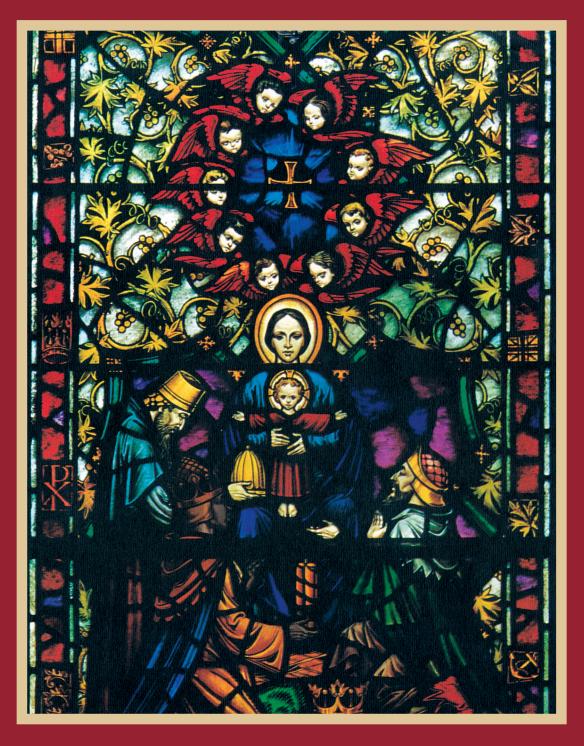
# A Festival Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



Advent 2025

All Saints' Chapel
The University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee

## THE 66TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL SERVICE OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS DECEMBER 6 AND 7—ADVENT 2025

Welcome to All Saints' Chapel. In this service we present the double meaning of the Advent season. From the West Door, the Responsory of ancient Matins on Advent Sunday announces the hope of Messiah. Then, the Choir and Chancel party will move in procession from west to east, illustrating the theme "from darkness to light." The subsequent readings and music direct attention to the coming of Messiah, and further, to the 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.

#### The Bells of the University Carillon

Prelude	Music for Brass and Organ
	thet Auf"Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750), arranged by Marlatt
	Hail This Brightest Day of Days, BWV 605"
"Ho	die Christus natus est"William Byrd (1540–1623), arranged by Treybig
	st ein Ros' entsprunger"
Welcom	eThe Very Rev. Christopher L. Epperson
The Congr	egation stands as the lights are dimmed and the Choir sings from the West Door of the Chapel.
Advent I	Responsory
Cantor:	I look from afar:
Choir:	And lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth.
Cantor:	Go ye out to meet him and say:
Choir:	Tell us, art thou he that should come to reign over thy people Israel?
Cantor:	High and low, rich and poor, one with another,
Choir:	Go ye out to meet him and say:
Cantor:	Hear, O thou Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a sheep,
Choir:	Tell us, art thou he that should come?
Cantor:	Stir up thy strength, O Lord, and come
Choir:	To reign over thy people Israel.
Cantor:	Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
Choir:	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 come to reign over thy people Israel?
The Choir	sings in procession.
Hymn	Puer nobis 9th-century Latin

#### The Bidding and the Lord's Prayer

4 p.m. Saturday	The Vice Provost and Dean of the School of Theology
7 p.m. Saturday	The Dean of All Saints' Chapel and University Chaplain
4 p.m. Sunday	The Rector of St. Mark and St. Paul



The Congregation sits.

FIRST LESSON ..... Genesis 3:8–15

God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head.

4 p.m. Saturday The Head Sacristan

7 p.m. Saturday The Chief Financial Officer and Vice President for Administration

4 p.m. Sunday The Associate Dean for Spiritual and Professional Formation

Adam lay ybounden,
Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter
Thought he not too long.

Ne had the apple taken been,
The apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady
Abeen heavenè queen.

And all was for an apple,
An apple that he took,
As clerkès finden
Written in their book.

Blessed be the time
That apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen,
Deo gracias!

Anonymous, 15th century

The Prophet proclaims the good news to a people in exile.

4 p.m. Saturday The President of the University Choir

7 p.m. Saturday An Assistant Professor in the School of Theology

4 p.m. Sunday A Student in the College

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"

By priest and people sungen
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime Your matin chime, ye ringers, May you beautifully rhyme Your eve'time song, ye singers Gloria Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!



4 p.m. Saturday The Dean of the College

7 p.m. Saturday The President of the Student Government Association

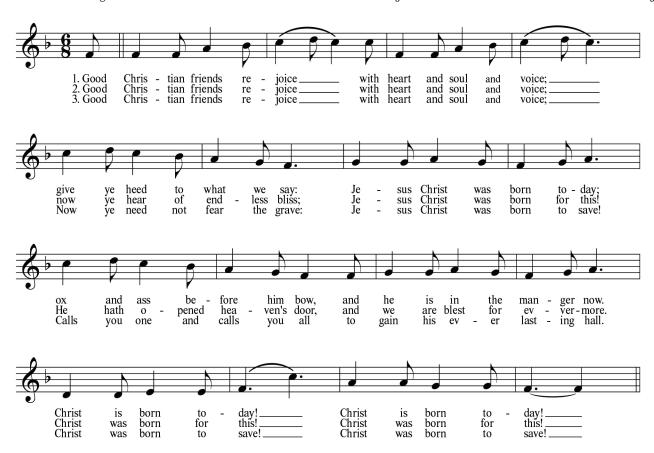
4 p.m. Sunday The Head Acolyte

Comfort comfort ye my people Speak ye peace thus saith our God Comfort those who sit in darkness Mourning 'neath their sorrows' load Speak ye to Jerusalem Of the peace that waits for them Tell her that her sins I cover And her warfare now is over Hark the voice of one that crieth
In the desert far and near
Calling us to new repentance
Since the kingdom now is here
Oh that warning cry obey
Now prepare for God a way
Let the valleys rise to meet him
And the hills bow down to greet him

Make ye straight what long was crooked Make your rougher places plain
Let your hearts be true and humble
As befits his holy reign
For the glory of the Lord
Now o'er earth is shed abroad
And all flesh shall see the token
That the word is never broken

	Isaiah 11:1–3a, 4a, 6–9			
The peace that Christ w	ill bring is foreshown.			
4 p.m. Saturday 7 p.m. Saturday 4 p.m. Sunday A Student in the School of The Chief of the Sewanee F A Member of St. Mark and	ire Department			
Carol	coeli" Traditional Scottish tune			
Rorate coeli desuper! Heavens, distil your balmy showed For now is risen the bright Daystar, From the rose The clear Sun, whom no cloud devours, Surmour Is comen of His heav'nly towers, Et nobis puer natus es	Mary, flower of flowers: nting Phoebus in the east,			
Sinners be glad, and penance do, And thank your For He that ye might not come to, To you is come: Your soulès with His blood to buy, And loose you And only of His own mercy; <i>Pro nobis puer natus est</i> .	n, fully humbly,			
Sing, heaven imperial, most of height, Regions of All fish in flood and fowl of flight, Be mirthful an All Gloria in excelsis cry, Heaven, earth, sea, man, bir He that is crowned above the sky Pro nobis puer natus of	d make melody; rd and beast;			
FIFTH LESSON				
4 p.m. Saturday A Member of the University Staff 7 p.m. Saturday A Member of the Board of Regents 4 p.m. Sunday A Member of the Sewanee Community				
Carol	ete"Traditional Medieval Carol			
Refrain: Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary; rejoice!	God is made man, while nature wonders; The world is renewed by Christ the King. Refrain			
The time of grace has come for which we have prayed; Let us devoutly sing songs of joy. <i>Refrain</i>	The closed gate of Ezekiel has been passed through; From where the light has risen salvation is found. <i>Refrain</i>			
Therefore let our assembly sing praises at this time;				

Therefore let our assembly sing praises at this time Let it bless the Lord: greetings to our King. Refrain



4 p.m. Saturday The President of the Order of the Gown

7 p.m. Saturday The President of St. Luke's Committee

4 p.m. Sunday A Sister of St. Mary

#### An offering will be collected at this time.

The offering is distributed to two important ministries of the Chapel and the University. Your gift will support the University Choir and outreach trips connected to All Saints' Chapel and the Office of Civic Engagement. Thank you for your generosity.



My soul doth magnify the Lord: and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

For he hath regarded: the lowliness of his handmaiden.

For behold, from henceforth: all generations shall call me blessed.

For he that is mighty hath magnified me: and holy is his Name.

And his mercy is on them that fear him: throughout all generations.

He hath shewed strength with his arm: he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

He hath put down the mighty from their seat: and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things: and the rich he hath sent empty away.

He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel:

as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost:

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end, Amen

Luke 1:46-55

SEVENTH LESSON ..... Luke 2:1, 3–7

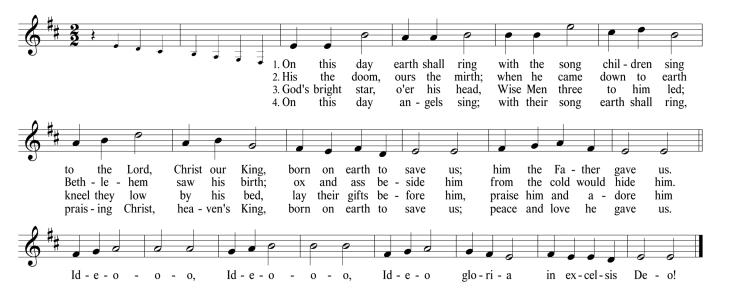
Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

4 p.m. Saturday
7 p.m. Saturday
4 p.m. Sunday
A Student in the College
A Student in the College

On Christmas night all Christians sing, To hear the news the angels bring, News of great joy, news of great mirth, News of our merciful King's birth.

Then why should men on earth be so sad, Since our redeemer made us glad, When from our sin he set us free, All for to gain our liberty. When sin departs before his grace, Then life and health come in its place; Angels and men with joy may sing, All for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light, Which made the angels sing this night: 'Glory to God and peace to men, Now and for evermore. Amen.'



4 p.m. Saturday A Head Angel

7 p.m. Saturday An Assistant Professor in the College

4 p.m. Sunday A Child in the Sewanee Community

Here are we in Bethlehem, there the stable door.

Let us go and enter in, Mary's Babe adore.

See the kings who come from far, bearing myrrh and gold.

Frankincense to offer him, treasure manifold.

Take we gifts as well as these, at his feet to lay;

Clothes to shield him from the cold, toys that he may play.

For a baby still is he, Mary still is poor.

Here are we in Bethlehem, there the stable door. Mary still is poor.

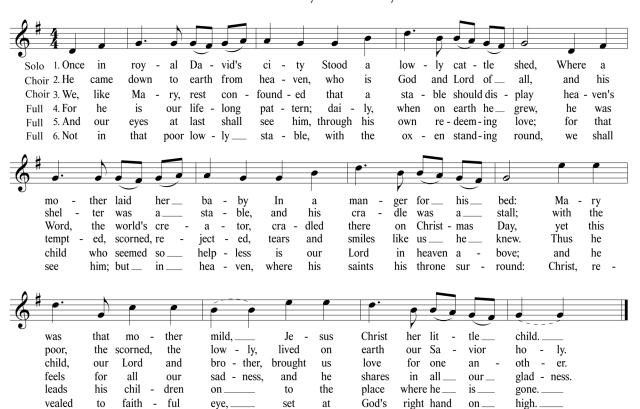
Please stand for the reading of the Ninth Lesson and for the remainder of the service.

#### NINTH LESSON ..... John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

4 p.m. Saturday The Interim Associate University Chaplain

7 p.m. Saturday An Associate of All Saints' Chapel

4 p.m. Sunday The Chaplain of St. Andrew's-Sewanee



set

at

God's

right hand

on\_

high.\_

#### The Vesper Responsory

vealed

to

faith

Judah and Jerusalem, fear not, nor be dismayed; Priest:

People: Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.

eye,

Priest: Stand still, and you shall see the salvation of the Lord.

People: Tomorrow go forth, and the Lord will be with you.

Priest: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

A moment of silence.

#### The Collect

Priest: We wait for thy loving-kindness, O Lord.

Choir: In the midst of thy temple.

Priest: Let us pray.

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 Spirit, one God, world without end.

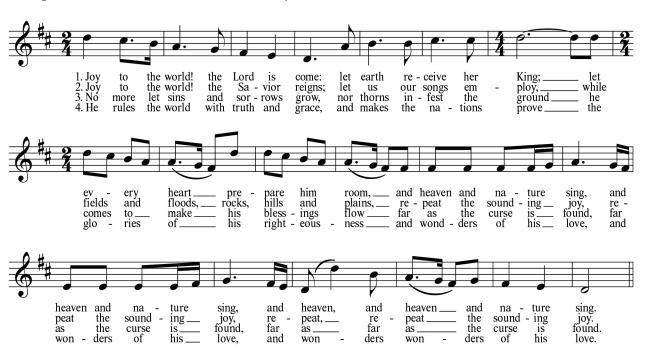
Choir: Amen.

#### 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.

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.* 

#### At the Retiring Procession



#### The Bells of the University Carillon

#### Notes

If you need assistance during the service, please look for a staff member or a student angel wearing a black gown.

Restrooms are located on the ground floor of Carnegie Hall. Enter through the double doors under the arch and down the stairs. (An elevator is available to the left of the double doors.)

Assisted listening amplifiers are available for the hearing impaired. Please see an angel if you would like one.

The use of cameras, cell phones, artificial light or flash, and recording equipment is prohibited during the services. Please make sure all cell phones have been silenced while in the Chapel, prior to the beginning of the service.

Please note that services in All Saints' Chapel may be livestreamed for online public viewing.

Many thanks for your presence and participation in today's service. To support the ministries of All Saints' Chapel, including the University Choir and outreach trips, you are invited to make a contribution online by scanning the QR code or by visiting chapelsupport.sewanee.edu.



#### **Chapel Staff**

The Very Rev. Christopher L. Epperson	Dean of All Saints' Chapel and University Chaplain
The Rev. Leigh C. Preston	Interim Associate University Chaplain
Dr. Geoffrey Harris Ward	University Organist and Choirmaster
Mary Margaret Murdock	Lay Chaplain
The Rev. Amanda K. Gott	Interfaith Chaplain
Laurie Lawrence	Administrative Assistant for the University Chapel
Stephanie Yoder	Assistant University Organist
Janet Jarriel	Choir Recruitment Coordinator

#### The University Choir

- Soprano I: Ava Bowron\*, Julia Helen Callahan, Savannah Carlson, Arden Gipson, Emerson Jablonski<sup>+</sup>, Elizabeth Jefferson\*, Stella Majorie, Eva Purdy, Meining Sanasac, Abigail Steffens, Sophie Tachna, Elizabeth Wells
- Soprano II: Abigayle Cheney, Alayna Cupples, Celeste Dieringer, Claire Durham, Teigan Edwards, Carley Gilbert, Caroline Goodsell (social chair), Tessa Hamann (president), Hunter Huckabay\*, Sophia James, Maddy Johnson, Naho Katsumura, Hanna Kryhina, Mary Margaret Lemburg, Annie Murphy+, Shelby Philips, Charlotte Robinson, Lillian Rourk\*, Baylie Wainwright, Riley Watkins
- Alto: Louise Block, Isabel Brozen, Mohana Buckley\*, Lorelei Christopher, Clara Cole, Julia Daniels, Hannah Diehl, Annalise Doyle, Anna Dula, Virginia Echols, Abigail Forster, Ellie Jenkins, Savannah Jetton, Bree Johnson, Fiona Kiernon\*, Zoe McAfee, Camilla Raper, Hattie Robbins (vice-president), Janey Stevens\*
- Tenor: Blake Burgiss<sup>+</sup>, Asa Caramico, Casper Corsello, Baker Elkins, Jimmy Holmes<sup>\*</sup>, Javier Maldonado, Jackson Riggs (treasurer)
- Bass: John Elijah Bailey, Will Bates, Peter Dobson, Drew Elmore, James Farry, Christian Horth, Sawyer Hyatt, Bryce Johnson<sup>+</sup>, Finn Oakes, Dante Studenko<sup>\*</sup>

<sup>+</sup>Section leader | \*Study away, Advent semester

#### Musicians

University Organist and Choirmaster: Dr. Geoffrey Harris Ward

Assistant University Organist: Stephanie Yoder

Brass Quintet: Michael Arndt, Joeyl Treybig, trumpets; Angela DeBoer, French horn; David Louckey, trombone; Chris Combest, tuba; Ron Sorbo, percussionist/timpani

Carillonneur: The Rev. Dr. Raymond Gotko

#### Additional Acknowledgements

The Festival of Lessons and Carols would not be possible without the wonderful leadership and contributions of students in All Saints' Chapel Sacristan Guild, All Saints' Chapel Acolyte Guild, and the University Angel Team.

The Chapel has been decorated with greens from the University forest by students in the College and the School of Theology and members of the Sewanee community. Special thanks are offered to Ken Taylor and members of the St. Augustine's Guild for coordinating the decoration of the Chapel.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all the readers and to the Rev. Warren Swenson for directing their rehearsals, to Kate Reed for coordinating the angels, to Walker Adams for serving as floor manager, and to David Shipps in his role as university marshal. Gratitude is also extended to John Whitmer for serving as recording engineer.

Many thanks to our campus partners in the University Special Events Team, the Office of Print Services, Facilities Management, Technology and Access Services, and the Sewanee Police and Volunteer Fire Departments.



#### Sources and Permissions

The hymn and descant arrangements for brass, choir, and organ were composed by Eberhard Ramm, Dr. Bruce Smedley, Dr. Joel Treybig, Dr. Richard Webster, and Sir David Willcocks.

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"Hark a thrilling voice is sounding": Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Hymns Ancient and Modern, 1861, alt. Music: Merton, William Henry Monk (1823–1889); desc. Alan Gray (1855–1935). Descant used by permission of of Cambridge University Press.

"Lo, he comes with clouds descending": Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788). Music: Helmsley, melody Augustine Arne (1710–1778).

"Good Christian friends rejoice": Words: John Mason Neal (1818–1866), alt. Music: In dulci jublio, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867–1944).

"On this day earth shall ring": Words: Piae Cantiones, 1582; tr. Jane M. Joseph (1894–1929). Copyright by G. Schirmer, Inc. Reprinted by permission. Music: Personent hodie, melody from Piae Cantiones, 1582. By permission of Oxford University Press.

"Once in royal David's city": Words: St. 3 ©1982, James Waring McCrady. Music: Copyright © 1957, Novellow and Company Limited. Used by permission.

"Joy to the world": Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685–1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792–1872).

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### Upcoming Services and Concerts featuring the University Choir

Jan. 16, Easter Convocation, 4:30 p.m. Feb. 18, Ash Wednesday Service, 6 p.m.

Feb. 22, Choral Evensong with Saint George's Episcopal Church Choir of Nashville, 4 p.m.

Feb. 26, Organ Recital by Geoffrey Harris Ward, 7 p.m.

March 29, Palm Sunday, II a.m.

April 2, Maundy Thursday, 6 p.m.

April 4, Easter Vigil, 8 p.m.

April 5, Easter Sunday, II a.m.

April 24, Cathedral Masterworks, the University Choir and Sewanee Symphony Orchestra, 7:30 p.m. April 28, Choral Evensong, 5:15 p.m.

All events are in All Saints' Chapel and are free unless indicated.

Please visit www.sewanee.edu/university-choir for information about the University Choir's 2026 tour and for opportunities to support the University Choir.

Visit, subscribe, and share the University Choir YouTube channel: youtube.com/@sewaneechoir to show your support of choral arts excellence at Sewanee.

