



SAINT JOHN'S
CATHEDRAL
EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF FLORIDA

Advent Procession with
Lessons and Carols
November 30, 2025 | 4 p.m.



WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

The Advent service in the old English liturgies provided vivid preparation for the coming of our Lord to earth. Much of this carol service is drawn from these sources. Throughout the service, the choir moves in procession from the West to East, from darkness into light. As the procession moves toward the East End, prophetic readings alternate with carols. Finally, in the Sanctuary, the Gospel replaces the Prophets.

It is our privilege and joy to offer quality choral services like this one. Please help us continue this great tradition through your generous offering. An offering will be collected during the singing of the carols after the reading of the Third Lesson. During this service, we ask that all cell phones and audible pagers be turned off, and that no flash photography is used. If you are in need of an assisted listening device, please see an usher.

Advent Preludes

Prelude on the Chorale, "Come Now, Savior of the Gentiles"
Johann Sebastian Bach

Prelude on the Chorale, "Come Now, Savior of the Gentiles"
Dietrich Buxtehude

Prelude on the Chorale, "Behold a Rose Bursts into Bloom"
Johannes Brahms

At the sound of the bell, all stand.

Matin Responsory for Advent *(from the West End)*

G. P. Palestrina
Rebecca Andrews-Craven & Luke Hopper, cantors

I look from afar: And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth. Go ye out to meet him and say: Tell us, art thou he that should 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? Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

Hymn 57

"Lo! He comes, with clouds descending"
Helmsley

All sit.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 6:1-8

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty; and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said: 'Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory.' The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said: 'Woe is me! I am lost, for I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips; yet my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!' Then one of the seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. The seraph touched my mouth with it and said: 'Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.' Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

'Twas in the year that King Uzziah died, a vision by Isaiah was aspi'd: A lofty throne, the Lord was set thereon; and with his glory all the temple shone. Bright Seraphim were standing round about. Six wings had every of that quire devout. With twain he awesome veil'd his face, and so with twain he dreadful veil'd his feet below. With twain did he now hither, thither fly: and thus aloud did one to other cry: 'Holy is God, the Lord of Sabaoth, full of his glory are earth and heaven both.' And at their cry, the lintels moved apace, and clouds of incense filled the Holy Place.

All stand and sing.

Hymn 59

"Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding"

Merton

All sit.

The Second Lesson

Isaiah 40:1-8

Reader A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak 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. A voice cries out: 'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every 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. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken. A voice says, 'Cry out!' And I said, 'What shall I cry?' All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand for ever.

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Carol The Brightness of Thy Rising, Maurice Greene

The Gentiles shall come to thy light; and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

The Third Lesson

Zechariah 2:10-13

Reader A reading from the Prophet Zechariah.

Sing and rejoice, O daughter Zion! For lo, I will come and dwell in your midst, says the LORD. Many nations shall join themselves to the LORD on that day, and shall be my people; and I will dwell in your midst. And you shall know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. The LORD will inherit Judah as his portion in the holy land, and will again choose Jerusalem. Be silent, all people, before the LORD; for he has roused himself from his holy dwelling.

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Offering is collected.



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Carol

High o’er the Lonely Hills, Byron Adams

High o’er the lonely hills, black turns to grey, birdsong the valley fills, mists fold away.
Grey wakes to green again, beauty is seen again—gold and serene again dawneth the day.
So, o’er the hills of life, stormy, forlorn, out of the cloud and strife, sunrise is born.
Swift grows the light for us; ended is night for us; soundless and bright for us breaketh God’s morn.
Hear we no beat of drums, fanfare nor cry, when Christ the herald comes quietly nigh.
Splendour he makes on earth; colour awakes on earth; suddenly breaks on earth light from the sky. Amen.

All stand and sing.

Hymn 76

“On Jordan’s bank the Baptist’s cry”
Winchester New

All sit.

The Fourth Lesson

Luke 1:26-38

Gospeler A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. And he came to her and said, ‘Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.’ Mary said to the angel, ‘How can this be, since I am a virgin?’ The angel said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.’ Then Mary said, ‘Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Carol *(sung antiphonally)*

The Angel Gabriel, Basque Carol

The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
“All hail,” said he, “Thou lowly maiden Mary. Most highly favored lady!” Gloria!

“For know a blessed Mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee,
Thy son shall be Emmanuel, by seers foretold, most highly favored lady!” Gloria!

Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head; “To me be as it pleases God!” she said.
“My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name.” Most highly favored lady! Gloria!

Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn;
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say: “Most highly favored lady!” Gloria!

The Fifth Lesson

Luke 1:39-56

Gospeler A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.’ And Mary said, ‘My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.’ And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

People The Word of the Lord.
 Thanks be to God.

Carol (*sung antiphonally*)

Remember, O thou man, Thomas Ravenscroft

Remember, O thou man, thy time is spent:
How thou art dead and gone, and I did what I can, therefore repent!

Remember Adam’s fall, O thou man, from heav’n to hell!
How we were condemned all in hell perpetual, therefore for to dwell.

Remember God’s goodness, O thou man, and his promise made!
How he sent his son, doubtless, our sins for to redress: be not afraid!

Give thanks to God alway, O thou man, with heart most joyfully,
As we await that day, let all men sing and say: “Jesu, Veni!”

Carol

Wachet Auf!, Phillip Nicolai

“UP! awake!” from highest steeple, the watchmen cry, “Awake, ye people; O Salem, from thy slumber rise!
Hear those clarion voices knelling, the hour of midnight loud forthtelling; Say, where are ye, O virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes awake! Up! Lamp and lantern take; Alleluia! With ready light ye must tonight go
forth to join the marriage rite.”

Gospeler A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

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 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.'

People The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Carols

Virga Jesse, Anton Bruckner

*Virga Jesse floruit:
Virgo Deum et hominem genuit:
pacem Deus reddidit,
in se reconcilians ima summis.
Alleluja.*

The branch from Jesse blooms:
A Virgin brings forth God and man:
God restores peace,
Reconciling in Himself the lowest with the highest.
Alleluia.

Mary's Salutation, Johann Eccard

Mary arose and journeyed far in haste to greet Elizabeth,
Whose babe did leap within her womb; the Holy Spirit gave her breath.
To hail the mother of the Lord and Mary with joy then did sing:
"My soul doth magnify the Lord, my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour,
merciful to all who fear His Holy Name."

Ave Maria I, Reihards Dubra

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.
Benedicta tu in mulieribus,
et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,
ora pro nobis peccatoribus
nunc et in homra mortis nostrae. Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
Blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God
pray for us sinners
now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

Vesper Responsory

Priest Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;
People **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Priest Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.
People **Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.**

Priest Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
People Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, he will be with you.

Hymn 462

“The Lord will come and not be slow”
St. Stephen

All kneel as able. The Lord's Prayer is spoken in unison.

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive them that trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant We wait for thy loving kindness, O Lord.
Response **In the midst of thy temple.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life, in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, now and forever. **Amen.**

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly expectation of thy coming, grant that we, who with joy receive thy only-begotten Son as our redeemer, may without fear behold him when he shall come to be our judge, even thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Blessing

Open wide, O Lord, the gates of heaven and visit thy people in peace: send forth thy Spirit from on high that their hearts may be uplifted unto thee. O Lord, who for our sake was of a virgin born, make holy thy people, and bless thine heritage. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you and abide with you for ever. **Amen.**

The People stand and sing.

Hymn 72

“Hark! The glad sound! The Savior comes!”
Richmond

At the Procession

Prelude on the Advent Chorale “Comfort, Comfort Ye My People”
Paul Manz

Concluding Voluntary

Prelude on the Advent Chorale “Come Now, Savior of the Gentiles”
Johann Sebastian Bach



All are invited to a reception in Taliaferro Hall.

∞LOVE AT THE CORE∞

Love at the Core is our motto; it refers to the heart of who we are. For nearly 200 years, St John's Cathedral has sought to lead people in worship and community service here in the urban core of Jacksonville. We believe that through beauty, art, and worship we can draw people into community to experience God's love and serve those in need. We are a diverse congregation that welcomes all people. You are welcome to learn about the love of Jesus with us.

∞UPCOMING CHORAL & HOLIDAY SERVICES∞

Christmas Eve
Wednesday, December 24
4, 6* & 11* p.m.
***Featuring the Cathedral Choir**
Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day
Thursday, December 25
10:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist with Cathedral Choir

New Year's Eve
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Wednesday, December 31
4 p.m.