



ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We, the baptized ministers,
declare Christ's Mission for us:
to grow as a Church
in the spiritual strength
of community,
and to care, reach out,
and include all people in Christ's love.

The Nativity of Our Lord

Christmas Pageant



Holy Eucharist, Rite II—5:00 PM

December 24, 2024

Welcome to St. Thomas! We are so glad that you are here with us. If you are new to our community, we invite you to fill out a welcome card located in the pew rack in front of you, and either place it in the offering plate or hand it to a priest.

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Piano Fantasy on *Love Came Down at Christmas*

by Dr. Lori Lind

Welcome

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith

Lighting of the Christ Candle

The Coogan Family

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given!

God has brought light into every darkness.

The promises of God are fulfilled! Wonderful Counselor! Mighty God! Everlasting Father! Prince of Peace!

We hear, even today, a chorus of angels bringing good news of great joy to all the people.

We light the Candle of Christ -- witness to the Savior who is Christ the Lord.

[Here we light the white Christ Candle plus the other candles.]

Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.

Procession

O come, all ye faithful

#83 Hymnal 1982

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever Amen.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him 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 forever. **Amen.**

The Christmas Pageant



You are invited to join in singing the first verse of the following carols during the Pageant!

O Come All Ye Faithful

#83 Hymnal 1982

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

Away in a Manger

#101 Hymnal 1982

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

#87 Hymnal 1982

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

We Three Kings

#128 Hymnal 1982

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain,
moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading,
still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Joy to the World

#100 Hymnal 1982

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

The Prayers of the People

The prayers of the people are a time for us to share prayers with one another as we lift them together to God. Please kneel as you are able.

Let us pray to Jesus our Savior. Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless. Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep. We pray for those who have asked for our prayers, including **Ethan, Vincent, Emily and Dave, Lynn, Betsy, Yusuf, Bill, Barbara, Andrew, Tony, Andrew, Emily, Betsy and Michael, Melissa, Cassandra, Andy, Anatoliy, Laura, Jan, Tom, Scott, Vera, Megan, Steve, Debby,** and those whom you would name *[pause]*.

Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed. We pray for those concerns we name now, either silently or aloud *[pause]*.

Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern.

Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you. We pray for those we now name, either silently or aloud *[pause]*.

Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Christ, who taught his followers to pray, we offer thanks for those in whose memory or

honor the Christmas flowers are given and for all the blessings that we name, either silently or aloud [pause].

Jesus, Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus, Savior, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to you for ever. Amen.

Together let us pray for St Thomas Church.

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified, hear our prayer for St Thomas, build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Following the exchange of peace in the church, peace is exchanged with the congregation on Zoom.



It's Easy to Give Electronically to St. Thomas

Scan the QR code, or visit the GIVING page on the St. Thomas website:

<https://stthomasmcleanva.org/giving/donate>.

The Offertory

Walk in love, as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Hymn

While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks

#94 Hymnal 1982

- 1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground
The angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around
- 2 "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind.
- 3 "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:
- 4 "The heavenly Babe you there shall find to human view displayed,
All meanly wrapped in swathing hands, and in a manger laid"
- 5 Thus spake the seraph and forthwith appeared a shining throng
Of angels praising God, who thus addressed their joyful song:
6 All glory be to God on high and on the earth be peace;
Good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease"

The Doxology (Refrain from "O Come, All Ye Faithful")

#83 Hymnal 1982

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: Angels We Have Heard on High (Verse 1)

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - -

- - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Thomas and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,
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.

The Fraction – WLP 878

Who - ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and

who - ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst.

Music: Carl Haywood (b. 1949), from *Fraction Anthems, Canticles, and Chants*. Copyright © 1997 Carl Haywood.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

A note about the distribution of the Eucharist:

We offer both the common cup and a cup for intinction. If you would like to receive by intinction, please go the left side of the altar rail and the presiding priest will dip the bread in the cup for you. If you would like to sip from the common cup, please go to the right side of the altar rail where the bread and the cup will be offered separately.

Communion Hymn

What Child Is This

#115 Hymnal 1982

- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

- 2 Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

- 3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

Communion Hymn

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

#89 Hymnal 1982

- 1 It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.
- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.
- 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;

and warring humankind hears not
the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife
and hear the angels sing!

4 For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Communion Hymn

Away in a Manger

#101 Hymnal 1982

1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Post-communion Prayer for a Multi-located Congregation

Let us pray. **God of abundance, we gather as your faithful people near and far. We believe you are present with us as we are united with Christ and one another in prayer and sacrament. We thank you for feeding all of us with your love and for making us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.** *Written by the Rev. Dorota Wright-Pruski, adapted by the Rev. Will Drosos*

Hymn Before the Benediction *Silent Night, Holy Night*

#111 Hymnal 1982

*A minister will assist worshippers with lighting their candles.
If you don't already have a candle, please let one of our Ushers know.*

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 Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

Amen.

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

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

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

Recessional Hymn

Go Tell It on the Mountain

#99 Hymnal 1982

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and
ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that
Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Repeat Refrain

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967). Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935). Arrangement, Copyright © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer.

The Dismissal

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude Improvisations on *Antioch*

Worship Participants

Presider	Rev. Will Drosos
Assisting Priest	Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith
Deacon	Rev. Caroline Mitchell
Acolyte	Louise Armitage
Altar Guild	Louise Armitage
Digital Usher	Jennifer Alexander
Digital Verger	Chuck Grimes
Eucharistic Minister (EM)	Louise Armitage
Flower Guild	The St. Thomas Flower Guild
Wreath Lighters & Intercessor	The Coogan Family
Usher	Rev. David Smith

The Christmas Flowers and Greens are Given to the Glory of God by:



Audrey Adair & Walter Lazear
In Thanksgiving for family and friends

Louise Armitage
In Thanksgiving for my family, especially Colin, the newest member

Susan and Jack Cowart
In Loving Memory of our parents

Chris and Graham Forward
In Loving Memory of Phyllis Forward, Richard Forward, and Ted Bishop

Jane Frierson
In Loving Memory of Charlene F. Hutcherson

Fran Gardner-Smith and David Smith
In Loving Memory of Frank & Barbara Gardner, Judy Smith, and Glenn & Marie Smith
In Thanksgiving for the staff and vestry at St. Thomas

Debby and K.P. Reed
In Loving Memory of Norman & Pauline Reed, Tommy Davidson, Mike McCaffree,
Bill Coppa, and Dave Antanitus
In Thanksgiving for The Reed Family, The Antanitus Family, The McCaffree Family,
and The Hagwood Family

Jon and Anne Spear
In Thanksgiving

Wade and Berta Smith
In Loving Memory of Ward Willis, our beloved son
In Thanksgiving for Rae, Stacy, and Dee, our grandkids!!!

DECEMBER VESTRY PERSON

Melinda Fairchild

meldavid7815@gmail.com

240-274-4741

Questions, comments, concerns, compliments, all welcome.



You Welcomed Me.

I hope that everyone who reads this has experienced the true warmth of a St. Thomas welcome.

Thank you to everyone who has already pledged to support St. Thomas. We are well on our way to reaching our twin campaign targets (pledges totaling \$410,000 and 70 pledgers). Progress updates can be seen on the hymn boards in church.

There is still time join us and make a pledge to support our church and community.

Pledge cards can be returned in the mail or by dropping in the offertory plate. Even better is to take a photo of your completed card and email that to Rishabh. Entering your own pledge online is not currently working if you try accessing via the internet. However, the ChMS app DOES support online pledging. If you did not receive instructions about pledging via the app please contact Rishabh (parishadmin@stthomasmclean.org).

Thank you for your support!

Toby Bush (tobygbush@hotmail.com), Melinda Fairchild (meldavid7815@gmail.com),

Rick Montfort (rickmontfort@outlook.com), Steve Wickman (wickmansb@msn.com),

Rev. Will Drosos (will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org),

& Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith (fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org)

PRAYER FOR ST. THOMAS CHURCH

Almighty God, by your Spirit the whole body of your Church is governed and sanctified. Hear our prayer for St. Thomas: build in us a renewed vision of your Church; shape our life according to your will; empower us with the gifts to make us one, that together we may grow as a church in the spiritual strength of community, and reach out to include all people in Christ's love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

MINISTERS

The Baptized Faithful of St. Thomas Episcopal Church
The Most Rev. Sean Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Gayle E. Harris, *Assistant Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. James Joseph "Bud" Shand, *Visiting Bishop*

The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith, <i>Rector</i>	540-532-5665 – fran.gardnersmith@stthomasmcleanva.org
The Rev. William Drosos, <i>Associate Rector</i>	513-638-8800 – will.drosos@stthomasmcleanva.org
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Becky Ventorini	Alternate Delegate	beckyventorini@gmail.com	202-390-4412

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Mary Cyrus	Accountant	accountant@stthomasmcleanva.org	703-442-0330
Nicole Warga	Cribbery Caregiver	ncwarga00@hotmail.com	703-476-9476

The Skinny at St. Thomas December 24th and 25th, 2024



More information about many of these events can be found on the Announcements page on our website. Scan the QR code to see them.

Christmas Lessons and Carols at St. Thomas

Please join us on Sunday at 10am for our annual Christmas Lessons and Carols Service.

ECW Treats and Treasures Sale Success!

Thank you, St. Thomas, for an amazing Treats and Treasures Sale. Our total sales profit is \$3442.45, surpassing that of last year! Included in our proceeds was a \$250 donation from Shakespeare Opera Theatre and donations to purchase Treats that were delivered to First Responders. Remaining items were packed up and delivered to two local charities. With the money earned, the ECW provides financial support to a variety of local, national and international charities. Thank you to the core group of ECW volunteers who spent many hours sorting, pricing, setting up, monitoring sales, cashiering, and packing up and delivering remaining items to local charities!!!! And thanks to everyone at St Thomas for supporting the Treats and Treasures Sale through your donations and purchases.

Volunteer to Support Fairfax Diapers Thursday, January 7th at 10:00 am.

First Thursday of every month. The task is simply repackaging diapers from bulk quantities to household-size bundles to be distributed to needy families. Contact Anne Spear by email at amspear@yahoo.com or by phone at (703) 915-4300 to sign up. The address will only be given to volunteers.

Women Gathering Zoom Meetup (the 2nd Thursday of each month) January 9th at 4:30 pm

Join us as Rev. Fran leads a discussion of *Inspired: Slaying Giants, Walking on Water, and Loving the Bible Again* by Rachel Held Evans.

You can prepare by reading:

- Chapters 4, 5, and the prefaces

The book is available on AMAZON in paperback, e-book, and audiobook.

For more details, contact

Betsy ehelman2003@yahoo.com

Audrey at audreyjadair@gmail.com for the ZOOM link

Reminder to Check in on Your 2024 Pledge

With Christmas here and the end of the year approaching, if you plan to make year-end payments against your 2024 pledge, make arrangements now. Donations should be received or postmarked by December 31st.

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Board Game Night is Back!

Saturday, January 11 at 7pm in Hudson Hall

Bring Friends. Bring your favorite games! Games for all ages: Strategy games. Games that make you laugh. Word games. (Even games for people who don't like board games) Please bring snacks and drinks to share.

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Coffee Hour Hosts needed Jan / Feb 2025

Coffee hour sign-ups is available via a link to SignUpGenius or by using the QR code, both of which are below. Under our new format, we would like hosts to limit their food offerings to 2-3 items, to include fresh fruit or raw veggies. Also, for those of you who are not comfortable making the coffee, you can ask for someone else to make the coffee. (Just answer yes or no on the sign up). Thank you for continuing this tradition of Fellowship at St. Thomas! If you have any questions or need help signing up, please contact me directly.

Becky Ventorini, Fellowship Hour Coordinator

beckyventorini@gmail.com

Home (703) 288-3166 / Cell: (202) 390-4412

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0B4EAAAC2CA64-52775851-stthomas>



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Ladies Lunch Bunch

3rd Monday, January 20th at 11:15 am

Silver Diner

11951 Killingsworth AV, Reston

<https://www.silverdiner.com/reston>

Want details?

Text Tricia (571) 244-3142

Or Audrey at (813)956-7550

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This Week

Thursday December 26th

OFFICE CLOSED

Friday December 27th

11 am – Mclean Islamic Center Worship

Sunday December 29th

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Christmas Lessons and Carols

Monday December 30th

12 noon – Noonday Prayer

Tuesday December 31st

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday January 1st

OFFICE CLOSED

Thursday January 2nd

12 noon – Noonday Prayer

Friday January 3rd

11 am – Mclean Islamic Center Worship

Sunday January 5th

8:45 am – Choir Rehearsal

10 am – Worship