A SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS



THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT November 30, 2025 5:30 P.M.

The seven "Great 'O' Antiphons" which provide the framework for this liturgy were originally sung as a part of the daily evening prayers of the Western church before and after the Magnificat, in the Octave before Christmas—December 17 to 23—with one antiphon being appointed for each evening. Each of the seven antiphons addresses the Messiah by one of his titles, using images drawn from the prophetic books of the Hebrew Bible, and concludes with a petition beginning "Come!" and relating to the title.

The antiphons date back at least to the reign of Charlemagne (771–814), and they may be significantly older. At least two—and up to five—additional antiphons were later added to the original seven. However, it is clear that these seven were designed as a group, since their initial letters (ignoring the "O") spell out, in reverse, the acrostic *ero cras*, that is, "I shall be [with you] tomorrow."

By the later Middle Ages, the antiphons were sometimes put together to form the verses of a single hymn, with the addition of a refrain. The earliest known metrical and rhymed paraphrase of the antiphons appeared (in Latin) in the early 18th century, but it was not until 1851—over one thousand years after the creation of the antiphons themselves—that an English translation of that text was paired with an unrelated 15th-century tune, creating the hymn we know today as O come, O come, Emmanuel. Tonight each antiphon will be sung to plainsong, with the title of each sung in the original Latin, followed by the English translation.





This service of Advent Lessons and Carols was made possible by generous contributors to the Friends of Music. To contribute or to become a Friend of Music, please scan this QR code or visit christandstlukes.org/give

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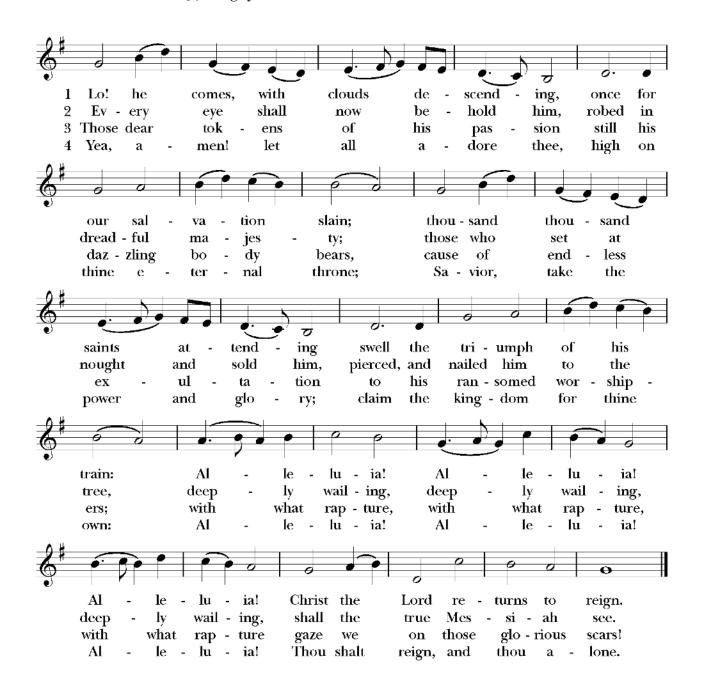
PRELUDE Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland, BWV 659

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Please stand at the ringing of the bell.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 57 (sung by all)

HELMSLEY



BIDDING PRAYER

Officiant Beloved in Christ, the season of Advent bids us prepare ourselves both for the celebration of Christ's nativity and also for the Day when he shall come to judge the hearts of us all. So, in sorrow and penitence, let us confess our failures and shortcomings, and renew in ourselves the vision of God's perfect kingdom, which is the end of all our strivings and the consummation of God's loving purposes for us.

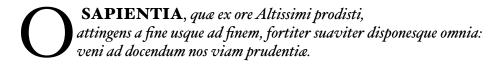
In word and music we will give voice to the hope set forth in the scriptures, that God's kingdom will come; and we will prepare for its coming, celebrating its dawning in the birth, life, and death of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

But first let us pray for those who, by reason of their adversity, yearn especially for its coming: the hungry and the homeless, the sick and the sorrowful, the lonely and the unloved; those who sit in the darkness of despair or who walk in the shadow of death. Let us pray for the leaders of the nations and for all who strive for the establishment of justice, righteousness and peace; and, that it may bear witness to this hope in a world divided by wrath and sorrow, let us pray for the well-being and unity of Christ's body, the Church.

Let us then pray for the coming of God's kingdom, in the words of our Lord Jesus Christ:

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.

May the Lord when he comes find us watching and waiting. Amen.



O WISDOM, coming forth from the Most High, filling all creation and reigning to the ends of the earth; come and teach us the way of truth.

FIRST LESSON 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.

ANTHEM: Ave Maria

Ave Maria, gratia plena Dominus tecum; Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus. Sancta Maria, Mater Dei,

ora pro nobis peccatoribus, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.

Amen.

Robert Parsons (c.1535–1572)

Hail Mary, full of grace,
The Lord is with thee;
Blessed art thou amongst women,
And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, Mother of God,
Pray for us sinners,
Now and at the hour of our death.
Amen.

COLLECT

Let us pray. (please stand)

O Wisdom from on High, as you came forth at the beginning of creation and generated a world of beauty and goodness and as your Word spoken to Mary became flesh in Jesus Christ: speak to us now that we might be filled with your truth and your love and bring joy to the world; through the One whom we know as the Wisdom of the Ages, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

ADONAI, et Dux domus Israel, qui Moysi in igne flammæ rubi apparuisti, et ei in Sina legem dedisti: veni ad redimendum nos in brachio extento.

O LORD OF LORDS, and ruler of the House of Israel, you appeared to Moses in the fire of the burning bush, and gave him the law on Sinai: come with your outstretched arm and ransom us.

SECOND LESSON

Ezekiel 20:33-36, 40-41

The prophet proclaims that God will restore Israel

As I live, says the Lord God, surely with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out, I will be king over you. I will bring you out from the peoples and gather you out of the countries where you are scattered, with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, and with wrath poured out; and I will bring you into the wilderness of the peoples, and there I will enter into judgment with you face to face. As I entered into judgment with your ancestors in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so I will enter into judgment with you, says the Lord God.

For on my holy mountain, the mountain height of Israel, says the Lord God, there all the house of Israel, all of them, shall serve me in the land; there I will accept them, and there I will require your contributions and the choicest of your gifts, with all your sacred things. As a pleasing odor I will accept you, when I bring you out from the peoples, and gather you out of the countries where you have been scattered; and I will manifest my holiness among you in the sight of the nations.

ANTHEM: Creator of the stars of night Creator of the stars of night, Thy people's everlasting light, O Jesu, Savior of us all, Regard thy servants when they call.

Thou, grieving at the bitter cry
Of all creation doomed to die,
Didst come to save a ruined race
With healing gifts of heav'nly grace.

Thou camest, Bridegroom of the bride, As drew the world to evening-tide; Proceeding from a virgin shrine, The Son of Man, yet Lord divine. Mode iv melody, arr. John Scott (1956-2015)
At thy great name, majestic now,
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow;
And things in heaven and earth shall own,
That thou art Lord and King alone.

To thee, O holy One, we pray. Our judge in that tremendous day, Preserve us, while we dwell below, From every onslaught of the foe.

All praise, eternal Son, to thee,
Whose advent sets thy people free,
Whom with the Father we adore,
And Spirit blest, for evermore. Amen.
-7th century Hymn, trans. J. M. Neale

COLLECT

Let us pray. (please stand)

O Adonai, our Lord and everlasting light, stretch forth your arm and with great might ransom us from all that binds us to sin and alienates us from you, through the One whom we know as redeemer of us all, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

RADIXJESSE, qui stas in signum populorum, super quem continebunt reges os suum, quem gentes deprecabuntur: veni ad liberandum nos, iam noli tardare.

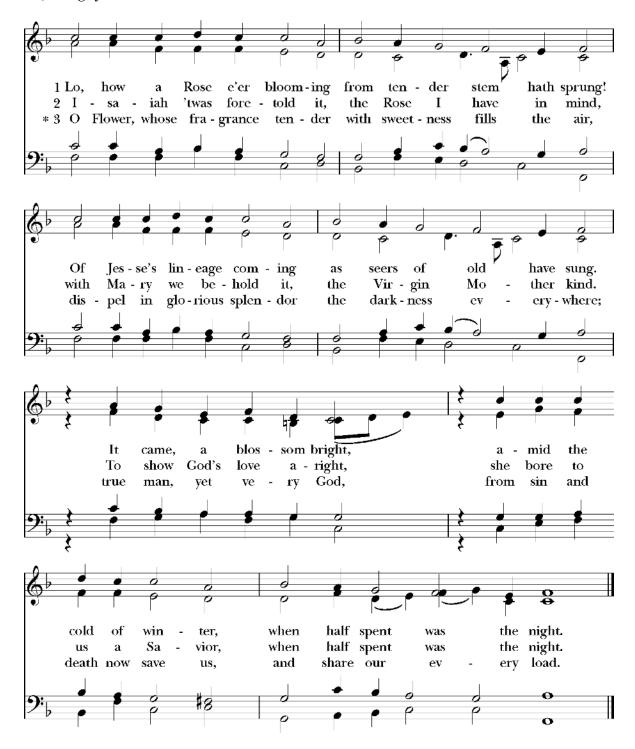
O ROOT OF JESSE, standing as a sign among the nations; kings will keep silence before you for whom the nations long; come and save us and delay no longer.

THIRD LESSON Isaiah 11:1-10

The Peaceable Kingdom

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. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; 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 around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. 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. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Please stand.



COLLECT

Let us pray. (please stand)

O Root of Jesse, you reach deep into our hearts, drawing forth our longing for peace: Come and plant within us a passion for your peaceable Kingdom; through the One whom we know as the root of all righteousness, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

CLAVIS DAVID, et sceptrum domus Israel, qui aperis, et nemo claudit, claudis et nemo aperit: veni, et educ vinctum de domo carceris, sedentem in tenebris, et umbra mortis.

O KEY OF DAVID, and scepter of the house of Israel, you open and none can shut; you shut and none can open: come and free the captives from prison, and break down the walls of death.

FOURTH LESSON John 1:6-8, 19-23

John the Baptist proclaims the One who is to come

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. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said.

ANTHEM Orlando Gibbons (1583-1625)

This is the record of John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, Who art thou? And he confessed and denied not, and said plainly, I am not the Christ.

And they asked him, What art thou then? Art thou Elias? And he said, I am not.

Art thou the prophet? And he answered, No.

Then said they unto him, What art thou? that we may give an answer unto them that sent us.

What sayest thou of thyself?

And he said, I am the voice of him that crieth in the wilderness,

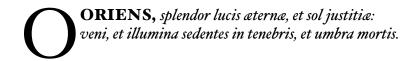
Make straight the way of the Lord.

-John 1:19-23

COLLECT

Let us pray. (please stand)

O Key of David, who opens that which is closed; come and open our hearts that we may prepare, with John, to face your future's promise with boldness and purpose; through the One whom we know as the liberator and leader of us all, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



O MORNING STAR, splendor of Light Eternal and bright Sun of Righteousness: come and bring light to those who dwell in darkness and walk in the shadow of death.

FIFTH LESSON Isaiah 9:2-7

The Righteous Reign of the Coming King

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

ANTHEM James Macmillan (b. 1959)

O radiant Dawn, Splendour of eternal Light, Sun of Justice: come, shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Isaiah had prophesied, The people who walked in darkness have seen the great light upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone. Amen.

COLLECT

Let us pray. (please stand)

O Morning Star, you chase away the shadows of the night: Come and enlighten our darkness with visions of justice, that we who are alienated one from another may seek fullness of life together; through the One whom we know as the Light of the world, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

REX GENTIUM, et desideratus earum, lapisque angularis, qui facis utraque unum: veni, et salva hominem, quem de limo formasti.

O KING OF THE NATIONS, you alone can fulfill their desires: cornerstone, binding all together: come and save the creature you fashioned from the dust of the earth.

SIXTH LESSON Isaiah 33

A Prophecy of Deliverance

LORD, be gracious to us; we wait for you. Be our arm every morning, our salvation in the time of trouble. At the sound of tumult, peoples fled; before your majesty, nations scattered. Spoil was gathered as the caterpillar gathers; as locusts leap, they leapt upon it. The Lord is exalted, he dwells on high; he filled Zion with justice and righteousness; he will be the stability of your times, abundance of salvation, wisdom, and knowledge; the fear of the Lord is Zion's treasure. Your eyes will see the king in his beauty; they will behold a land that stretches far away. Look on Zion, the city of our appointed festivals! Your eyes will see Jerusalem, a quiet habitation, an immovable tent, whose stakes will never be pulled up, and none of whose ropes will be broken. But there the Lord in majesty will be for us a place of broad rivers and streams, where no galley with oars can go, nor stately ship can pass. For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our ruler, the Lord is our king; he will save us.

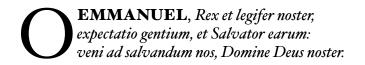
Please stand.



COLLECT

Let us pray. (please stand)

O King of the Nations, you defend the cause of the poor and raise up the oppressed of the earth: Come and weave your creatures into a community where all are valued and the vulnerable are protected; through the One whom we know as the King of kings, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



O EMMANUEL, our King and Lawgiver, Hope of the nations and their savior: Come and save us, O Lord our God.

SEVENTH LESSON Revelation 21, 22

The Seer sees the New Jerusalem and hears the Church's plea for her Lord's return

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, the 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, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

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. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.

"See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." And let everyone who hears say, "Come." And let everyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift. The one who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

ANTHEM: E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come

Peace be to you and grace from him Who freed us from our sins, Who loved us all and shed his blood That we might saved be.

Sing holy, holy to our Lord, The Lord, Almighty God, Who was and is and is to come; Sing holy, holy, Lord! Paul Manz (1919-2009)

Rejoice in heaven, all ye that dwell therein, Rejoice on earth, ye saints below, For Christ is coming, is coming soon, For Christ is coming soon!

E'en so, Lord Jesus, quickly come,
And night shall be no more;
They need no light nor lamp nor sun,
For Christ will be their All!
-Revelation 22, adapted by Ruth Manz

COLLECT

Let us pray. (please stand)

O Emmanuel, God with us, you dwell beyond our farthest reach, yet are nearer to us than we to ourselves: Come among us in these days of Advent expectation, that we may give birth to what is true, just, beautiful, and good; for you are the One whom we know as Savior, and with the Creator and the Holy Spirit, you abide with us, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE ADVENT 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. **Amen.**

May he whose second Coming in power and great glory we await, make you steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and constant in love. **Amen.**

May you, who rejoice in the first Advent of our Redeemer, at his second Advent be rewarded with unending life. **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**.

CLOSING HYMN 56 (sung by all)

Veni Emmanuel

COME, O come, Emmanuel, And ransom captive Israel, That mourns in lonely exile here Until the Son of God appear.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

2. O come, Thou Wisdom from on high, Who orderest all things mightily; To us the path of knowledge show, And teach us in her ways to go. *Refrain*

Low Voices:

3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, Who to Thy tribes on Sinai's height In ancient times didst give the law In cloud and majesty and awe. *All: Refrain*

High Voices:

4. O come, Thou Rod of Jesse, free Thine own from Satan's tyranny; From depths of hell Thy people save, And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. *All: Refrain*

Low Voices:

5. O come, Thou Key of David, come, And open wide our heavenly home; Make safe the way that leads on high, And close the path to misery.

All: Refrain

High Voices:

6. O come, Thou Dayspring from on high, And cheer us by thy drawing nigh; Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight. *All: Refrain*

All:

7. O come, Desire of nations, bind In one the hearts of all mankind; Bid Thou our sad divisions cease, And be Thyself our King of Peace. *Refrain*

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata on "Veni Emmanuel"

Andrew Carter (b. 1939)

The Congregation remains standing until the procession has passed, then may be seated.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS

The Reverend Noah Van Niel, Officiant
The Choir of Christ and St. Luke's Church
Kevin Kwan, Organist & Director of Music
Marjorie Setnicky, Associate Organist

Tim Holt, Sound Engineer

Readers:

The Reverend Vince Connery Assisting Priest, Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Charles Cowen Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Anne Zobel Clergy-in-Charge, Episcopal Church of the Epiphany

The Reverend Dr. Timothy Fulop Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Keith Josey

Director, Mission of the Holy Spirit at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Reverend Canon Carla McCook Canon to the Ordinary, Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia

The Reverend Jared Grant Associate Rector, Christ & St. Luke's Episcopal Church

This year we are pleased to welcome as our guest readers some of the leaders of The Episcopal Church here in Norfolk with whom we are blessed to work closely as siblings in Christ. We give great thanks for them and their ministries and are grateful to have them here as a part of our service.



CHRIST AND ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

Sing We Nowell! with The Virginia Chorale - Sunday, December 7, 4:00 p.m.

Welcome the holidays with the Virginia Chorale as we celebrate four beloved composers with milestone birthdays in 2025: Arvo Pärt (90), John Rutter (80), Bob Chilcott (70), and Giovanni da Palestrina (500). The magic and mystery of the season will resound in songs and carols and by these esteemed composers and the Virginia Chorale. Tickets at vachorale.org or at the door.

VOCES8 - Tuesday, December 16, 7:30pm

Hear one of the finest chamber choirs in the world sing glorious music for the season, presented by the Virginia Arts Festival. Very limited tickets remaining at vafest.org.

Christmas Service Schedule

Wednesday, December 24

4:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant and Family Eucharist

9:30 p.m. Carol Prelude featuring flutist Debra Wendells Cross and

harpist Barbara Chapman

10:00 p.m. Festal Eucharist with brass quintet

Thursday, December 25

10:15 a.m. Christmas Day Service with carols

Sunday, December 28

8:00 & 10:15 a.m. A service of Christmas Lessons and Carols with Holy Eucharist

2026 SEASON HIGHLIGHTS

Daniel Stipe plays Olivier Messiaen's *La Nativité du Seigneur* Orchestral Eucharist – Haydn's Missa braves St. Joannis de Deo Epiphany Service of Light Treblefest Chorister Evensong

Midday Music featuring Bach Cantata 82 with bass John Irving The Allen Shaffer Concert: The British are Coming! Friday, January 16, 12:00 p.m. Sunday, January 25, 10:15 a.m. Sunday, February 1, 5:30 p.m. Sunday, February 15, 5:00 p.m. Friday, February 27, 12:00 p.m. Sunday, March 1, 4:00 p.m.

