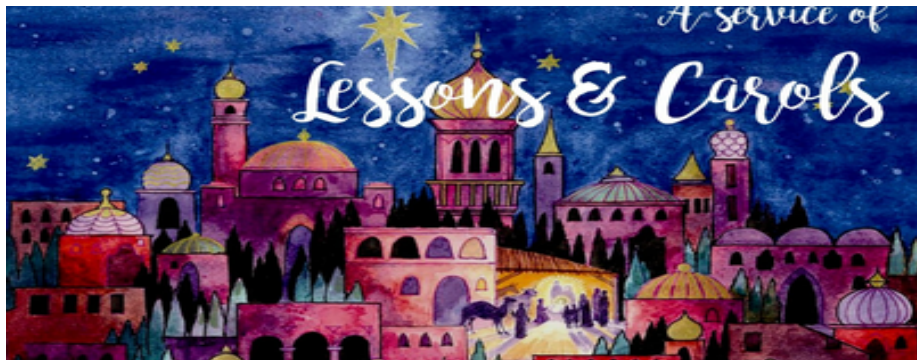


**The Episcopal Church of The Good Shepherd
Venice, Florida
Sunday, December 21
The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**



Organ Prelude

**Susan Debronsky, Cello
Carols for Cello & Organ**

Processional Carol: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Hymnal 56

Verse 1- Choir (all sing the refrain)

Verse 2 - Choir (all sing the refrain)

Verses 3-8 - All

BIDDING PRAYER

Presider: Beloved in Christ, be it this day our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the Magi adore the Child lying in his Mother's arms.

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, dedicated to our Good Shepherd, 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 unity and brotherhood within the Church he came to build, especially in this our parish and diocese.

And let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the

lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the loving kindness of God.

Lastly let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom 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: 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, forever and ever. Amen.

Presider: 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.

All: Amen.

Choir Carol: The Truth From Above English Traditional / arr. R.V. Williams

FIRST LESSON *God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. Genesis 3*

And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the

voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol 105: **God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen** **God Rest You Merry**

SECOND LESSON. *God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.* *Genesis 22*

And the angel of the Lord called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Choir Carol: **I Saw Three Ships** **English Traditional / arr. D. Willcocks**

THIRD LESSON *The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.* *Isaiah 9*

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Carol 66:

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Stuttgart

FOURTH LESSON

The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

Isaiah 11

And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots: and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord; and shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir Carol:

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

English Traditional

FIFTH LESSON

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

St. Luke 1

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favoured, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the

throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God. And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Carol 265: **The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came** **Gabriel's Message**

SIXTH LESSON *St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.* *St. Luke 2*

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Cæsar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judæa, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Choir Carol: **Ding Dong! Merrily On High** **English Traditional/arr. Willcocks**

SEVENTH LESSON *The shepherds go to the manger.* *St. Luke 2*

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Carol 89:

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Hymnal 89

EIGHTH LESSON

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

St. Matthew 2

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judæa in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, In Bethlehem of Judæa: for thus it is written by the prophet, And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, art not the least among the princes of Judah: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel. Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also. When they had heard the king, they departed; and lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy. And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts: gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Solo:

Et Exultavit

J.S. Bach

*Et exultant spiritus meus in Deo salutari meo.
And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.*

Grace Gagliardi, Soprano

Susan Debronsky, Cello

The congregation stands for the Ninth Lesson.

NINTH LESSON

St John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

St. John

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Carol 84:

Love Came Down at Christmas

Gartan

OFFERTORY

In the Bleak Midwinter

G.Holst/arr. B. Dean

PRESENTATION HYMN

Thomas Ken, 1709

Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne, 1623

Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all crea - tures here be - low: Al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise him a - bove ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Ghost: O praise him, O praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

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COLLECT & BLESSING

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: **And with thy spirit.**

Presider: Let us pray.

All: **O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only son, Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.**

Priest: May he who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

All: **Amen.**

Processional Carol - 102

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

Verse 1: Mary Jo Cooney, Soprano

Verses 2- 6: All

Postlude: Postlude on Regent's Square (Angels from the Realms of Glory) Hegarty

Special Thanks:

Susan Debronsky, Cellist with the Venice Symphony, joins us again this year, now an annual tradition. See Susan's full biography at:

<https://www.thevenicesymphony.org/susan-debronsky-cello/>

The choir, soloists Grace Gagliardi and Mary Jo Cooney, and readers for enhancing our worship today.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols was first celebrated at King's College, Cambridge on Christmas Eve, 1918. It was an adaptation of a similar service that had been written for the cathedral at Truro in 1880. At King's College, the Festival is a Christmas Eve service, and the lessons, and music, move deliberately from the season of Advent into Christmastide. Many other parishes have adopted the tradition, usually presented sometime between the fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve.



Birthdays

21 – Bob Elton
Linda Zaleski
22 – Marge Meister
23 – Jeff Cox

Anniversaries

21 – Joy & Bryan McCormack

December 21 - 28, 2025
Good Shepherd Welcomes All!
We're glad you're here!

If you are new, we invite you to fill out a WELCOME CARD found in the back of the hymnal and at the WELCOME DESK in the entry. Cards may be placed in the offering plate or given to an usher.



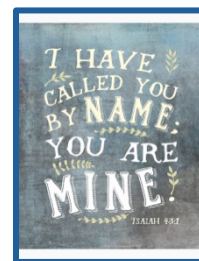
If you are a first-time visitor to Good Shepherd, we welcome you! At announcement time, if you are comfortable, we invite you to introduce yourselves.

We also invite you to join us at coffee hour immediately after our 10 a.m. service. Please sit at our Visitor table and our Hospitality team will serve you coffee and goodies and then spend some time getting to know you.

Would you like to be listed in our Good Shepherd Parish Directory?

If so, please complete the yellow Directory Sign Up card that is located at our Connections Center near the garden doors at the back of our Parish Hall.

See Nancy Fees to have a photo taken for the directory



Name Tags

If you would like a Good Shepherd name tag, please put your name on the list at the Connections Center. Your completed tag will be available at the table near the Welcome Desk the next Sunday.

PRAYERS - December 21 - 28, 2025

We pray for those on our ongoing prayer list: Barbara, Steven, Jane, Terri, Patrick, Karli, Christopher, Elaine, Celeste, Doreen, Maggie, Francis, Anita and Paul, Pat, Dee, Cathy and Jeff, Holly, Sue, Margo and Family, Peter, George and Samantha, Lorelei, George, Brian, Sherry, and Wayne, Jeff, Jan & Rich, June & Dan, Heater M., Eve, Sean, Hillary, Martin, Jessica and family.

SERVING OR LIVING IN HARM'S WAY: Robert Matern, Kevin Sweet, Max Wilson, Matthew Stricker, Sam Blair, Mason Roush, Chris Hoffman, Joseph Sharpe, James Kilroe, and Matthew Kilroe.

FOR OUR DIOCESE AND COMPANION DIOCESES:

The Diocese of Southwest Florida—The Rt. Rev. Douglas F. Scharf, Our Companion Diocese of the Dominican Republic, Companion Diocese of Georgia, Companion Diocese of South Carolina, Companion Diocese of Western Louisiana.

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER: Retired clergy of the Diocese of Southwest Florida; Episcopal Charities of Southwest Florida; Episcopal Schools in the Diocese of Southwest Florida, and the seminarians of the Diocese of Southwest Florida.

The flowers in the Sanctuary today are given in honor of the birthday of Linda Zaleski by her husband Richard; and the Sanctuary Candle is given to the Glory of Almighty God by the Good Shepherd Family.

Sign up for flower or candle dedications in the white binder located at the CONNECTIONS CENTER near the garden doors in the Parish Hall.

Readers for Festival of Lessons and Carols

Lesson 1: Desiree Hudson	Lesson 6: Libby Chinman
Lesson 2: Pam Clark	Lesson 7: Larry Fees
Lesson 3: Melissa Wall	Lesson 8: Mary Jo Cooney
Lesson 4: Bill Flack	Lesson 9: Sue Greene
Lesson 5: Rusty Shelley	

Weekly Email Blast - If you do not receive the weekly email blast & would like to be added, please contact Nancy Fees at communication@goodshepherdvenicefl.org or call the church office 941-497-7286.

The Parish Office is open Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

When the office is closed, you may leave a voice message by telephone or email us. The office phone number is 941-497-7286. The email address - office@goodshepherdvenicefl.org.

If you are calling with a pastoral care emergency after hours, please leave a message on the church office voicemails. Voicemails are monitored overnight and on weekends. OR, you may call any of our Clergy directly at the numbers below if you need assistance, support, and prayer.

Fr. Joe Hudson at (573) 450-9059

Fr. John Warfel at (845) 548-9064

Archdeacon Michael Kitt at (847) 525-5546

Deacon Rich Wilson at (407) 461-2109

Deacon John Riherd at (503) 753-5115

Serving in Ministry at Good Shepherd**The Fourth Sunday in Advent – December 21, 2025**

	Rite II – 8 a.m.	Rite II – 10 a.m.
Presider Preaching	Fr. John Warfel Fr. Joe Hudson	Fr. Joe Hudson Fr. Joe Hudson
Assisting	Deacon Rich Wilson	Deacon Rich Wilson
Server Acolyte Crucifer Acolyte	Judy Jarvis	Sue Miller Degen Sayer
1st Lesson 2nd Lesson Prayers of the People	Barbara Davis Judy Jarvis Deacon Rich Wilson	See Readers for Advent Lessons and Carols
Prayer Team		EK Beall/Liz Bosch
Altar Guild	Team 3	Team 2
Greeters		Katie Wolfe & Mary Ann Medhurst
Ushers	Elizabeth Norton	Desiree Hudson & Barbara Rao
Tech Team	Sound – Bob Sawyer	Cameras – Sue Greene CamCorder – Peter Walker/Paul Altimier Sound – Bob Sawyer Director – Nancy Fees
Secure Building		Joe Bentley

This Week at Good Shepherd**The Fourth Sunday in Advent****SUNDAY** The Fourth Sunday in Advent

12/21

Holy Eucharist Rite I – 8 a.m.

Festival of Lessons & Carols – 10 a.m.

MONDAY Morning Prayer with Fr. Joe – 9:00 a.m.

12/22

TUESDAY Morning Prayer with Fr. Joe – 9:00 a.m.

12/23.

Staff Meeting – 9 a.m.

Women's AA – 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY **The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord, Jesus Christ**

12/24

Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist – 4:00 p.m.

Carols – 9:30 p.m.

Candlelight Choral Eucharist – 10:00 p.m.

THURSDAY **The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ**

12/25

Holy Eucharist – 10:00 a.m.

FRIDAY Creative Design Outreach on break. Will resume on
12/26 Friday, January 9, 2026**SATURDAY** Altar Guild & Flower Guild – 9:30 a.m.

12/27

NO SATURDAY AFTERNOON SERVICE TODAY

UPCOMING EVENTS**Salvation Army Bell Ringing**

Continues through December 24

Creative Designs Ministry will resume regular meetings
starting **Friday, January, 9, 9:30 - 12pm.**

Do you feel called to become more involved in our church? Here's a great opportunity! At the end of every January, three Vestry members "retire" and three new members are selected to join this wonderful group. Interested? For more information, just speak with Fr. Joe.