

The Episcopal Church of St. James the Apostle Paso Robles, California

Our Mission

**St. James is a community centered on the love of Jesus,
focusing on inclusion, spiritual growth, and service.**



**The First Sunday after Christmas
28 December 2025**

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 28, 2025

Prelude



Opening Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" Hymnal #87 VS. 1-3

Bidding Prayer:

Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in the manger.

Lesson #1 Luke 1: 26-38 The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

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. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with 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.

Carol #1 "The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came" Hymnal # 265 Vs. 1-4

Prayer

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3

Lesson #2: Isaiah 40:1-11 God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption

"Comfort, O comfort my people,
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.
A voice cries out:
"In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
A voice says, "Cry out!"
And I said, "What shall I cry?"
All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the LORD blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"
See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;

he will gather the lambs in his arms,

and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Carol #2 "Comfort, Comfort, All ye People"

Hymnal #67 VS. 1-3

Prayer

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3

Lesson #3: Luke 1:39-56 The Virgin Mary is greeted by Elizabeth and proclaims her joy.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

Carol #3 "Lo how a rose e'er blooming"

Hymnal # 81 VS.1-3

Prayer

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3

Lesson #4: The Magnificat

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord,
[and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,

And Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

Carol #4: "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"

Hymnal # 89 VS 1-4

Prayer

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3

Lesson #5 Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 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.

Carol #5 "Away in a Manger"

Hymnal #101 VS. 1-2

Prayer

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3

Lesson # 6 Luke 2: 8-14

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!"

Carol #6 "Angels We have Heard on High"

Hymnal # 96 VS 1-4

Prayer

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3

Lesson # 7 Luke 2:15-20

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol #7: "Go Tell It On the Mountain"

Hymnal #99 VS. 1-3

Prayer

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. Revelation 21:3

Lesson #8: John 1:1-5, 9-14

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴ in him was life,^[a] and the life was the light of all people. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁹ The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.^[a]

¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to what was his own,^[a] and his own people did not accept him. ¹² But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son,^[a] full of grace and truth.

Carol #89 "O come all ye faithful"

Hymnal #83 VS. 1-3

Closing prayer said together

May the hope that Jesus brought into the world be seen in our hearts, our words and our actions, for his sake. Amen.

Closing Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymnal #100 VS. 1,2,4

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

People

Thanks be to God.

Ministers of the Liturgy

Deacon	The Rev. Jim Arnold
Lectors	Lee Adinolfi, Liz Hastings, Grigger Jones, Bonnie Railsback, Chris Rudmam, Cynthia Mosely
Ushers	Liz & Newlin Hastings
Musician	Josh Tarica
Tech	Newlin Hastings
Vestry on Duty	Lee Adinolfi
Altar Guild	Team A
Counters	Liz and Newlin Hastings

Birthdays

Watch over your child, O Lord, as *her* days increase; bless and guide *her* wherever *she* may be. Strengthen *her* when *she* stands; comfort *her* when discouraged or sorrowful; raise *her* up when *she* falls; and in *her* heart may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of *her* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Anniversaries

O God, you have called us into faithful friendship with you and each other: Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*



THE CHRISTMAS FLOWERS ARE OFFERED TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY

Straith Smith-Zanartu in thanksgiving for her children and their families and in memory of Bond and Mary Smith, Mary Pat Kyle, Don Hadley and Ritchie Solter.

Nancy Foran and Debbie Statezni in memory of Bill Foran.

Lee Adinolfi in memory of Stan and Katherine Ellison and Sal and Rose Adinolfi, in thanksgiving for many blessings and in honor of their children, grandchildren and great-granddaughter.

Tom and Darlene Westbrook in thanksgiving for good health.

Liz and Newlin Hastings in thanksgiving for the St. James Family.

Nora Gaisi in thanksgiving for family, friends, and church community.

Sue Thorson in memory of Roger Thorson.

Bob and Isolde Lata in memory of their family in Germany and the U.S.

Sylvia Barker in thanksgiving for Laura Learned and Mac Learned and the support they give to St. James.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF SAINT JAMES THE APOSTLE

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The Rev. James Arnold, Deacon

Laura Learned, Senior Warden

Cynthia Mosely, Junior Warden