the star they rejoiced with great joy!
Oh when they saw the star they rejoiced with great joy!
Oh when they saw the star they rejoiced with great joy!
They rejoiced with exceeding great joy!**

**O'er mountains and valleys,
It led them each night:
A star of most radiant light.
The wise men rejoiced as they journeyed afar
To behold such a beautiful star.**

Refrain

Lessons and Carols

The star shone bright giving wondrous light.
It led those three kings to a holy child.
One bright day I saw in rich array
three mighty kings and all their court go marching, marching.
One bright day, these kings in rich array,
beheld a star that shone from far away.
They rejoiced with exceeding great joy!

We three kings of orient are
Bearing gifts we travel afar.
Field and fountain,
Moor and mountain,
Following yonder star.

Oh, star of wonder, star of night,
Star of royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light.
Star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright.

Refrain

NINTH LESSON:

JOHN 1:1-14

Reader

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.

Lessons and Carols

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.

THE WORD WAS GOD

CHORAL ANTHEM

THE PRAYER AND BLESSING

Officiant

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy 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 us and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

JOY TO THE WORLD

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of His love, and wonders of His love,
and wonders, wonders of His love.

Lessons and Carols

POSTLUDE

JOY TO THE WORLD

Personal Notes

Personal Notes

Christmas Services

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

DECEMBER 21, 2025, 12:00PM

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 2025

6:00PM - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
WITHOUT INCENSE (NURSERY
PROVIDED)

10:00PM - CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE
WITH INCENSE

CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 25, 2025

10:00AM - MORNING PRAYER
LEAD BY DEACON SUSAN MOOREHEAD

Christmas Eve Poinsettias and Wreaths!



It is time to order Christmas Poinsettias and Wreaths. If you would like to sponsor these decorations, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate, or bring or send it to the Church Office by December 21.

Please include payment. The poinsettias and wreaths are \$20 each.

Name: _____

(As you wish it to appear in the bulletin – ie: Mr. and Mrs. John Doe, John and Jane Doe, the Doe Family, etc.)

Number of Poinsettias / Wreaths: _____ \$20 each

Total Paid: _____

Please make check out to Grace Episcopal Church and note “Poinsettias / Wreaths” on the memo line.

Message (E.g., “In memory of...”, “In honor of:...”) _____

- Grace Church Leadership -

HEAD

Jesus Christ

BISHOP

The Right Rev. Dr. Justin S. Holcomb

WORSHIP TEAM

The Rev. Frans van Santen: Rector

The Rev. Josh Reed: Associate Rector

The Rev. Carlos Cabrera: Deacon

The Rev. Susan Moorehead: Deacon

Adam Pryor: Worship Coordinator

Catie Hourigan: Children's Ministry Coordinator

VESTRY

Greg Harrell - Senior Warden Michael Owen - Junior Warden Sanjit Nirmalanandhan - Treasurer
Cheryl Arnold Michael Ashley Stephen Ayres Todd Craig Kristin Dean

MUSICIANS

Grace Worship Team

West Port High School Chamber Choir

Grace Worship Choir

TONIGHT'S SERVERS

Greeters: Paul Corrad & Cookie Zeuch

Readers: Susan Moorehead, Cookie Zeuch, Carlos Cabrera, Fr. Frans van Santen,
Tammy Flanagan, Tyrus Clutter, Stephen Ayres, Sherri White

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS

Nursery: Alizon Morales, Catie Hourigan

Weekly Services on Our Campus

Sunday 8:00am—Rite I

Sunday 10:00am—Rite II with music

Wednesday 12:05pm—Midweek at Grace

Grace Episcopal Church: 503 SE Broadway St, Ocala, Florida

Church Office (mailing address): 510 SE Broadway St, Ocala FL 34471

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 9:00am to 3:30pm, Closed on Friday

Office Phone: (352) 622-7881

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