



Christmas Day

December 25, 2020
10:30 AM

Join us for our livestream at
<https://www.facebook.com/stjohnssummit/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/user/StJohnsSummitNJ>



Everyone is welcome. As people of God, St. John's welcomes all regardless of age, economic status, ethnic background, gender, physical or mental ability, race or sexual orientation. We affirm that in Christ "there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28) This is Christ's church, and Christ has bid you come.

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore, Pastor

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

Donna Garzinsky, Director of Music

Carolyn Rothman, Church Administrator

Deacon Linda Walker, Minister of Children's Faith Formation

The Rev. Dr. Harry Kocotos, Visitation Pastor

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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Christmas Eve Virtual Services at 5:00 PM and 10:00 PM on [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

Christmas Day Virtual Service at 10:30 AM on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Christmas In-Person Outdoor Service will be December 26 at 5:00 PM, weather permitting. Join us around the manger (in the Memorial Garden) as we hear the Christmas story and share communion.

Christmas Lessons & Carols December 27 at 10:30 AM on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Epiphany Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 AM on [Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#).

Virtual musicians participating in this service include Johna Miller–soprano, and members of the Solid Brass Quartet: Douglas D. Haislip–trumpet, Charles Bumcrot–trumpet, Carl Della Peruti–trombone, and Hans Muhler–trombone.



Prayer Before Worship

As we gather for worship today, Father, there is excitement in the air, a song on our lips and joy in our hearts. Help us to remember why we celebrate Christmas. May the Word which was made flesh be heard in our worship. May Christ be born again in this congregation and in the life of each person here. May the love of Christmas fill the church and the peace of Christmas fill our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

From *Prayers Before Worship*

PRELUDE Setting of *Adeste fideles*

By Douglas D. Haislip (b. 20th C.)

Solid Brass Quartet

Setting of *Her kommer dine arme små*

By David Cherwien (b. 1957)

WELCOME

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph: “You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God through Jesus Christ the Savior of the world.

Gracious God, we pray for your mercy and grace. Jesus came in humility to share our lives—forgive our greed and pride. Jesus came with good news for all people—forgive our silence and negligence. Jesus came in love to a world of suffering—forgive our self-centeredness and our callousness. Forgive us our sins and renew our hope that we might become children of the light, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

I bring you good news of great joy for all the people: To you is born a Savior, Christ the Lord! I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 267 Joy to the World



1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth re -
 2 Joy to the earth, the Sav - ior reigns! Let all their
 3 No more let sin and sor - row grow nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the



ceive her king; let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his righ - teous -



room and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

APOSTOLIC GREETING

Today, Christ is born. Alleluia! Alleluia! The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

MUSIC “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Arr. Douglas D. Haislip (b. 20th C.)

Solid Brass Quartet



Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING Isaiah 52:7–10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

MUSIC “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming”

Arr. Douglas D. Haislip (b. 20th C.)

Solid Brass Quartet

SECOND READING Hebrews 1:1–4

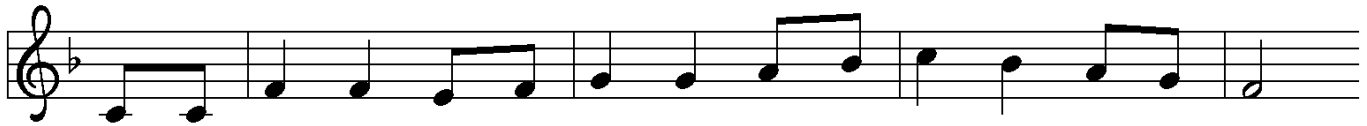
Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The reader concludes: The word of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 276 Infant Holy, Infant Lowly



1 In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
2 Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il till the morn - ing new



ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the child is Lord of all.
saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.



Swift - ly wing - ing, an - gels sing - ing, bells are ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:



Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!
Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

Text: Polish carol; tr. Edith M. G. Reed, 1885–1933, alt.
Music: W ŻŁOBIE LEŻY, Polish carol

GOSPEL John 1:1–14

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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 Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

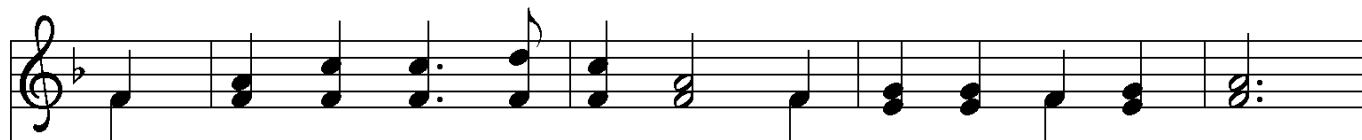
Refrain



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born;



Refrain



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.



Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925, stanzas, alt.
Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

NICENE CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith:

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord in your mercy . . . **Hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, or want information about mailing checks, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org/giving. You may also contact the church office for more options.

OFFERING SOLO “How Beautiful Are the Feet of Him” from *Messiah*

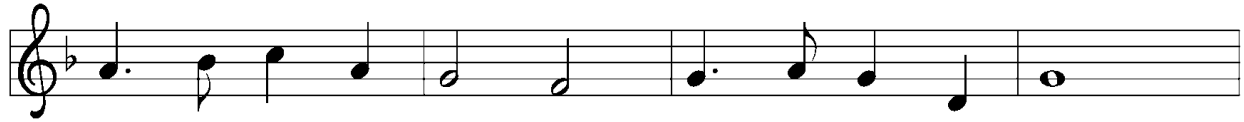
By G. F. Handel
(1685–1759)

Johna Miller, soprano

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and
bring glad tidings of good things.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 294 In the Bleak Midwinter

Verse 3



3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Let us pray. God of mystery and might, we praise and worship you, for you came in silence, while all lay sleeping, to enter our world as a child of humble birth. We thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, born of your handmaid Mary. In his face we behold your glory, for in his life, as in his death, is your gift of salvation. By your Spirit, make our hearts burn with thanksgiving, that we may give as we have received. Let our whole lives be gifts of praise to you, God of love and peace, in the gracious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 288 Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

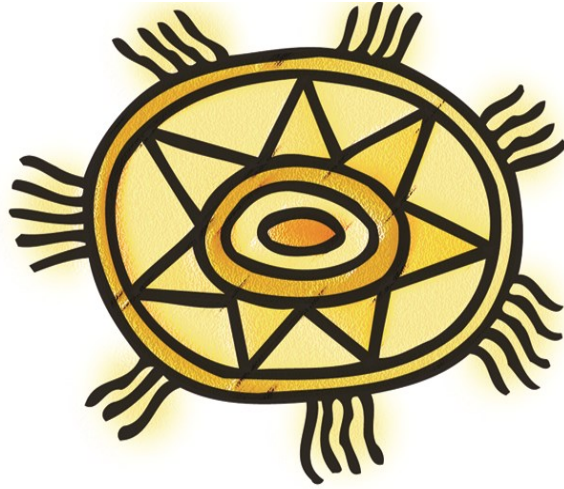
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Word is made flesh and dwells among us. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE Setting of *Gloria*

By Dale Wood (1934–2003)





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