

**A SERVICE OF
ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS**
December 1, 2024



The First Sunday of Advent

*“Keep awake, therefore . . .
for ye know neither the day nor the hour”*

The Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea
141 S. County Road, Palm Beach, FL 33480 | (561) 655-4554 | bbts.org

Welcome to the Episcopal Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea. If you are visiting with us this evening, we are especially delighted you have joined us during this sacred season of joyful expectation. If you are seeking a church home, please know there is always a place for you here. If you would like more information about this vibrant community of faith, please fill out a pew card and hand it to an usher or place it in the collection plate.

About the Festival of Lessons & Carols

Sixteen years after introducing the now-famous Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols to King's College, Cambridge, the Dean of King's College created this service for Advent. He stated that the purpose of the service was "not to celebrate Christmas, but to expect it." The Bethesda Choir leads the service and offers Advent carols and anthems. Some of the greatest hymns of the church year are in the Advent section of our hymnal, and we invite the congregation to sing many of them in this service.

For many, the Festival of Lessons & Carols has become a profound Advent spiritual tradition. With its main emphasis upon the development of the loving purposes of God as seen through the whole breadth of Scripture, it draws us ever closer toward the saving event of the Incarnation of Jesus Christ. Held during this season of anticipation, the service is not a Christmas liturgy but one that points us toward the coming of the Prince of Peace.

Service Information

The entire order of service is contained in this booklet, with the exception of the hymns. Please refer to the blue *Hymnal 1982*, located in the pews. The people's responses are in italics. The People are invited to stand to sing the Hymns, but sit for the Lessons and Carols. Please join us following the service for a Reception in the Parish Hall.

PRELUDES BASED ADVENT HYMN TUNES

Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BWV 645 [Sleepers, wake! a voice is calling]
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

Fantasia sopra *Freu dich sehr o meine Seele* [Comfort, comfort ye, my people]
Johann Ludwig Krebs (1713–1780)

Rorate caeli: Choral orné [Drop down, ye heavens, from above]
Jeanne Demessieux (1921–1968)

Meditation on *Veni Emmanuel* [O come, O come, Emmanuel] Stuart Forster (b. 1971)

The congregation remains seated for the Advent Responsory.

ADVENT RESPONSORY

Richard Shephard (1949–2021)

Allen Webber, *cantor*

I look from afar: and lo, I see the pow'r of God coming, and a cloud cov'ring the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel? High and low, rich and poor, one with another. Go ye out to meet him and say: Hear, O thou shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep: Tell us, art thou he that should come? Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come: to reign over thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

The congregation stands when the hymn is introduced.

HYMN

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth

Puer nobis

arr. Stuart Forster (b. 1971)

1. *Soprano solo, Stefany Allongo*

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, and manifest thy virgin-birth; let ev'ry age adoring fall; such birth befits the God of All

2. *Choir alone*

Begotten of no human will, but of the Spirit, thou art still the Word of God in flesh arrayed, the promised fruit to man displayed.

3. *All sing* The vir - gin womb that bur - den gained with vir - gin
4. *All sing* Forth from his cham - ber go - eth he, that roy - al
5. *Men only* From God the Fa - ther he pro - ceeds, to God the
6. *Women only* O e - qual to the Fa - ther, thou! Gird on thy
7. *All sing* Thy cra - dle here shall glit - ter bright, and dark - ness
8. *Unison* All laud, e - ter - nal Son, to thee whose ad - vent

hon - or all un - stained; the ban - ners there of vir - tue
home_ of pu - ri - ty, a giant in two - fold sub - stance
Fa - ther back he speeds; his course he runs to death and
flesh - ly man - tle now; the weak - ness of our mor - tal
breathe a new - er light, where end - less faith shall shine se -
sets_ thy peo - ple free, whom with the Fa - ther we a -

glow; God in his tem - ple dwells be - low.
one, re - joic - ing now his course to run.
hell, re - turn - ing on God's throne to dwell.
state with death - less might in - vi - go - rate.
rene, and twi - light nev - er in - ter - vene.
dore, and Ho - ly Ghost for ev - er - more. A - men.

The congregation remains standing for

A BIDDING PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

A BLESSING

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. *Amen.*



The congregation is seated.

THE FIRST LESSON Genesis 3:1–15

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden.

A CAROL

Jesus Christ the apple tree

Eleanor Daley (b. 1955)

Ashley Leland, *soprano*

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green, the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know but ne'er can tell, the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought, I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive, which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree. — *Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs* (1784)



THE SECOND LESSON Isaiah 40:1–11

God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.

A CAROL

Jerusalem gaude

Jacob Handl (1550–1591)

Jerusalem gaude,
gaudio magno,
quia veniet tibi Salvator, Alleluja.
Dabo in Sion salutem,
et in Jerusalem gloriam meam, Alleluja.
Montes et colles humiliabuntur,
et erunt prava in directa,
et aspera in vias planas:
veni Domine,
et noli tardare, Alleluja,
juste et pie vivamus,
expectantes beatam spem,
et adventum Domini.
Alleluja.

*Rejoice, Jerusalem,
with great joy,
because your Savior will come to you, Alleluia.
I shall place my safety in Zion
and my glory in Jerusalem, Alleluia.
The mountains and the hills will be made low:
and the crooked will become straight,
and the rough will become smooth paths:
Come, Lord,
do not delay, Alleluia.
Let us live with justice and piety,
in expectation of blessed hope
and the coming of the Lord.
Alleluia.*

—Zechariah 9:9; Isaiah 46:13; Isaiah 40:4; Respond 2, 2nd Sunday of Advent [from Habakkuk 2:3];
Titus 2:12–13



THE THIRD LESSON

Matthew 25:1–13

Jesus tells a parable of wise and foolish bridesmaids.

The congregation stands and joins in singing

HYMN 61

Sleepers, wake! a voice astounds us

Wachet auf



The congregation is seated.

THE FOURTH LESSON

Baruch 4:36—5:9

The Scribe Baruch urges the people to look East.

A CAROL

Carol of the Advent

arr. Robert Lehman (b. 1960)

People, look East. The time is near of the crowning of the year. Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table. People look East, and sing today: Love the Guest is on the way.

Furrows be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there: give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in time the flow'r may flourish. People look East, and sing today: Love the Rose is on the way.

Birds, though ye long have ceased to build, guard the nest that must be filled. Ev'n the hour when wings are frozen He for fledging time has chosen. People look East, and sing today: Love the Bird is on the way.

Stars keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim. Shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together. People look East, and sing today: Love the Star is on the way.

Angels, announce to man and beast Him who cometh from the East. Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word the Lord is coming. People look East, and sing today: Love the Lord is on the way.

—Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965)



Please stand to sing verses 1 & 5 of the hymn. The choir will sing verses 2–4 and the subsequent refrains.

HYMN

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni Emmanuel

arr. Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

O come, O come, Em - ma - nu - el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra -
 el, that mourns in lone-ly ex - ile here, un - til the Son of God — ap -
 pear: *Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-ma - nu-el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.*

2. O Come, thou Rod of Jesse, free thine own from Satan's tyranny; from depths of hell thy people save, and give them victory o'er the grave:
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

3. O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night; and death's dark shadows put to flight:

4. O come thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home; make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery:



O come, O come, thou Lord of Might; who to thy tribes on Si - nai's
height, in an-cient times did give the law in cloud and ma-jes - ty and
awe: Re-joice! Re-joice! Em-ma - nu-el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el.



The congregation remains seated.

THE FIFTH LESSON Luke 1:26–38

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

A CAROL

Ave Maria

Robert Parsons (c. 1530–1570)

Ave Maria,
gratia plena,
Dominus tecum:
benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui.
Amen.

*Hail Mary,
full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.
Amen.*

—Prayer (after Luke 1:28 & 42)



The congregation is seated.

THE SIXTH LESSON Matthew 1:18–23

St. Matthew foretells the birth of Jesus.

A CAROL

Alleluia! a new work is come on hand

Peter Wishart (1921–1984)

Alleluia. A new work is come on hand through might and grace of Gode's son to save the lost of every land Alleluia. For now is free that erst was bound we may well sing Alleluia.

Now is fulfilled the prophecy of David and of Jeremy and also of Isaiah Alleluia. Sing we therefore both loud and high both loud and high Alleluia.

Alleluia. This sweeté song out of a green branch it sprung God send us the life that lastest long Alleluia. Now joy and bliss be him among that thus can sing Alleluia. —15th century



THE SEVENTH LESSON Luke 1:5-25

An angel announces to Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son.

The congregation stands and joins in singing

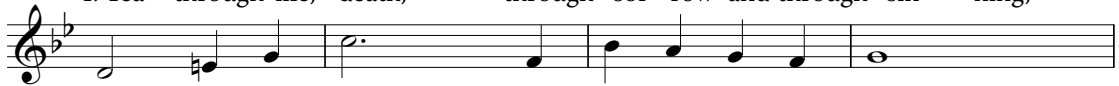
HYMN

Hark what a sound

Highwood



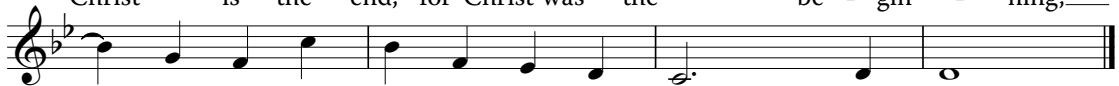
1. Hark what a sound, and too di - vine for hear - ing,
 2. Sure - ly he com - eth, and a thou - sand voic - es
 3. This hath he done, and shall we not a - dore him?
 4. Yea through life, death, through sor - row and through sin - ning,



stirs on the earth and trem - bles in the air!
 shout to the saints, and to the deaf and dumb;
 This shall he do, and can we still des - pair?
 he shall suf - fice me, for he hath suf - ficed:



Is it the thun - der of the Lord's ap - pear - ing? ____
 sure - ly he com - eth, and the earth re - joic - es, ____
 Come, let us quick - ly fling our - selves be - fore him, ____
 Christ is the end, for Christ was the be - gin - ning, ____



— Is it the mu - sic of his peo - ple's prayer?
 — glad in his com - ing who hath sworn: I come!
 — cast at his feet the bur - den of our care.
 — Christ the be - gin - ning, for the end is Christ.



WELCOME

ANTHEM DURING THE OFFERING

Magnificat in B-flat

John Stainer (1840-1901)

My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the lowliness of His handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For He that is mighty hath magnified me; and holy is His name. And His mercy is on them that fear Him throughout all generations. He hath shewed strength with His arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich He hath sent empty away. He rememb'ring his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,

as He promised to our forefathers, Abraham, and his seed for ever. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be: world without end, Amen.
— Luke 1:46—55 + Gloria Patri

The ministry of Bethesda is funded exclusively by our parishioners and visitors. We encourage and deeply appreciate your generosity this Advent season.

A short period of silence is kept.

VESPER RESPONSORY

Richard Shephard (1949–2021)

We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord, in the midst of thy temple. Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed. Tomorrow, go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you. Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

THE ADVENT BLESSING

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin. *Amen.*

May he, whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. *Amen.*

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. *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.*

The congregation stands and joins in singing

HYMN 57

Lo! he comes with clouds descending

Helmsley

arr. Stuart Forster (b. 1971)

POSTLUDE

Toccata on *Helmsley*

Stuart Forster (b. 1971)



All are invited to a festive reception immediately following this service.

Music at Bethesda

CHRISTMAS CONCERT AND CAROL SING **Wednesday, December 18, 2024 • 7:30 p.m.**

Join us at one of our area's most popular seasonal concerts. The Bethesda Choir performs with some of the finest instrumentalists around, and the audience sings many favorite Christmas carols with orchestra accompaniment. A tree lighting reception with Christmas cookies and champagne will follow the concert. Tickets are sold out, but you can pre-purchase a video recording of the concert at bbts.org/christmas-concert

STUART FORSTER, CONDUCTOR

CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS **Sunday, December 29, 2024 • 11:00 a.m.**

The Bethesda Choir leads this traditional Christmas service, made famous by the recordings and annual live broadcast from King's College, Cambridge, England. A free-will offering will be received.

BOAR'S HEAD AND YULE LOG FESTIVAL **"ONE OF THE TEN BEST THINGS TO DO IN PALM BEACH"**

Saturday, January 4, 2025 • 3:30 p.m.
Sunday, January 5, 2025 • 2:00 and 4:30 p.m.

The Palm Beach Pipes and Drums, Beefeaters, Sprites, Shepherds, the Three Kings and their Pages, Mary and Joseph, Flag Bearers, Jesters, the Herald, King Wenceslas and his Page, a Brass Quintet, the mighty Bethesda organ, and the Bethesda Choir...all will be in place once again for this year's festival! Tickets available at bbts.org/boars-head



Give Now Online!



You may "Give Now" electronically in one of three ways: (1) Scanning the QR code with your smartphone; (2) Visiting bbts.org and clicking the "Give" button; or (3) Texting BBTS and a dollar amount (example: BBTS \$x,xxx) to 73256 to give to Bethesda using text messaging.

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE 2024


Tuesday, December 24 — *The Feast of the Nativity: Christmas Eve*

- †  4:00 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist
† 7:00 p.m. Festal Eucharist, with sermon, choir, and instrumental ensemble [preludes at 6:35]
†  10:00 p.m. Festal Eucharist, with sermon, choir, and instrumental ensemble [preludes at 9:35]

Monday, December 25 — *The Feast of the Nativity: Christmas Day*

- 11:00 a.m. Festal Eucharist, music by the Bethesda choir, and sermon.

* Nursery care available for newborns through age 3

 These services will be live-streamed via our website, bbts.org.

† Overflow seating with video simulcast will be available in the Parish Hall for these Christmas Eve services.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS

Contributions given as memorials or thanksgivings make possible the beautiful flowers that adorn our church at Christmas. We invite you to make a contribution in memory of or in honor for your loved ones during this season.

Please complete this form and return it with your check made payable to Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Names received by the **absolute deadline of December 13** will be printed in the Christmas service leaflets. Please return your completed form by mailing it with your check to 141 South County Road, Palm Beach, FL 33480. You may also visit bbts.org and click the “Giving” tab to pay online.

Please print clearly FULL NAME (first and last)

Also specify by circling below *in memory or in honor*:

1. *In (memory; honor) of..* _____
2. *In (memory; honor) of..* _____
3. *In (memory; honor) of..* _____
4. *In (memory; honor) of..* _____

For additional names, please attach a list.

Contributor Information:

Given by _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Suggested contribution is \$35 per name.

Additional contributions (Any amount you care to give will be appreciated)



The Church of
Bethesda-by-the-Sea

Love and Service

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Tim Schenck, *Rector*

The Rev. Jeff Beebe
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Susan Beebe
Associate Rector

The Rev. Canon Elizabeth Rankin
Assisting Priest

The Rev. Dr. Cecily Titcomb
Deacon

The Rev. Clayton Waddell
Deacon

Dr. Stuart Forster
Associate for Music & Liturgy

Joseph Sanelli
Parish Administrator

Ayana Piñeiro-Ilnicki, *Executive Assistant*
Beth Glass, *Bookkeeper / Stewardship Assistant*
Debra Meyer, *Parish Life Coordinator*
Jennifer Symons, *Welcome Coordinator*

Carole Ann Vaughan, *Stewardship Director*
Deb Strainge, *Sunday School Director*
Keith Meyer, *Lead Sexton*
Chris Irvin, *Sexton*
John Ilnicki, *Sexton*

Marisa Holliday, *Marketing & Communications Coordinator*

THE CHURCH MOUSE STAFF

Laurie Kasprzyk, *Manager*
Meedlyne Gedeon, *Lead Sales Associate*
Rachel Sanelli, *Associate / Online Sales Coordinator*
Johan Hernandez, *Warehouse Manager*

José Cartagena, *Receiving Specialist*
Rosie Cartagena, *Receiving Specialist*
Jesus Cartagena, *Acquisitions / Deliveries Coordinator*
Marcos Guzman, *Acquisitions / Deliveries Coordinator*

WARDENS, OFFICERS, AND VESTRY

Beth Cole, *Senior Warden*
John Brim, *Treasurer*
Jim Bertles
Jim Brodsky
Barbara Callahan

Suzanne Crawford, *Clerk*
Carlos Gabino
Tom Glover
Randall Gluss

Pam Miller, *Junior Warden*
Robert Diffenderfer, *Chancellor*
Lisa Hastey
Matthew Lorentzen
Rachel Supple

The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle, and Gospel lessons are from the *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.

Liturgical materials are from *The Book of Common Prayer*, 1979; *The Book of Occasional Services*, 2018; and *Enriching our Worship*, 1998.

Hymns and service music used by permission from One License A-733767.

All rights reserved worldwide.