



We Welcome You to
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church!
 214 College Ave., Henderson, Texas 75654
 Festival of Lessons & Carols
December 28, 2025
The First Sunday after Christmas Day

PRELUDE

— *Stand* —

HYMN 102 ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

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.

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.

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant:

Dear People of God: In this Christmas
Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear
once more 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:

— *Stand or if able, please kneel* —

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant and People:

**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.**

— *The People May be Seated for The Lessons
and Stand for the Carols* —

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah
The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior.

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.

HYMN 81 LO, HOW A ROSE

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung! Of Jesse's lineage coming as seers of old have sung. It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter, when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind, with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind. To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior, when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air, dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere; true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us, and share our every load.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah
The peace that Christ will bring is foreshown.

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.

HYMN 82 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O that birth for ever blessed, when the Virgin full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race; and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.

Let the heights of heaven adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing; powers, dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and King' let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.

THE THIRD LESSON

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke
The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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.

HYMN 437 TELL OUT MY SOUL

Tell out my soul, the greatness of the Lord! Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his word; in God my savior shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name! Make known his might, the deeds his arm has done; his mercy sure, from age to age the same; his holy name: the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word! Firm is his promise, and his mercy sure: tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children's children and for evermore!

THE FOURTH LESSON

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke
Luke tells of the birth of Jesus.

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.

HYMN 79 O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we
see thee lie! Above thy deep and
dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet
in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting
light; the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered
all above while mortals sleep, the angels
keep their watch of wondering love. O
morning stars, together proclaim the holy
birth! And praises sing to God the king
and peace to men on earth**

**How silently, how silently the wondrous
gift is given! So God imparts to human
hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear
may hear his coming, but in this world of
sin where meek souls will receive him still
the dear Christ enters in.**

THE FIFTH LESSON

A Reading from the Gospel of Luke
The shepherds go to the manger.

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.

HYMN 94, WHILE SHEPHERDS WATCHED

**While shepherds watched their flocks by
night, all seated on the ground, the angel
of the Lord came down, and glory shone
around.**

**"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had
seized their troubled mind; "Glad tidings
of great joy I bring to you and all
mankind."**

**"To you, in David's town, this day is born
of David's line the Savior, who is Christ
the Lord; and this shall be the sign:**

**"The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed, all meanly
wrapped in swathing bands, and in a
manger laid."**

"All glory be to God on high and on earth be peace; good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease."

THE SIXTH LESSON

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus.

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 109

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay; in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep. *Refrain*

Refrain: **Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, born is the King of Israel.**

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far, and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain*

Then entered in those wise men three full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

THE SEVENTH LESSON

A Reading from the Gospel of John

John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

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.

— *The People May be Seated for the Sermon* —

THE SERMON
Mr. Tracy Allen

COLLECT FOR THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER
CHRISTMAS DAY

Officiant:

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**HYMN 107 GOOD CHISTIAN FRIENDS
REJOICE**

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!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this! He has opened heaven's door, and we are blest forever more. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

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!

Officiant dismisses with these words:

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill us with joy, and make us heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.



If you would like to give electronically, scan the QR code to be taken to a secure payment site.

LEADERS OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE

Celebrant: *Tracy Allen*

Altar Guild: *Carol Roberts & Deborah Kangerga*

Acolyte: *Sophia Robinson*

Greeters: *Roberta Vallantyne & Bonnie Geddie*

Vestry Person: *Don Gish*

TODAY

9:30 a.m., Lessons & Carols,
Coffee Fellowship

**You May Take Your Poinsettias Home
After Worship**

MONDAY, DEC. 29TH
Jan. Messenger deadline

TUESDAY, DEC. 30TH
7:30 p.m., AA
Parish office closed 31st & 1st

SUNDAY, JAN. 4TH
9:30 a.m., Liturgy of the Word,
Coffee Fellowship

Monday, Jan. 5th, Ministry Reports due to the parish office for Annual Parish Meeting.

Sunday, Jan. 18th will be our Annual Parish Meeting w/a luncheon following our worship service.

OPEN PLATE OFFERING
Our **December** Sunday open plate (undesignated cash or checks) will go to the **Henderson Interchurch Ministry**. If you want your **cash donation to go into the General Fund**, please place it in an envelope and note your wishes on the envelope.

ST. MATTHEW'S MISSION STATEMENT
St. Matthew's Episcopal Church is a body of believers united in a common desire to love and serve the Lord and our neighbors. Our faith journey is to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with our God.
—Adapted from Micah 6:8

ST. MATTHEW'S VISION STATEMENT
"To be a Christian community that demonstrates God's love to those around us through prayer, caring, visitation, worship, and teaching."

PRAYER LIST
Our St. Matthew's Family: Mother Patsy+ & Family, Charlene, David, Sheryl, Christopher, Mary Jo, Jimmy, Anne & Family, Alexa, June, Lisa & John, Heath, Justin, Sophia, Ann, and Catherine.

Friends & Loved Ones: Brad, Judy, John, Maverick, Christy Jo, Marnie, Julie, Donna, Nancy, Ray, Misty, Nancy, Wilder, Cody, Bruce, Linda, Russell, Holly & son, Lin, Shawn, Theron, Vania, Kurt, Richard, Randy, Ashley, Monica & Bubba, Cynthia, Debbie, Valentina, Jane and Mary.

We pray for all of our Military, at home and abroad.

Anyone who in need of **pastoral care** or desires to **share suggestions & concerns** for ministry at St. Matthew's, please speak to our Priest-In-Charge, Mother Patsy+ or our Senior Warden, Carol Roberts.

WWW.STMATTHEWSHENDERSON.ORG
STMATTHEWS@SUDDENLINKMAIL.COM

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***THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS ARE
GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD***

- ❖ *In Memory of Our Dear Loved Ones by Tom & Carol Roberts*
- ❖ *In Memory of My Twin, Jere Fred Culp, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Clifford Culp, Jr., Mr. & Mrs. Fred Clifford Culp, Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Hoyt Jerome Law Mr. Richard Noon, Mr. William C. Teague and Mrs. Carol Hamilton by Jimmy Culp*
- ❖ *In Memory of Loved Ones by Tracy Allen*
- ❖ *In Memory of Loved Ones by Gail & Dan Love*
- ❖ *In Memory of Louis by Mary Jo Colombo*
- ❖ *In Memory of Loved Ones by Deborah & Jim Kangerga*

- ❖ *In Memory of Loved Ones by Kim & Justin Robinson*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Our Children & Grandchildren by Tom & Carol Roberts*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for St. Matthew's Twins, Linda & Isabella Craig and Aaden & Noah King by Jimmy Culp*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Family & Friends by Mary Jo Colombo*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Our Children & Grandchildren by Deborah & Jim Kangerga*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Family & Friends by Deborah & Jim Kangerga*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Our Extended Family by Deborah & Jim Kangerga*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Our Parish Family by Carol & Tom Roberts*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Our Wonderful Children, Sophia & Solon by Kim & Justin Robinson*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Our Loved Ones by Kim & Justin Robinson*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Our Church Family by Kim & Justin Robinson*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Sara Melvin by Lisa & John Melvin*
- ❖ *In Thanksgiving for Ruth & John Melvin by Lisa & John Melvin*

