

“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more,  
neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,  
for the former things have passed away.”

*Revelation 21:4*



**THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI TAPESTRY**

*William Morris and Co., England, Surrey (Merton Abbey)*

*Wool, handwoven | 255cm x 379cm | late 19th century*

*The Church of the Resurrection's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols*

**THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT | DECEMBER 15, 2013**

*Welcome To*  
**The CHURCH Of The RESURRECTION**

*To all who are spiritually weary and desire rest,  
To all who are mourning and long for comfort,  
To all who struggle and desire victory;  
To all who sin and need a Savior,  
To all who are strangers and want a home;  
To all who are hungry and thirst for righteousness;  
And to whoever will come,  
This church opens her doors  
And offers welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols tells the story of Christmas through a series of readings from the Bible. It begins in Genesis with **Creation**, the **Fall of Humanity**, and the earliest promises of **Redemption** through **Jesus the Messiah**. It continues highlighting the hopes of the Old Testament prophets until the birth of Christ, as told by the Gospels. Finally, it concludes with a vision of the **Consummation** of all things from the very end of the Bible. As the name of the service implies, every reading is followed by a response in the form of a carol or hymn.

Lessons and Carols is a relative newcomer to Christian worship, as it was developed in the late 19th century England as a holy alternative to carousing in the pubs on Christmas Eve. Since then, it has become a beloved Anglican tradition and a beautiful way of remembering what Christmas is all about.

# GATHERING IN THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD

*Please Gather in Silence*

## PRELUDE

### WELCOME & OPENING SENTENCES

*Please Stand*

Arise, shine, for your light has come,  
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the Lord will arise upon you,  
and his glory will be seen upon you.

The sun shall be no more your light by day,  
nor for brightness shall the moon give you light;  
but the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your God will be your glory.

Your sun shall no more go down,  
nor your moon withdraw itself;  
for the Lord will be your everlasting light,  
and your days of mourning shall be ended. Isaiah 60:1-2, 19-20

## OPENING HYMN

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

## A PRAYER FOR ADVENT

Leader The Lord be with you!

People **And also with you!**

Leader Let us pray:

**Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Please Be Seated*

# The Lessons & Carols

*Please Stand To Sing & Be Seated For Each Reading*

## THE BIDDING

Dear Friends, at this Christmastide let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and with the shepherds and the wise men adore the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought to us and all creation by this Holy Child, and in company with the Church universal and the heavenly Host let us make this city glad with our carols of praise.

But first, as we await the consummation of God's Kingdom, let us pray for the needs of the whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for our President, Barack Obama, our Mayor, Vincent Gray, and for all those who govern or work for justice around us.

And at this time let us remember in Jesus' name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who do not know the lovingkindness of the Lord. Let us also remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which none can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh: and let us pray that we may be counted among that communion of saints, receiving grace to offer unto God reasonable service, living in unity and fellowship with all his people, and giving reverence to all that he has made.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself taught us:

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

**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.**

## THE FIRST LESSON

Genesis 1:1, 27-28, 31a; 2:15-17; 3:1-15, 21, 23-24

*The story of Christmas begins at the dawn of time. God created the world and commissioned men and women to be his stewards over it. But they turned away from him and chose to obey the serpent instead. Because of their rebellion, God cast them out of the Garden of Eden. Yet in his mercy, he gave them a sacred promise—one day their descendent would have victory over the serpent.*

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.  
God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.

And God blessed them. And God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good.

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The Lord God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

The Lord God made for the man and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them. Then he sent [them] out, ... and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a flaming sword that turned every way to guard the way to the tree of life.

## THE FIRST CAROL

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel\**

*\*Emmanuel means “God With Us”*

## THE SECOND LESSON

Genesis 12:1-4a, 11:29-30; 17:1, 16-17; 21:1-3; 22:1-18

*When humanity fell, God promised a future Messiah, who would have victory over the serpent. God chose Abraham and wife, Sarah, to become the parents of a family, through whom the Messiah would someday come. But they were already far too old to have children. It would take a miracle for them to have a baby. But God gave them a son. After Isaac’s birth, God took Abraham and his son to a hill outside Jerusalem, and showed them a picture of how the Messiah would someday give us victory o’er the grave.*

Now the Lord said to Abraham, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abraham went, as the Lord had told him.

The name of Abraham's wife was Sarah, ... [and she] was barren; she had no child. When Abraham was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to [him] and said, “I will bless Sarah, and moreover, I will give you a son by her.” Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said to himself, “Shall a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Shall Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?”

The Lord visited Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did to Sarah as he had promised. And Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age at the time of which God had spoken to him. And Abraham called the name of his son, Isaac, which means “He laughs.” Some years later God tested Abraham and said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. Then Abraham said to his young men, “Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you.” And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. And Isaac

said to his father Abraham, “My father!” And he said, “Here I am, my son.” He said, “Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?” Abraham said, “God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son.” So they went both of them together.

When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called the name of that place, “The Lord will provide”; as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven and said, “By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.”

## THE SECOND CAROL

*How Shall I Fitly Meet Thee*

## THE THIRD LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Abraham’s descendants became the people of Israel. Under Moses, God rescued them from slavery in Egypt. He commissioned them to become a Kingdom of Priests—God’s ambassadors to all the world. But after they entered the Promised Land, they forgot their mission, and began to worship the false gods of the other nations. Spiritually, a deep darkness had fallen over them. But seven hundred years before the first Christmas, the prophet Isaiah foretold the birth and kingdom of Jesus the Messiah with these words:*

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;  
those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.  
You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,  
as they are glad when they divide the spoil.  
For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder,  
the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.  
For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult  
and every garment rolled in blood  
will be burned as fuel for the fire.  
For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;

and the government shall be upon his shoulder,  
and his name shall be called  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,  
on the throne of David and over his kingdom,  
to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness  
from this time forth and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## THE THIRD CAROL

*Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus*

## THE FOURTH LESSON

Isaiah 11:1-9

*Israel's favorite King was David, the shepherd son of Jesse of Bethlehem. Isaiah foretold how a future descendant of Jesse would come as a wise and righteous ruler, not only for Israel, but for all the world. Isaiah foresaw that all creation would someday enjoy peace, justice and righteousness through the Advent of Jesus the Messiah.*

There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.  
And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,  
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the Spirit of counsel and might,  
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.  
And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.  
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt of his loins.  
The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,  
and the leopard shall lie down with the young goat,  
and the calf and the lion and the fattened calf 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 cobra,  
and the weaned child shall put his hand on the adder's den.

They shall not hurt or destroy  
in all my holy mountain;  
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord  
as the waters cover the sea.

## THE FOURTH CAROL

*Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming*

## THE FIFTH LESSON

Luke 1:26-38, 46-55

*For centuries, a remnant of believers watched and waited for the Messiah, while the whole creation groaned. Other prophets came, providing further glimpses of the hope that was to come. But then there was silence. For four hundred years, as the land of Israel was traded from Babylon, to Persia, to Greece, and finally to Rome, no one heard another prophetic word... until one day, in a village in northern Israel, an angel appeared to a young Jewish girl.*

The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name 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 father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

And the angel answered 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 called holy—the Son of God. And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

And Mary said,

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,  
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.

For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;  
for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.  
And 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 mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;

he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."

## THE FIFTH CAROL

*Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*

## THE SIXTH LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

*The prophet Micah foretold that the Messiah would be born in Bethlehem. But Mary and her fiancé Joseph lived to the north in Nazareth. Yet God knew that Caesar Augustus would burden his Israelite subjects with a census, requiring each household to return to their ancestral city to be counted. And so Jesus the Messiah was born in the City of David, his first throne a feeding trough.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

## THE SIXTH CAROL

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

## THE SEVENTH LESSON

Luke 2:8-20

*Before ascending to the throne, King David was a shepherd, and so he became known as Israel's Shepherd King. Years later, when Israel had fallen into the darkness of unbelief, the prophets decried Israel's corrupt leaders for leading the people astray. They promised that the Messiah, the future Son of David, would be a good shepherd to his people. And so, the first who pay homage to Jesus are the humble shepherds from the City of David.*

In the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## THE SEVENTH CAROL

*Angels From The Realms Of Glory*

## THE EIGHTH LESSON

Matthew 2:1-11

*After the Jewish shepherds worshiped Jesus, Gentile sages traveled from the east. They brought luxurious treasures for the newborn King, and went first to King Herod. Of all people, Herod should have known about Jesus' birth. But the wise men knew more than he. So they journeyed on to Bethlehem by starlight, to find the promised King through whom all nations of the earth would be blessed.*

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him." After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshiped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.

## THE EIGHTH CAROL

*What Child Is This?*

HOMILY "*An Unexpected Savior*"

Dan Claire

## SILENT MEDITATION

## PRAYER OF RESPONSE

**Almighty and eternal God, so draw my heart to you, so guide my mind, so fill my imagination, so control my will, that I may belong wholly to you, and be utterly dedicated to you; then use me, I pray, as you see fit, and always for your glory and the good of your people; through Jesus Christ, who was crucified in my place and raised by you to eternal life. Amen.**

## GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Announcements May Be Found In The Back Of This Bulletin.*

## THE OFFERING

This service is not a fundraising drive; if you are a visitor to the church, you should feel no obligation to make a financial contribution. The weekly collection is the way in which the people of our church provide financial support for our ongoing ministries. The offering is included in the worship service because we believe that sacrificial giving is an important way that we worship God.

*Before the offering:*

Leader Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

*Psalm 96:8*

## THE OFFERTORY

### THE NINTH LESSON

Revelation 21: 1-5; 22:1-7

*At the very end of the Bible, the Apostle John foresees the consummation of all things, when all God's promises through the prophets will be completed, and when, through Jesus, God will put an end to violence and grief and death.*

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away." And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

And he said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. And the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, has sent his angel to show his servants what must soon take place."

### THE NINTH CAROL

*Joy To The World*

## THE BENEDICTION

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one person things both earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

## THE DISMISSAL

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

*Please Join Us For A Reception Immediately Following The Service*

*Merry Christmas!*

# RESURRECTION *Parish News & Events*

**CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES** We will be holding two Christmas Eve services this year—a 5pm family-friendly Evening Prayer service (no communion) and a candlelit Midnight Christmas Eucharistic Service at 11pm. There will not be childcare at either service, but the nursery will be available for parents.

**TONIGHT'S HOMILY** can be found online at <http://rezchurch.org/resources-2/sermons>, along with each weekly sermon. There is also an option to subscribe to sermons via podcasts, and instructions for that may be found at the above link.

**ADVENT SEASONAL OFFERING FOR THE PORCH** The Porch is an inter-church holistic ministry dedicated to presenting the love of Christ to marginalized youth living in or near Capitol Hill. The Porch is funded by the generosity of individuals and area churches. During the Advent season, please consider giving to the Porch in addition to your normal tithes and offerings to Rez. If you give by check, simply write "Porch" in the memo line of a check payable to the Church of the Resurrection. If you are interested in volunteering for The Porch, email Christina Fowler, [theporch@carecompanydc.org](mailto:theporch@carecompanydc.org).

**UP MEETING, SUNDAY JANUARY 5** The next Up Meeting—a congregational, town-hall style meeting—will be Sunday, Jan. 5 immediately following the service and ending no later than 8pm. Come find out what's happening in the life of our church, how to get involved in RezGroups, as January is our next "open season" for joining one, and hear testimonies. Childcare will be provided. Please bring \$5 to contribute towards a pizza dinner.

**CHRISTIAN BAPTISM** Do you want to have your child baptized, or are you a Christian adult who has never been baptized? The next baptism will take place on **Sunday, January 12**. If interested, you will need to attend an informational meeting and discussion with Associate Rector Matthew Mason the evening of **Friday, Jan. 3**. For more information or to RSVP for the meeting, contact Parish Administrator; Christina Rogers [crogers@rezchurch.org](mailto:crogers@rezchurch.org).

**NEW TO REZ?** There are several ways to learn more about our church and to get involved:

- **NEWCOMERS' DINNER, SATURDAY JANUARY 11** Each month we offer a dinner for newcomers at the home of Dan and Elise Claire. The next one will be Saturday, January 11 at 6:30pm. To RSVP, email Meredith [mereschu@gmail.com](mailto:mereschu@gmail.com).
- **REZ ESSENTIALS, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 24-25** Rez Essentials explores the DNA of our church: gospel, worship, discipleship, community, and mission. It's open to anyone who wants to find out more about our beliefs and practices, and is a requirement if you want to become a church member. Our next Essentials course will be held at Christ our Shepherd, Fri, Jan. 24 at 7:30-9:30pm, and Sat, Jan. 25 from 10am-1:30pm.. To sign up contact Christina Rogers [crogers@rezchurch.org](mailto:crogers@rezchurch.org).
- **CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED** is a six week course which will be running again beginning in February on Sunday afternoons, 3pm-4:30pm at Christ our Shepherd Church. It's an accessible way to explore the life and claims of Jesus Christ, to ask any questions you have about Christianity, and to share your own thoughts and ideas. Each week there will be snacks, a DVD presentation, and plenty of time for discussion. For more information contact Beth Anderson [elanderson262@gmail.com](mailto:elanderson262@gmail.com).

**THE ADVENT WREATH** has been displayed throughout the Advent season. Five candles, three purple, one pink, and one white, are lit each week, each representing an aspect of the spiritual preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. The pink candle will be lit for the first time this week and it is the shepherd's candle, or the candle of joy.

CALL 202.573.8586 TO REACH ONE OF OUR PASTORS,  
OR 301.241.4013 TO REACH THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY.

