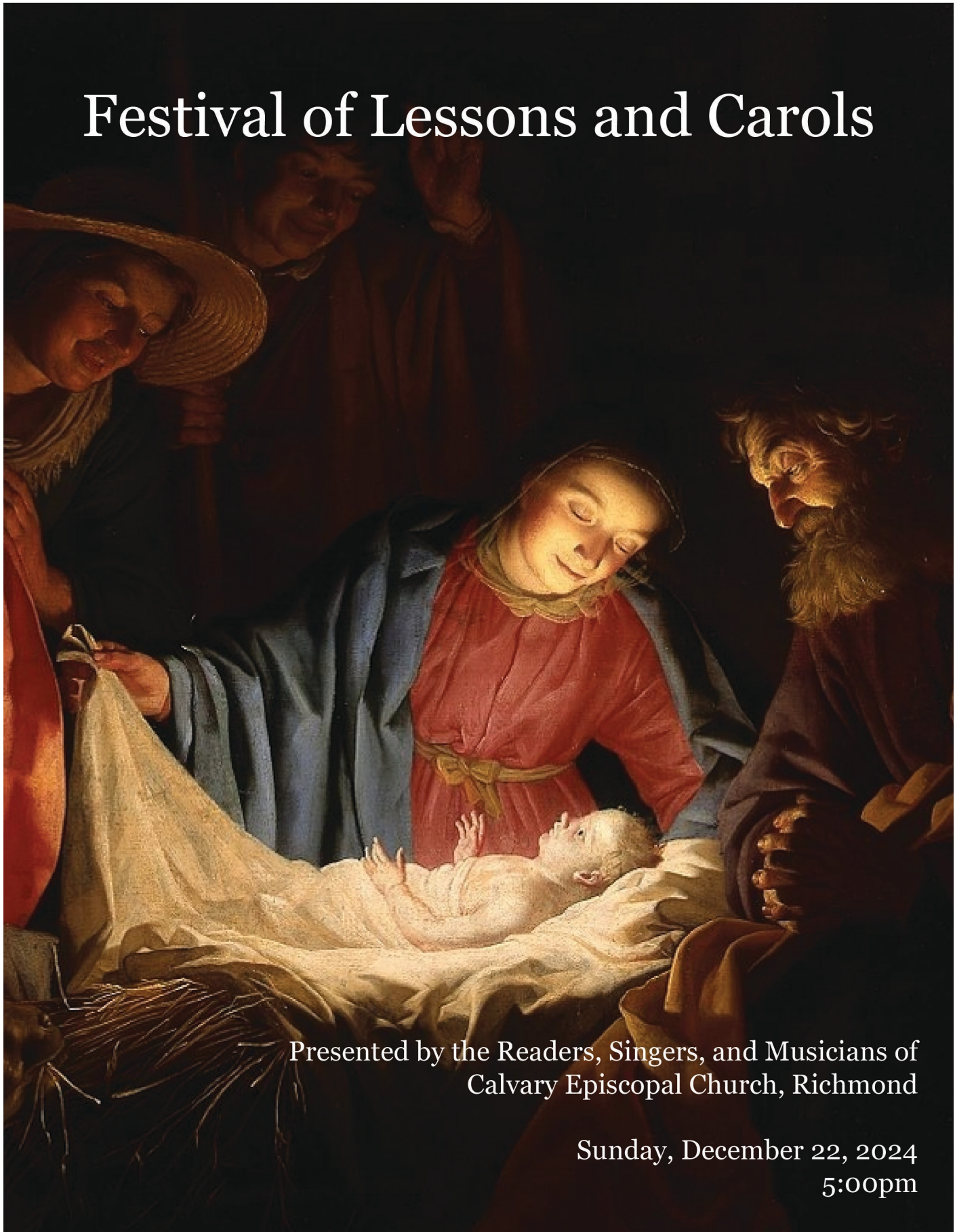


# Festival of Lessons and Carols



Presented by the Readers, Singers, and Musicians of  
Calvary Episcopal Church, Richmond

Sunday, December 22, 2024  
5:00pm

# FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

On behalf of Calvary Episcopal Church, we welcome you to our 2024 Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols. This Order of Service will help you follow the readings and music as our program moves through a biblical timeline from Genesis to John.

## Prelude

*I Wonder as I Wander*

*Still, Still, Still*

*Den die Hirten lob'ten sehre (Whom the Shepherds Greatly Praised)*

*In dulci jubilo*

Charles Callahan

Paul Manz

Helmut Walcha

Marcel Dupré

## Introit

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*

Alice Parker/Robert Shaw

## At the Procession

*The opening hymn begins the story of a birth in Bethlehem as the clergy process in to announce the hope of the coming Messiah. The subsequent readings and music tell the story of God's saving action in the world: from Adam and Eve at Creation, to the birth of Christ, and finally to the promise of a second coming at the end of the Age. The Christian Church lives between these two points: the first, Christmastide with the incarnation of the Son of God, and the second, His coming again to judge and to recreate His universe.*

## Processional Hymn 102 • Once in royal David's city

***Please stand as you are able.***

***Stanza 1 is a solo. The choir will sing Stanza 2. Please join in singing at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Stanza.***

***Solo:*** *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.*

*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, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

***All:*** *We, like Mary, rest confounded that a stable should display  
heaven's Word, the world's creator, cradled there on Christmas Day,  
yet this child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another.*

***For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew,  
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.  
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.***

***And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;  
For that child who seemed so helpless 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 round,  
we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround:  
Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.***

## **The Bidding Prayer**

*Officiant:*

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, 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 justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

***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.***

Officiant:

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.**

**Congregation is seated.**

## Anthem

*Pilgrims' Hymn*

*Stephen Paulus*

## The Lessons

**After each lesson, the Reader will say "The Word of the Lord."  
Please respond "Thanks be to God."**

### The First Lesson

**Genesis 3:8-15; 17-19**

**Sheila Phillips, Reader**

The man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" Adam said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." God said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it', cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

## Anthem

*Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

*Elizabeth Poston*

**The Second Lesson      Genesis 22: 15-18**

**Greg Bethke, Reader**

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

**Anthem**

*The Holly and the Ivy*

*Alice Parker/Robert Shaw*

**The Third Lesson      Isaiah 9:2; 6-7**

**Susan Grotte, Reader**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Anthem**

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

*Alice Parker/Robert Shaw*

**The Fourth Lesson      Isaiah 11:1-3a; 4a; 6-9**

**John Bradshaw, Reader**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

**Anthem**

*I Saw Three Ships*

*Sterling Overshown*

**The Fifth Lesson****Luke 1: 26-35; 38****Terri Morgan, Reader**

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 forever, 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." 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.

**Anthem*****The Angel Gabriel****Paul W. Lohman***The Sixth Lesson****Luke 2: 1; 3-7****Philip Zanghi, Reader**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And 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.

**Anthem*****Sussex Carol****Bob Chilcott*

**The Seventh Lesson      Luke 2: 8-16**

**Brooke Morris, Reader**

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see – I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” When 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.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**Anthem**

***What Child is This***

*Paul Halley*

**The Eighth Lesson      Matthew 2: 1-12**

**The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Reader**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: `And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn 107 • Good Christian friends, rejoice  
*Standing*

1. *Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!*
2. *Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss;  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!*
3. *Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!*

*Please be seated*

The Ninth Lesson      John 1:1-14

Dan Bradley, Reader

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And 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.



## Hymn 111 • Silent Night

### *Standing*

1. *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.*
2. *Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!*
3. *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.*

## The Collect

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Officiant: Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly expectation of your coming, grant that we, who with joy receive your only-begotten Son 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 Offertory • What Shall I Render?

Glenn Burleigh

*Featuring the men in the Calvary Choir and The Greater Outreach Male Chorus*

*An offering is received to support Calvary's ministry of sharing God's love in our community. All are invited to share a gift as the plate is passed or at [calvaryrichmond.org/page/Donate%20Today](http://calvaryrichmond.org/page/Donate%20Today)*

## The 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.**

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

## Closing Hymn 87 • Hark! the herald angels sing

1. *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 the angelic host proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

**REFRAIN:**

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!*

2. *Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!*

3. *Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings,  
light and life to all he brings,  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!*

## Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*In dulci jubilo, BWV 729*

Johann Sebastian Bach

**FOLLOWING THE SERVICE, PLEASE JOIN US FOR A RECEPTION IN THE PARISH HALL.**

## **A WELCOME FROM CALVARY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

On behalf of our church family, we are delighted that you are with us tonight for this magnificent and ancient Festival of Lessons and Carols. We hope that you not only enjoy the scripture readings and music, but that God's Word touches you in a new and exciting way this evening. We are particularly grateful to our choir director, guest organist, choir members, and musicians for their many hours of preparation for this evening. Please join us in expressing our appreciation when you greet them after the service.

The Christmas Season is such a busy time for all of us, and we often lose track of the real "reason for the season." The Festival of Lessons and Carols calls us back to the center of our Christmas attention — the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. We pray that as you hear the message of God's promise of love and grace for your lives, you will be filled with fresh hope for the future. Best wishes for a joyous Christmas Season to you and those you love.

### **Calvary Service Times**

#### **Sunday**

**8:00 AM – Traditional Worship**

**10:30 AM – Contemporary Worship**

**5:00 PM – Informal Sunday Night Alive Worship**

#### **Christmas Eve**

**5:00 PM – Family Service**

**8:00 PM – Traditional Service**

#### **Christmas Day**

**5:00 PM – Holy Eucharist**

**The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan, Rector  
The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, Deacon**

**Calvary Episcopal Church  
806 Thompson Road  
Richmond, Texas 77469  
281-342-2147  
[www.calvary-richmond.org](http://www.calvary-richmond.org)**

Tonight's service and reception is our Christmas gift to our community. We are grateful for the generous contributions of time and effort by so many people who have worked and practiced to make this a special evening.

**Officiant**

The Rev. Ralph B. Morgan

**Readers**

Sheila Phillips, Greg Bethke, Susan Grotte  
John Bradshaw, Terri Morgan, Philip Zanghi  
Brooke Morris, The Rev. Nancy Wilkes, and Dan Bradley

**Choir Master**

Sterling Overshown

**Organist**

Stephen Morris

**Pianist/Organist**

Corey Gibson

**Lessons and Carols Choir**

**Soprano**

Cat Genzer  
Jennifer Wobser  
Melonie Butler  
Dori Soward  
Dr. Jolie Rocke-Brown  
Kathleen Harte  
Emma Fischer\*

**Tenor**

Dan Bradley  
William Soller  
Ross Elkins  
James Gooden  
Kyle Maninantan  
Fred Steinkamp

**Alto**

Aubree Kuperus  
Betsy Zanghi  
Abby Powell  
Molly Powell

**Bass**

Philip Zanghi  
Trevor Stanley  
Christopher Love  
David Essells

The Greater Outreach Male Chorus

\*Soloist

**Instrumentalist**

Zoe Cagan, flutist