

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

A Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols



December 24, 2025
5:00 p.m.

Welcome! This 5:00 p.m. service is broadcast on Facebook Live or YouTube. If you are visiting, please fill out a visitor card (located in the pew rack) and drop it in the offering plate or hand to an usher.

PRELUDE Trio sonata in e minor: I, largo J.S. Bach

Weihnachten Max Reger

Trio sonata in e minor: III, un poco allegro J.S. Bach

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *All stand as they are able.*

Once in Royal David's City *Irby*
arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Jamie Gilson, *tenor*



Soloist Once in Royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild
Jesus Christ her little child.

All He came down to earth from heaven,
Who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable,
And his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly,
Lived on earth our Savior holy.

And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honor and obey,
Love and watch the lowly maiden,
In whose gentle arms He lay:

Christian children all must be
Mild, obedient, good as He.

For He is our childhood's pattern;
Day by day like us He grew,
He was little, weak, and helpless,
Tears and smiles like us He knew;
And He feeleth for our sadness,
And He shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that child so dear and gentle
Is our Lord in heaven above;
And He leads His children on
To the place where He is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
With the oxen standing by,
We shall see Him, but in heaven,
Set at God's right hand on high;
Where like stars His children crowned
All in white shall wait around.

BIDDING PRAYER

All remain standing as they are able. The Rector continues

Beloved in Christ, in 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. 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; 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 goodwill over all the earth; for the mission and unity of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in this country and within this city.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick and those who mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and 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 his pure and lowly Mother, and all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath taught us:

All continue

**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 Rector continues

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

All sit.

WELCOME

CAROL

Night of Silence

Dan Kantor (b. 1960)
arr. John Ferguson (b. 1941)

St. Philip's Choir

Cold are the people, winter of life
We tremble in shadows this cold, endless night
Frozen in the snow lie roses sleeping
Flowers that will echo the sunrise
Fire of hope is our only warmth
Weary, its flame will be dying soon

Voice in the distance, call in the night
On wind you enfold us you speak of the light
Gentle on the ear you whisper softly
Rumours of a dawn so embracing
Breathless love awaits darkened souls
Soon will we know of the morning

Silent night, holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy infant, so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

Spirit among us, shine like the star
Your light that guides shepherds and kings from afar
Shimmer in the sky so empty, lonely
Rising in the warmth of your Son's love
Star unknowing of night and day
Spirit we wait for your loving Son

Silent night, holy night
Shepherds quake, at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia'
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1-2, 26-27a; 2:1-4

A young person reads the lesson.

¹In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, ²the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ²⁶Then God said, "Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth."

²⁷So God created humankind in his image,
in the image of God he created them.

¹Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all their multitude. ²And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

CAROL

Adam Lay Ybounden

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

Text: c. 15th Century

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond,
Four thousand winter thought he not too long;
An all was for an apple, and apple that he took,
As clerkès finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
Ne had never Our Lady abeen heavenè Queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was:
Therefore we moun singen, Deo Gracias!

SECOND LESSON

Isaiah 40:1–11

A member of the Towel Ministry reads the lesson.

¹Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

²Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,

and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

³A voice cries out:

"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

⁵Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

⁶A voice says, "Cry out!"

And I said, "What shall I cry?"

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.

⁷The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.

⁸The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.

⁹Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"

¹⁰See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

¹¹He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Thanks be to God.

RECITATIVE

Comfort ye, comfort ye, my people (from *Messiah*)

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Jamie Gilson, *tenor*

Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned. The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness; prepare ye the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
(*Isaiah 40:1-3*)

THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 35:1–10

A member of the St. Philip's Buildings and Grounds Committee reads the lesson.

¹The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.

The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.

They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.

⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!

Here is your God.

He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;

⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.

For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;

⁷the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.

¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Thanks be to God.

All stand as they are able.

HYMN

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Es ist ein Ros

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 blossom 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.

*All sit.***FOURTH LESSON**

Isaiah 7:10–15

A member of the Contagious with Love Committee reads the lesson.

¹⁰Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, ¹¹Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. ¹²But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. ¹³Then Isaiah said: "Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴Therefore 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. ¹⁵He shall eat

curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Thanks be to God.

RECITATIVE Behold a virgin shall conceive (from *Messiah*)

George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

Brittnee Siemon, *mezzo-soprano*

Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name
Emmanuel, God with us. (*Isaiah 7:14; Matthew 1:23*)

FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26–38

One of the lectors reads the lesson.

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. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He 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. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The 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. ³⁶And 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. ³⁷For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸Then 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.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Nativity Carol

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Born in a stable so bare,
Born so long ago;
Born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so.

Refrain Far away, silent he lay,
Born today, your homage pay,
Christ is born for aye,
Born on Christmas Day

Cradled by mother so fair,
Tender her lullaby;
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky. *Refrain*

Wise men from distant far land,
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare,
Hearts with his warmth he fills. *Refrain*

Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow;
Innocent dreaming babe,
Make me thy love to know. *Refrain*

The Vestry has designated that the loose plate and designated offerings from the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services benefit our Cornerstone Centennial 2026 gift designees: Camp Henry, the Episcopal camp at Lake Logan, and Bound for Glory Camp, a free literacy and adventure camp for struggling readers in Brevard. Please include "Christmas Offering" on the memo line or envelope with your offering.

SIXTH LESSON

Luke 1:39–56

The parish organist reads the lesson.

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for

joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

⁴⁶And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,

⁴⁷and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,

⁴⁸for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.

Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

⁴⁹for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.

⁵⁰His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.

⁵¹He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

⁵²He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;

⁵³he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

⁵⁴He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,

⁵⁵according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

⁵⁶And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Thanks be to God.

All stand as they are able.

HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste Fideles

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,
Christ the Lord.

God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of God the Father;

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
In the highest; (*refrain*)

All sit.

SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 1:57–80

The Director of Music reads the lesson.

⁵⁷Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. ⁵⁸Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.

⁵⁹On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. ⁶⁰But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." ⁶¹They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name." ⁶²Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. ⁶³He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. ⁶⁴Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. ⁶⁵Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. ⁶⁶All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him.

⁶⁷Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

⁶⁸"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,

for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.

⁶⁹He has raised up a mighty savior for us
in the house of his servant David,

⁷⁰as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,

⁷¹that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

⁷²Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,

⁷³the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us ⁷⁴that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵in holiness and righteousness
before him all our days.

⁷⁶And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷to give knowledge of salvation to his people
by the forgiveness of their sins.

⁷⁸By the tender mercy of our God,

the dawn from on high will break upon us,
⁷⁹to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

⁸⁰The child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

Thanks be to God.

All stand as they are able.

HYMN

Love Came Down at Christmas

Gartan

Text: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)



Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas:
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token,
love be yours and love be mine,
Love to God and neighbor
love for plea and gift and sign.

All sit.

EIGHTH LESSON

Luke 2:1–20

The Senior Warden reads the lesson.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered.

⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

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. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Thanks be to God.

All kneel as they are able.

HYMN

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

All Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

All sit.

NINTH LESSON

John 1:1–18

The Rector reads the lesson.

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

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

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Thanks be to God.

Remain seated.

HYMN

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Soloists will sing the verses; the congregation joins in on the refrain.



Refrain Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!

Solo While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

Solo Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that bless'd Christmas morn. *Refrain*

THE COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

The priest continues

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

F.M. Bartholdy (1809-1847)

descant by David Willcocks (1919-2015)



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

*Refrain Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!*

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.
Ris'n with healing in his wings,
Light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain*

THE DISMISSAL

After the Dismissal, the People respond

PEOPLE **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE Christus Advenit: Toccata on Vom Himmel Hoch

Garth Edmundson

Trio sonata in e minor: II, andante

J.S. Bach

† † †



Hearing Loop assistance is available inside this building. Set hearing aid on “T” (telecoil) setting. Headsets are also available in both the narthex and Miller Hall that will allow access to the Hearing Loop. Please see an usher for help.

WE WELCOME CHILDREN OF ALL AGES

During the holiday season, we invite all children to attend all services, including Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We look forward to seeing the children in church, and the nursery will reopen on Sunday, December 28, 2025.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS TO BENEFIT CAMP HENRY AND BOUND FOR GLORY CAMP

The Vestry has designated that the loose plate and designated offerings from the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services benefit our Cornerstone Centennial 2026 gift designees: Camp Henry, the Episcopal camp at Lake Logan, and Bound for Glory Camp, a free literacy and adventure camp for struggling readers in Brevard. Please include “Christmas Offering” on the memo line or envelope with your offering.



St. Philip's welcomes you to our

Christmas Services

December 24
 3:00 pm 'No-Stress Pageant' and Holy Eucharist with Carols
 *5:00 pm Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
 with the Chancel Choir
 *8:00 pm Festival Holy Eucharist
 with the Chancel Choir
 11:00 pm Midnight Candlelight Service
 with special music

December 25
 *10:30 am Holy Eucharist with Carols and Homily
 *Livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube

PARISH OFFICE CLOSED DECEMBER 24 -JANUARY 2

The parish office will be closed Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - Friday, January 2, 2026. However, someone will check messages each weekday, and - as always - a priest will be on call for pastoral emergencies. Note: Most groups do not observe regular schedules this week; we suggest that you confirm your group is actually meeting before you travel.

THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

Wait! Don't put away those Christmas decorations! In our liturgical year, the Christmas season immediately follows Advent. The traditional Twelve Days of Christmas begin with Christmas Eve on the evening of December 24 and continue until the feast of Epiphany on January 6. In church, notice that our hangings change to white, symbolizing purity, hope, and joy: Christmas is the season when we proclaim the unique nature of our God – that God does not stand distant from us, but fully enters our lives – Emmanuel, "God with us."

Christmas Flowers and Greenery 2025

Gifts for the beautiful array of flowers and greenery for our Christmas services have been given to the Glory of God and:

In memory of Stanley, Eleanor, and Elizabeth Chapman by Ruth Chapman

In thanksgiving for Sam, Annelise, Emily, Lawton, Catherine, Hannah, and Sam by Ann Ives

In thanksgiving for William Gilbert and Betsy Smith and our children Laura Grace and Trevor by Ellen and Geoff Davis

In memory of Priscilla Bobst Caldwell and Dian Smith Brewton by Peggy Bridges

In memory of Matthew and Anna Mayberry, John Wallace, and Roberta Tonissen by Richard and Martha Mayberry

In memory of Jack Roland McBrayer by Mary Alice McBrayer

In memory of Donald and Rachel Bleasdale by Susan Winsor

In memory of Patrick Phillips by Lisa Rodke

In thanksgiving for Iseley, Gatlin, Adelina, Lorelai, and Teagan by the McKague family

In memory of Becky Ambrose by Jeff and Kathy Ambrose

In memory of Aleen Steinberg and Joyce Douglas by Jacquelyn Rogow

In memory of Harry Sherwood by Mary Sherwood

In memory of Keith Roland by Thomas and Jessalyn Valentine

In memory of Verling Milton Votaw, Mary Elizabeth Mount Votaw, John Votaw, Mark Votaw, Rhoda Votaw, Virginia Votaw Addis, Robert Addis, Richard McKenzie Hamor, Martha Jellison Ayotte, Richard Joseph Ayotte by the Rev. Alastair and Holly Votaw

In thanksgiving for Ben, Maggie, Anna, Kaleb, Mikala, Asher, Brayden, Henry, Finley, Rose, Stella, and Lucy by Jan and Denis Bolena

In memory of Elizabeth Allison Bridges, James Oliver Bridges, James Donald Bridges, William Christopher Bridges, and Barbara Weld Bridges by Peggy Bridges

COVER ART: *The Holy Family* (2019), photograph by Bonnie Jensen. St. Philip’s Episcopal Church, Brevard, North Carolina.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Officiant.....	The Rev. Elizabeth Roles
Seminarian.....	Brad Wilson
Director of Music Ministry.....	Dr. Brittnee Siemon
Organ	Jackson Morton
Readers	Zinnia Duckworth
	Bill Mellman
	Bill Rigot
	Mary Whitson
	Barthell Joseph
	Jackson Morton
	Brittnee Siemon
	David Yeager
	Elizabeth Roles
Acolyte	Brad Wilson
Ushers	Pat Dunham
	Leslie Lathrop
	Jann Mellman
Liturgical Coordinator	Keith Hawk

Celebrate 100 years with us!

SAINT PHILIP'S
CHURCH
1926-2026
CORNERSTONE
CENTENNIAL

Join us in 2026

... to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of our historic church building. We're planning opportunities for fellowship, worship, music, history, fun, fundraising, and much more.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6

50s Potluck and Family Game Night

Focus on our church family as we recreate an old-fashioned 1950s Potluck Dinner and Family Game Night for all ages. Optional: Dress in 50s-style clothing! Prizes will be awarded for game winners and best 50s attire.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Cornerstone Centennial Evensong

A service of Choral Evensong featuring a *Magnificat* setting dedicated to the Rev. Elizabeth Roles, poetic texts by the Rev. Dr. Judith A. Davis, and new music by composers Thomas Rex Harrison and Jesse Kaiser.

SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Live and Silent Auction

A festive auction with music, snacks, and door prizes. Proceeds will support Camp Henry, the Episcopal camp at Lake Logan, and Bound for Glory Camp, a free literacy and adventure camp for struggling readers in Brevard.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 29

'Historically Speaking' with the Rev. Elise Johnstone

The Rev. Elise Johnstone, a descendant of one of the founding families of the Episcopal Church in Transylvania County, is Rector of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Seattle, WA. Join us for a conversation with her and parishioner Craig Gralley, author of the forthcoming book *Echoes of Eden in Western North Carolina: The Johnstone Settlement, 1852-1864*. Elise will also preach and teach Sunday, August 30.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 30

Service of Acknowledgement

The Rev. Elise Johnstone joins us for a special service as we speak honestly to God about the sin of slavery and look forward with hope to a renewed future.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 17

Bishop's Celebration

An evening with the Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin in celebration of our Cornerstone Centennial.

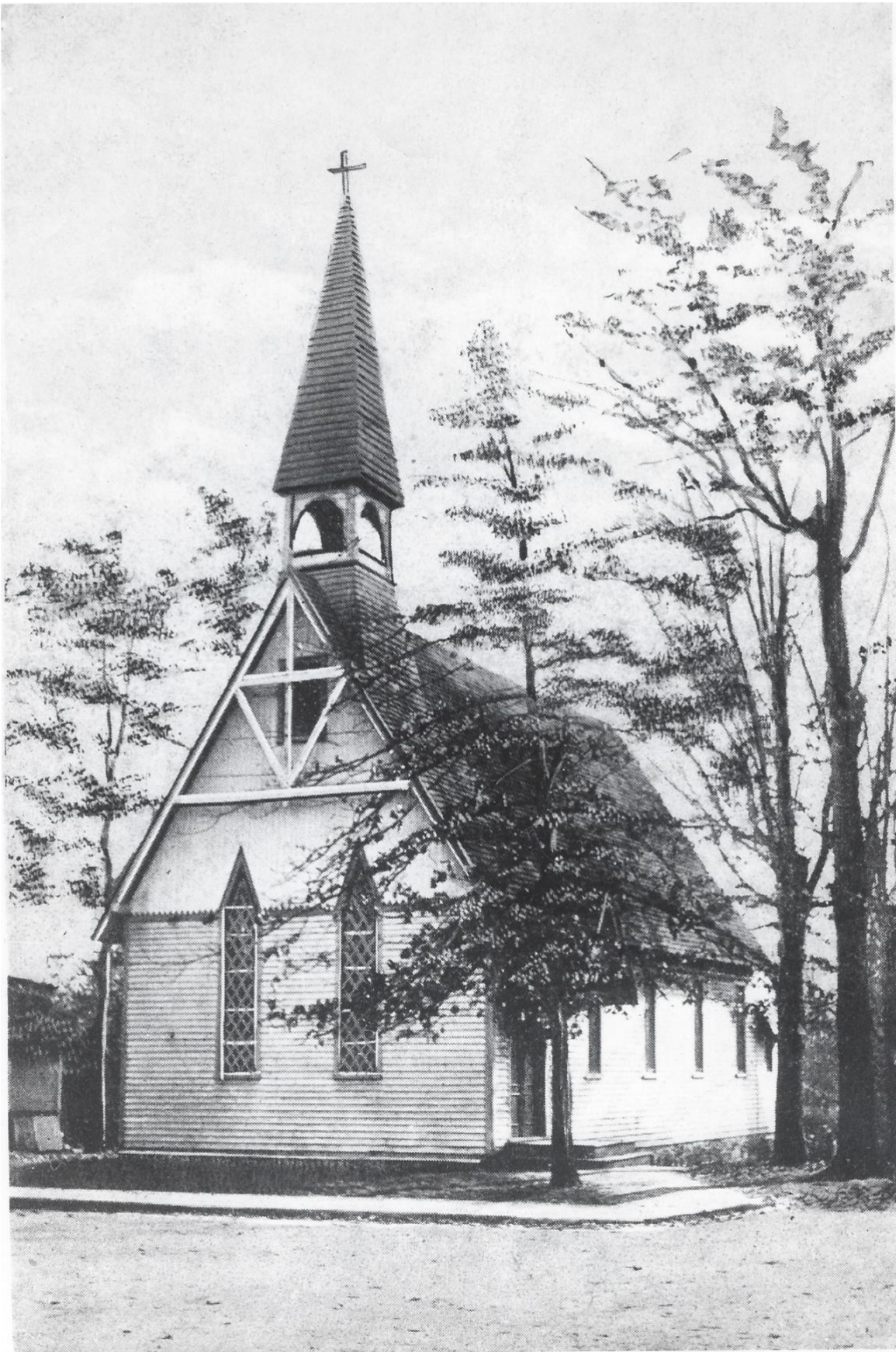
ALSO COMING IN 2026

More Centennial Events

Watch for announcements about a book signing with Craig Gralley. We're also planning History Tours in the summer, with opportunities to learn about local sites with connections to the history of St. Philip's and surrounding communities.



St. Philip's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH





ST. PHILIP'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

256 E Main Street, Brevard, NC 28712

828.884.3666

www.stphilipsbrevardnc.org



MINISTERS: The Baptized People of God
The Rt. Rev. José Antonio McLoughlin, Bishop
The Rev. Elizabeth Roles, Rector



OUR VISION: *Rooted in God's word and guided by Christ's example, St. Philip's Episcopal Church will be a loving, inclusive community committed to living out Christ's commandments.*



OUR MISSION: *Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit, and informed by Scripture, tradition and reason, we will:*

- *Learn and teach by word and example how God continues to be at work in the world and in our lives;*
- *Love and serve all people as Christ loves us;*
- *Grow in faithful stewardship of the resources God has given us; and*
- *Celebrate joyfully this faith in our life, worship, prayer, and service.*

