

WELCOME TO WORSHIP



DECEMBER 25, 2025 | 10:00 AM

1208 ROSE CREEK DRIVE
WOODSTOCK, GEORGIA 30189
770-924-7286



GOOD SHEPHERD
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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The most famous form of the Lessons and Carols service began at King's College, Cambridge, on Christmas Eve 1918. It was devised by Eric Milner-White, the newly appointed Dean of King's, who was 34 and a former WWI army chaplain. Milner-White wanted a more imaginative and devotional form of worship, especially after the war's trauma. Instead of a complicated mass, the carols service was simpler, alternating between choral anthems, congregational hymns, and readings. The resulting service was more accessible and meaningful, and acknowledged the suffering of those impacted by the Great War. He adapted a model from the Bishop Edward White Benson, who had devised an earlier lessons-and-carols form for Truro Cathedral in 1880.

Although the readings, prayers, and music change from year to year, the service from King's College has been broadcast annually by the BBC since 1928 and broadcast worldwide since 1954.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2025

10:00 AM Lessons and Carols Service with Holy Communion

*Good Shepherd Lutheran Church warmly welcomes people of any age, race, nationality, sexual orientation,
life circumstance, and physical or mental capability*

*You are invited to stand—please silence your cell phones

∞ GATHERING ∞

PRELUDE

“The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came” Anna Kate Peed

-Robert J. Powell

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, Wonderful Counselor, Mighty Savior, Prince of Peace. **G** Amen.

P Trusting in God’s steadfast love and faithfulness, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection. (Stand or kneel)

P Reconciling God,

G we yearn for your presence to transform our grief, pain, and despair. We confess that we have not always prepared room in our hearts for your love; we have not always recognized your presence among us; we have not always embraced your message of peace.

We cry out, weary with the burden of violence, oppression, and fear. We confess our failure to make room for those seeking refuge; our participation in violent systems that harm your innocent ones; our reluctance to embody your good news.

Be born in us today and teach us to sing the joyful song of your salvation.
Amen.

P God’s grace upon grace flows over you. † Christ’s presence redeems the whole creation. Your sins are forgiven. Let the earth rejoice and be glad!

G Amen.

***GATHERING SONG “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” ELW #288 vs. 1, 3**

***DIALOGUE**

- P** Who are these angels who come to earth,
C **bearing the news of the Christ child’s birth?**
- P** Who are these shepherds who run to see,
C **and worship the babe on bended knee?**
- P** Who is this child, so small, so slight,
C **of whom the angels sang that night?**
- P** Who is this king, a manger his throne,
C **who humbles himself to make us his own?**
- P** This is God who sends a Son
C **into our midst, the promised one.**

***GREETING AND PRAYER**

- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C** **And also with you.**
- P** Let us pray. Incarnate God, on this Christmas Day we give you thanks for sending your Son to bring light to our darkness. Grant that we, like the angels over Bethlehem, may sing your praises in our hearts and lives. **C** **Amen.**

∞ WORD ∞

| | | |
|------------------------|---|---|
| LESSON CAROL | “God Promises a King” “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming” | Isaiah 9:2-7 ELW #272 vs. 1-2 |
| LESSON CAROL | “The King Will Come From Bethlehem” “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” | Micah 5:2-5a ELW #282 vs. 1 |
| LESSON CAROL | “The Annunciation to Mary” “The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came” | Luke 1:26-35, 38 ELW #265 vs. 1-4 |
| LESSON CAROL | “The Birth of Jesus” “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” | Luke 2:1-7 ELW #276 |
| LESSON CAROL | “Jesus Receives His Name” “Angels From the Realms of Glory” | Luke 2:21-38 ELW #275 vs. 1-3 |

LESSON
CAROL

“The Magi Follow the Star”
“The First Noel”

Matthew 2:1-11
ELW #300 vs. 1-2, 5

LESSON
CAROL

“The Mystery of the Incarnation”
“Love Has Come”

John 1:1-14
ELW #292

RESPONSIVE PRAYER

- P** It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.
C Your Word, Jesus, is truth.
P In his light, draw all to the manger
C to gather in wonder with the shepherds.
P In his light, draw all to the manger
C to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.
P In his light, draw all to the manger
C to sing for joy with the angels.
P In the brightness of his life
C cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.
P It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.
C In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life. Amen.

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

- C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

The Assisting Minister will close each petition with the words, “Hear us, O God.” worshippers respond with the words, “Your mercy is great.”

*PEACE

P The Peace of the Lord be with you always. **G** And also with you.

(Please greet one another with a friendly word or non-contact gesture of God's peace.)

∞ MEAL ∞

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you. **G** And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **G** It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

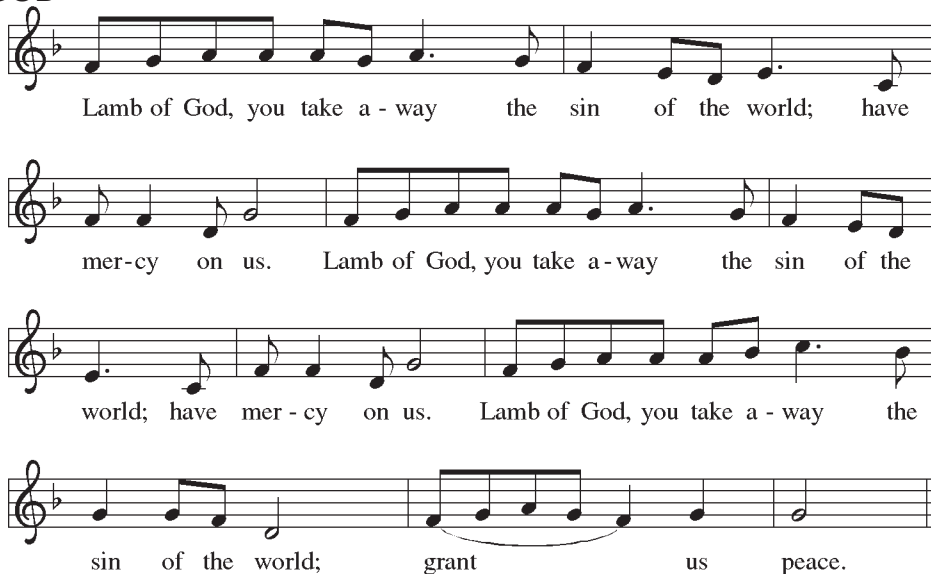
*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

*LORD'S PRAYER

G 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.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION

*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

- P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace
- C** Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

- A** Let us pray. Incarnate God, you are among us at this table. May we treasure this gift and ponder in our hearts the mystery of your presence. Move us to discover the wonders of your love in the everyday moments of our lives, through Christ born in us.
- C** Amen.

SENDING

*BLESSING

- P** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
- C** Praise God, all creatures here below!
- P** You are the shepherds telling the story.
- C** We tell it in the streets and across the land.
- P** You are the wise ones worshipping with thanksgiving.
- C** We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.
- P** You are the angels announcing peace.
- C** We live with joy and go now in peace.
- P** Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
- C** Amen.

- Glory to God in the highest!

And peace to God's people on earth!

Go in joy. Embody God's redeeming grace.

Thanks be to God.

*POSTLUDE


-David Willcocks

Anna Kate Peed


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| GOOD SHEPHERD STAFF | |
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| Pam Weinelt | Praise Team Coordinator |
| Anna Kate Peed | Organist/Choir Director |
| Michelle Provost | Office Coordinator |
| Donna Garges | Media Coordinator |
| Carrie Escamilla | Bookkeeper |
| Aaron Frink | Custodian |

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WORSHIP WITH US EACH SUNDAY!


8:30 AM Traditional Worship | 10:45 AM Praise Worship | 9:45 AM Sunday School and Adult Bible Studies (Beginning again, January 4th)

Facebook Live at facebook.com/gslcwoodstock

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