

A Christmas Festival

of Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 28, 2025 | 10:30a.m.

Emmanuel Episcopal Church
Athens, Georgia

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS

DECEMBER 28, 2025 • 10:30AM

The people's responses are bold.

ORGAN PRELUDE

Caprice on "Greensleeves"

Brenda Portman

The people stand as able at the ringing of the bell. All are invited to sing the processional hymn.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION - #93

Angels, from the realms of glory

REGENT SQUARE

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight 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 make this place glad with our carols 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.

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.
People **Amen.**

The people are seated for the reading of holy scripture.

THE FIRST LESSON - GENESIS 3:8-14

Adam and Eve rebel against God.

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."

All stand and sing.

HYMN #105

God rest you merry, gentlemen

GOD REST YOU MERRY



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

THE SECOND LESSON – ISAIAH 7:10-15

God promises that a child shall be conceived and known as "God with us."

Again 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.

All stand and sing.

HYMN #82

Of the Father's love begotten

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -

2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,

3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his

4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly

gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,

full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,

prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,

Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,

he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that

bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the

and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on

and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry

are, that have been, and that fu - ture

world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his

earth be - si - lent, ev - ery voice in

and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♪ ♪ ♪

The people are seated.

THE THIRD LESSON – LUKE 1:26-37

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

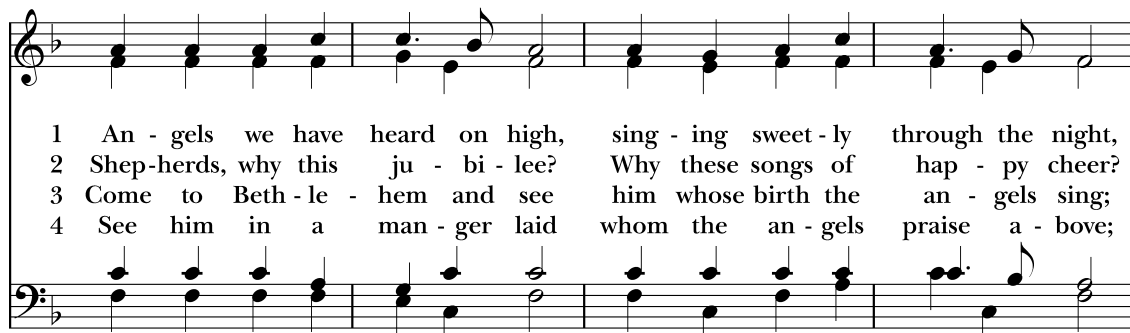
In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by 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.

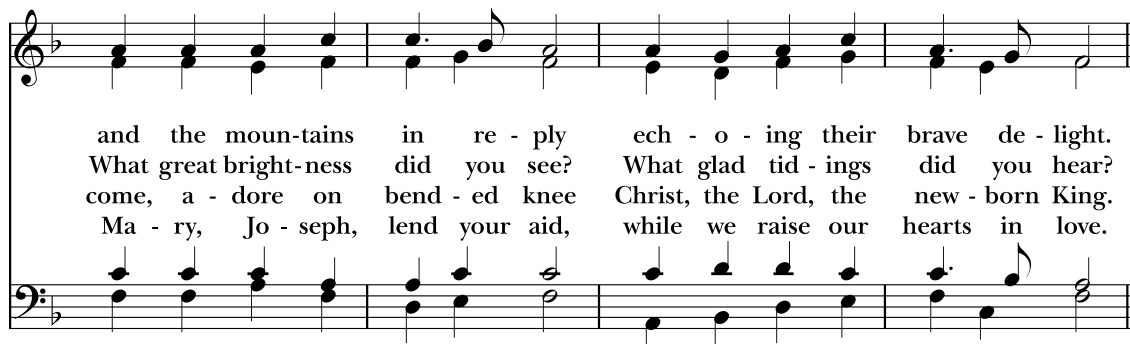
HYMN #96

Angels we have heard on high

GLORIA



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

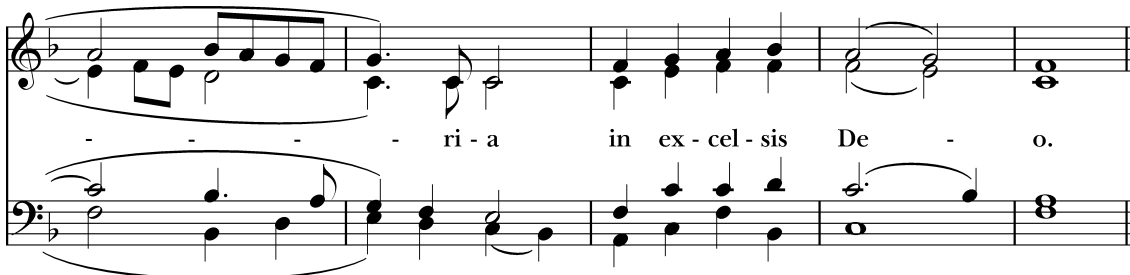
Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

THE FOURTH LESSON – LUKE 2:1-20

Jesus is born at Bethlehem and worshiped by angels and shepherds.

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.

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

All stand and sing.

HYMN #78

O little town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN

Unison or harmony

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The people are seated.

THE FIFTH LESSON – LUKE 2:21-38

Jesus receives his name and is presented to Simeon in the Temple.

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

HOMILY

The Rev. Cheryl Brainard

The people may stand or kneel for the prayers.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Litanist God, of grace,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Birthdays

Lana Belflower, **Ruth** Cline, **Hannah** Costantino, **Kenneth** Drescher, **Clayton** Dufur, **Ethan** Greene, **Mary** Greene, **Parker** Grow, **Lane** Johnson, **Ashlea** Lane, **Parker** Morgan, **Jessica** Perno, **Mary-Lamont** Roberts, **John** Scharfenberg, **Karolyn** Troupe

A period of silence is kept following the prayers. The celebrant may add a concluding prayer.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

All gathered may share signs of God’s peace.

THE PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE OFFERTORY

Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith, and shared in the peace, we are prepared for the mystery of Holy Communion. At the offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us, symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give. An offering is received to support Emmanuel's ministry of sharing God's love. You may make a gift as the plate is passed, or you may scan the QR code on the back of this leaflet. The altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

All stand and sing.

HYMN #83

O come, all ye faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE SANCTUS

IRBY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of power, and God of might. Heaven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - nah in the high - est. Bless - ed
is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - nah in the high - est. Ho - san - nah in the high - est.

Then the Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM, H-#324

Let all mortal flesh keep silence

PICARDY

1 Let all mortal flesh keep silence, and with fear and on
2 King of kings, yet born of Mary, as of old on
trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
he will give to all the faith - ful
our full hom - age to de - mand.
his own self for heaven - ly food.

THE INVITATION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the people of God. [Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.]

If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, you may come forward with your arms crossed over your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten free bread is available upon request. The table of bread and wine is the table of company with Jesus, and all those who love him. So come to this table, you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this Sacrament often, and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus in the world, and you who have failed; come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

HYMN #112

In the bleak midwinter

CRANHAM

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

On those Sundays when Eucharistic Visitors are sent to those unable to be at a public celebration of the Eucharist, they are sent with the following words:

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant In the name of God, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we are one in Jesus Christ.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

THE CLOSING HYMN #99

Go tell it on the mountain

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

THE DISMISSAL

The priest dismisses the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

On "Mendelssohn"

David Willcocks

This Week at Emmanuel

Sunday, December 28 – First Sunday of Christmas

10:30a.m. | Christmas Lessons and Carols

with Eucharist

{No Children's Chapel and No Nursery}

Monday, December 29

Church Office Open

Tuesday, December 30

Church Office Closes at Noon

Wednesday, December 31

Church Office Closed

Thursday, January 1

Church Office Closed

Friday, January 2

Church Office Open

Sunday, January 4

9:15a.m. | Nursery Opens

9:30a.m. | Bishop's Forum in Common
Room

10:30a.m. | Holy Eucharist and
Confirmations

{Children's Chapel}

WE PRAY FOR Colleen, Dale, Bob, Teresa,
Beth, Julie, Olin, JoAnn, Matthew, Betsy, John,
Jerry, Aidan, Clemente, Lisa, Betty, Anna, Lynn,
Charlese, John

BIRTHDAYS Lana Belflower, Ruth
Cline, Hannah Costantino, Kenneth
Drescher, Clayton Dufur, Ethan Greene,
Mary Greene, Parker Grow, Lane
Johnson, Ashlea Lane, Parker
Morgan, Jessica Perno, Mary-Lamont
Roberts, John Scharfenberg, Karolyn
Troupe



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For mobile offering.