

# *Advent Lessons and Carols*



*Trinity Episcopal Church  
Natchez, Mississippi*



*11 December A.D. 2016*

## Welcome to the 26th Annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols

The Christian Year begins anew each year with the Season of Advent- a season of preparation and expectation. The order of service for Lessons and Carols includes old liturgical forms that vividly express the Church's preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus both in the festival of Christmas and in the consummation of the ages.

Our service this evening begins in the dimly lit church. The choir begins with the Matin Responsory from the West end of the Nave, then the congregation joins in singing the great Advent hymn *Come, thou long expected Jesus* as the procession moves to the Choir Stalls. This movement from West to East symbolizes the passage of God's people from darkness (West) to light (East) through the Redemption provided us by Our Lord Jesus Christ. After the Responsory and hymn comes the Bidding Prayer and Lord's Prayer, and the service then continues with alternating Scripture lessons and carols old and new.

The climax of the service are the last two lessons, first, The Gospel of the Salutation from St. Luke in which the angel appears to the Blessed Virgin Mary bringing the news that she will conceive and bring forth a Son, and then The Gospel of the Advent in which St. Matthew tells of the coming birth of Jesus. The Vesper Responsory is chanted, the officiant prays the Advent Collect, the choir sings a Choral Blessing, the officiant then pronounces the Blessing, then the powerful hymn of expectation and joy, *Lo, he comes with clouds descending* is sung by all. A festive Voluntary peals from the organ as the procession retires from the Choir, passing the listener again on its way westward to the outside world.

Following the service, everyone is invited to join us in the Parish Hall for a reception.

*Cover Art: The Annunciation by 20th Century Greek-Spanish artist El Greco.*

Organ Voluntary, *Antiphon V*

Marcel Dupré

*All present stand as the choir begins the Matin Responsory.*

MATIN RESPONSORY

Music, Jaques Arcadelt/ Br. Vincent Ignatius  
Words, Early Medieval Office of Matins

HYMN IN PROCESSION

#66, "Come, thou long-expected Jesus"

THE BIDDING PRAYER AND OUR FATHER *(Please kneel)*

*The People sit for the lessons and carols, and stand for the singing of hymns.*

FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 6:1-11a*

*God commissions Isaiah to be the Prophet of the Advent*

CAROL, **This Is The Truth**

Music, Ralph Vaughan Williams  
Words, English Traditional



SECOND LESSON

*Jeremiah 23:5-6*

*The Lord shall bring forth a Righteous Branch*

CAROL, **Rorate Caeli**

Dr. Byron Johnson, *Tenor*, O'Neil Jones, *Baritone*

Music, Gregory Hamilton  
Words, 17th Century, French

HYMN 59, "Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding"



THIRD LESSON

*Isaiah 40:1-8*

*The prophet proclaims good news to a people in exile.*

CAROL, **Creator of the Stars of Night**

Music, Mode IV, arr. John Scott  
Words, 7th Century Office Hymn



FOURTH LESSON

*Zechariah 2:10-13*

*The prophet Zechariah foretells the coming of the Lord.*

CAROL, **Veiled in Darkness**

Music, Glenn L. Rudolph  
Words, Douglas L. Rights



THE GOSPEL OF THE SALUTATION

*St. Luke 1:26-35,38*

*The Angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

CAROL, **Magnificat**

Music, Grayston Ives  
Words, St. Luke 1:46-55

**HYMN 269, "Ye who claim the faith of Jesus"**



THE GOSPEL OF THE ADVENT

*Luke 1:26-38*

*St. Matthew tells of the coming birth of Jesus.*

CAROL, **The Lamb**

Music, John Tavener  
Words, William Blake

**The Vesper Responsory**

G. P. Da Palestrina

*Cantor* Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed;

*Choir* Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.

*Cantor* Stand ye still, and ye shall see the salvation of the Lord.

*Choir* Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.

*Cantor* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

*Choir* Tomorrow go ye forth, and the Lord, He will be with you.

THE COLLECT

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.*

CHORAL BLESSING, **A Blessing**

Margaret Rizza

David Troutman, *Violin*

THE BLESSING

*The People stand and join in singing the Closing Hymn.*

**HYMN 57, "Lo, he comes with clouds descending"**

Organ Voluntary, *Toccata*

Théodore Dubois



## **The Trinity Choir of Men and Women**

### *Soprano*

Susan Hudson, Cynthia McCormick, Danielle Watson

### *Alto*

Donna Harrison, Jeanie Lanneau

### *Tenor*

Byron Johnson

### *Baritone*

Ben Hillyer, O'Neil Jones, Bazile Lanneau

David Troutman

*Guest Violinist*

### **Organist and Director of Music**

Br. Vincent Ignatius, OSB



### **Officiant**

Fr. John Hamilton

### **The Readers**

Dianne Bunch, Trippy Shields, Grace Steiner,  
Anne MacNeil, Rena Jean Schmiege

### **The Usher**

Trippy Shields