



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020
10:00 PM



Merry Christmas!

In this season of giving, please honor your 2020 pledge. This, along with your special Christmas offering, ensures we are able to fulfill our commitments to the many people and organizations that depend upon us. If you have not submitted your pledge card for 2021, please do so now.

Virtual musicians participating in our worship this evening include the Adult Choir and guest singers, Courtney Rothman–flute, David Neiman–oboe, Pattie Gould–cello, Stephanie Rothman–trumpet, Andrew Larsen–soprano sax, 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.

Christmas Worship Schedule

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](#).

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

PRELUDE Setting of "It Came Upon a Midnight Clear"
Solid Brass Quartet
Setting of *Quelle est cette odeur agréable?*

By R.S. Willis (b. 20th C.)

By Dale Wood (1934–2003)

WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!

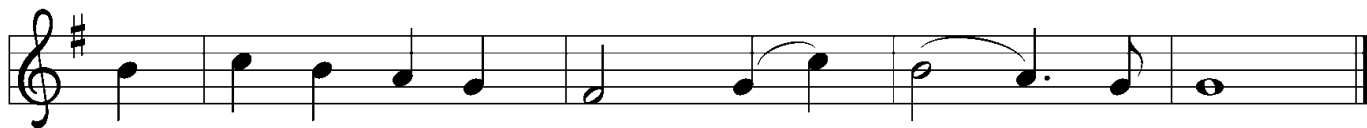


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Refrain



Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

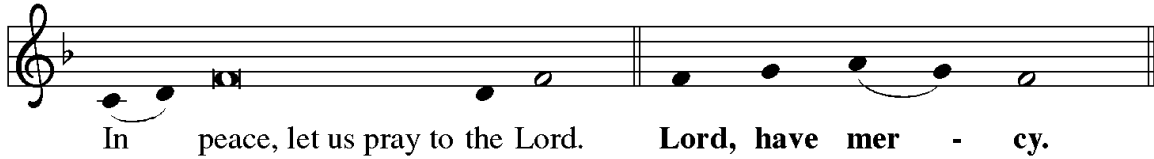


ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

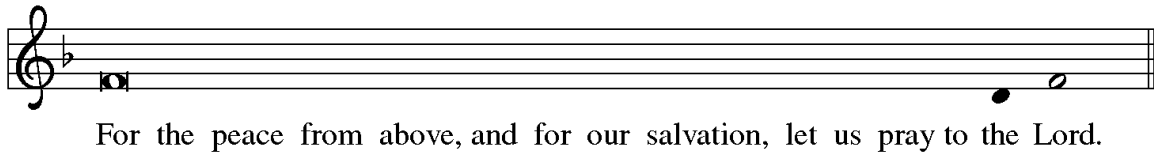
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

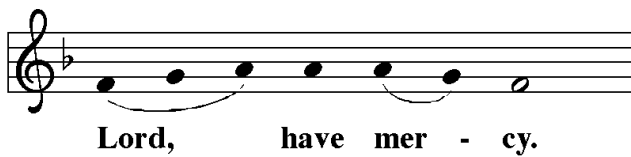
KYRIE



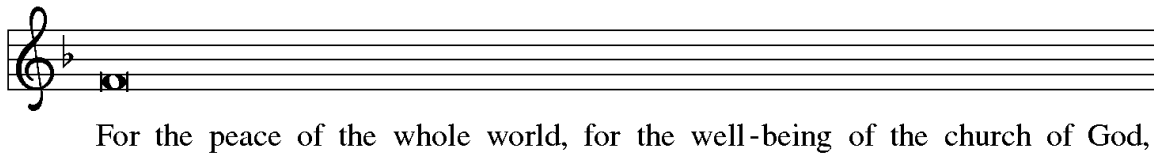
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



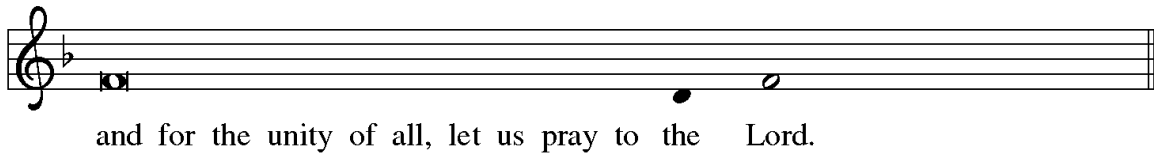
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



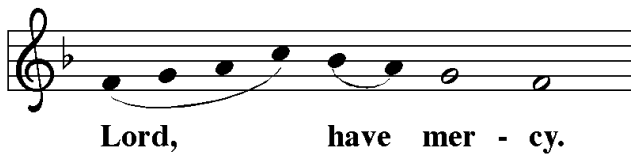
Lord, have mer - cy.



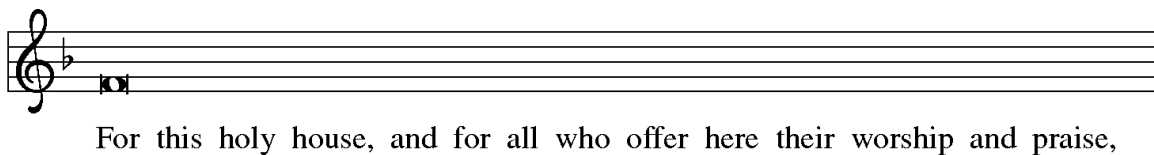
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



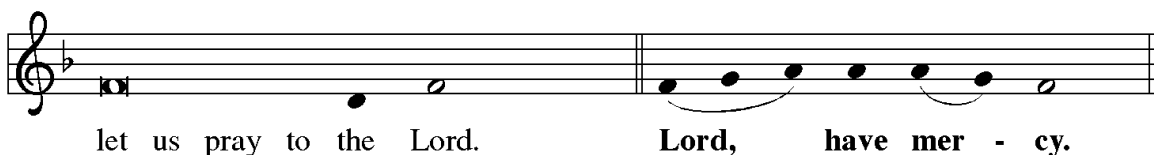
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



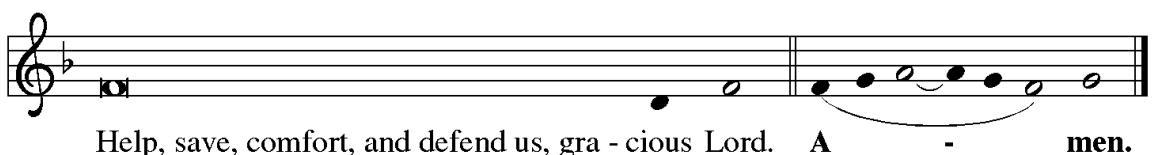
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

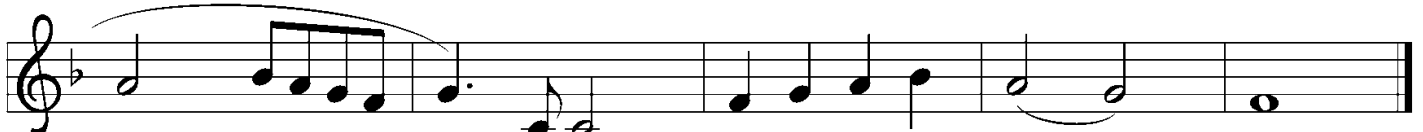
Refrain



Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



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

Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864
Music: GLORIA, French carol

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

MUSIC Setting of "The First Noel"

By G.E. Holmes (b. 20th C.)

Solid Brass Quartet



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.

Isaiah 9:2

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2–7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

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

SOLO “Sing Lullaby”

By Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

Johna Miller, soprano

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now reclining, Sing lullaby!
Hush! Do not wake the Infant King!
Angels are watching, stars are shining over the place where he is lying;
Sing lullaby! Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby baby, now a-sleeping, Sing lullaby!
Hush! Do not wake the Infant King!
Soon will come sorrow with the morning; Soon will come bitter grief and weeping;
Sing lullaby! Sing lullaby!

Sing lullaby! Lullaby, is the babe awaking? Sing lullaby!
Hush! Do not wake the Infant King!
Dreaming of Easter, gladsome morning, conquering death, its bondage breaking;
Sing lullaby! Sing lullaby!
Sing lullaby! Sing lullaby! Lullaby!



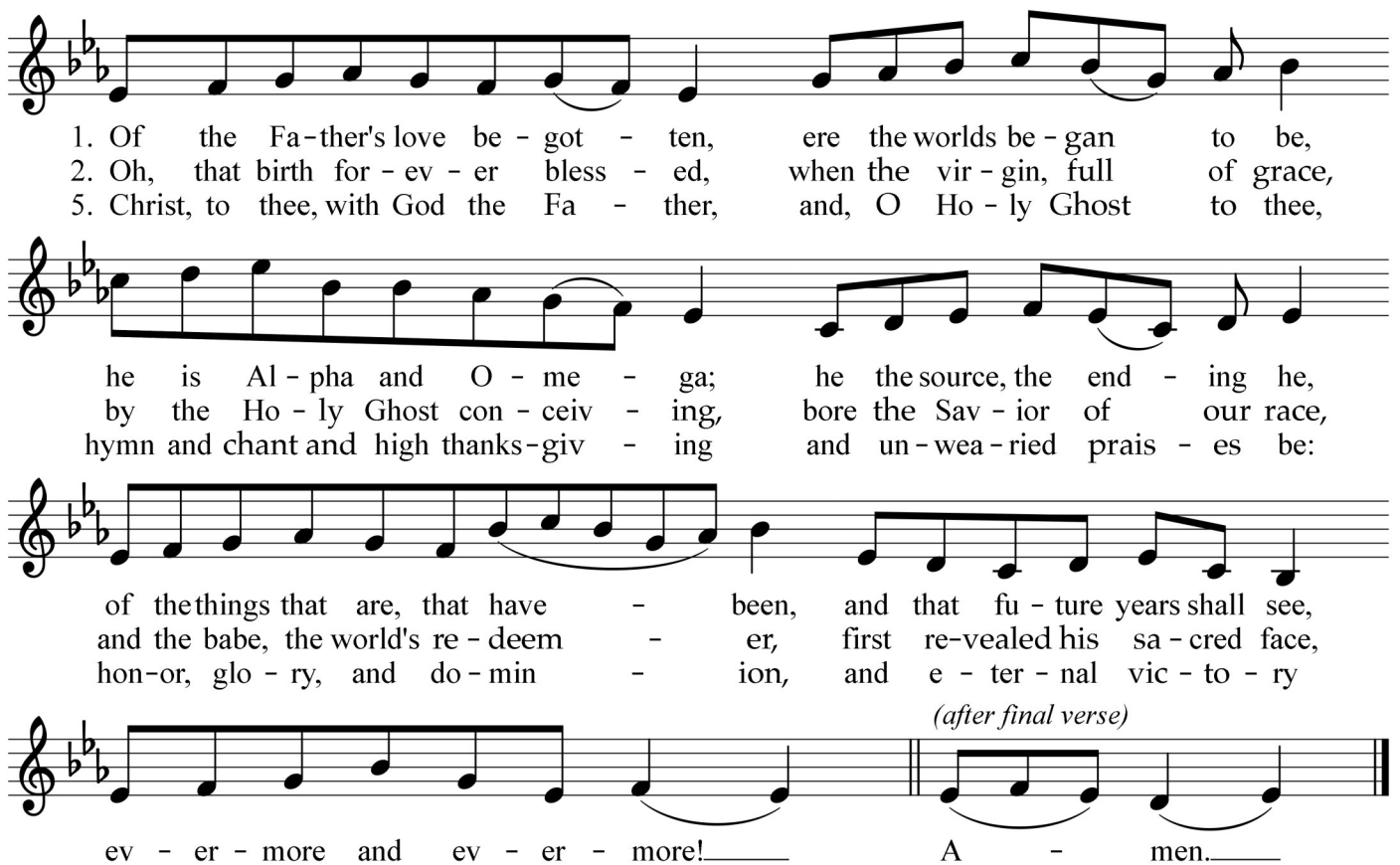
SECOND READING Titus 2:11–14

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 295 Of the Father's Love Begotten

Verses 1, 2, 5



1. Of the Fa-ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin, full of grace,
5. Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost to thee,

he is Al - pha and O - me - ga; he the source, the end - ing he,
by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sav - ior of our race,
hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing and un - wea - ried prais - es be:

of the things that are, that have - been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
and the babe, the world's re - deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry

(after final verse)

ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

GOSPEL Luke 2:1–20

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. ⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” ¹⁵When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The reader concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. *The assembly responds:* Praise to you, O Christ.



They found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger

HYMN ELW 272 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Verses 1 & 4

1. Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath
4. O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who dost our weak - ness

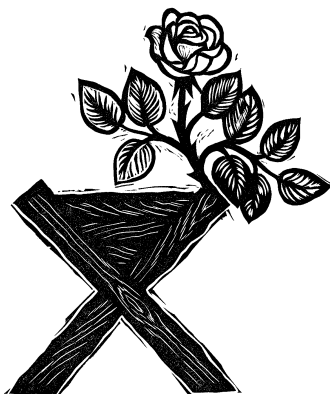
sung, it came a flow'r so bright, a - mid the cold of
know: bring us at length, we pray, to the bright courts of

win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
heav - en and in - to end - less day.

Text: German carol, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker, 1851–1934, sts. 1–2; Harriet R. Krauth, 1845–1925, st. 3; John C. Mattes, 1876–1948, st. 4
Music: ES IST EIN ROS, *Alte catholische geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1599

SERMON

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore



HYMN OF THE DAY Once in Royal David's City



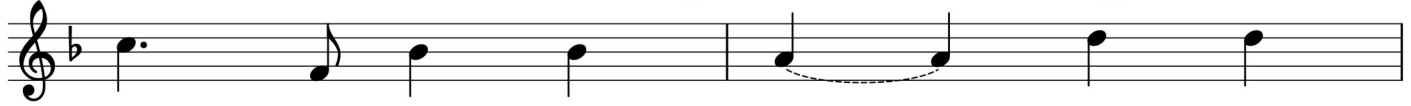
1. Once in ro - yal Da - vid's— ci - ty stood a
 2. He came down to earth from hea - ven who is
 3. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, day by
 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 5. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the



low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 day like us he grew; he was lit - tle, weak, and
 own re - deem - ing love; for that child, so dear and
 ox - en stand - ing - by, we shall see him; but in



ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall: with the
 help - less, tears and smiles like us he knew: and he
 gen - tle, is our Lord in heav'n. a - bove: and he
 heav - en, set at God's right hand on high; there his



was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus
 poor and meek and low - ly, lived on
 feels for all our sad - ness, and he
 leads his chil - dren on to the
 chil - dren gath - er round, bright like



Christ her lit - tle child.
 earth, our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 shares in all our glad - ness.
 place where he has gone.
 stars, with glo - ry crowned.

NICENE CREED

With the whole Church, let us 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

Gathered with all who seek the Christ child, let us pray for the church, the world, and all people in need.

Wonderful counselor, on this holy night your church throughout the world celebrates the Word of God being born among us. Endow your church with a zeal for sharing your love with all.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord of hosts, the heavens are glad, the earth rejoices, and the trees sing for joy at your coming. Grant us wisdom and strength to care for your whole creation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prince of peace, your grace has appeared and brings salvation to all the world. Bring healing to people and nations divided by violence. Direct the leaders of the nations, so that in self-controlled, upright, and godly living, they may work toward peace on earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mighty God of mercy, you come among us as a vulnerable infant. Comfort and protect all in need: the homeless and the hungry, the widow and the orphan, the sick and suffering, the prisoner and the refugee, the lonely and the dejected, the dying and them that mourn.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, your steadfast love never ends. We remember before you all who have died trusting in the hope of everlasting life. Hold us all in your love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your gracious hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your steadfast mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

PEACE
BE TO 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 ANTHEM "Before the Marvel of This Night" Virtual Adult Choir & Instrumentalists

By Carl Schalk (b. 1929)

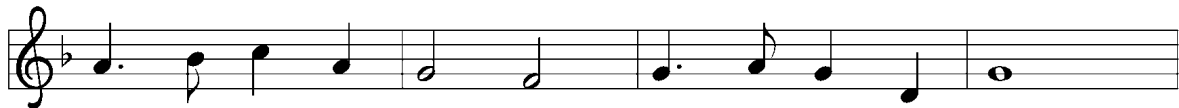
Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light, and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. **God of eternity, born into our humanity, and lying in the manger, all that we have are gifts of your grace. As the angels sang of your glory, accept what we bring as offerings of praise and thanksgiving. Use us and what we have gathered in feeding the world with your love, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

SOLO “O Holy Night”

By Adolphe Adam (1803–1856)

Johna Miller, soprano

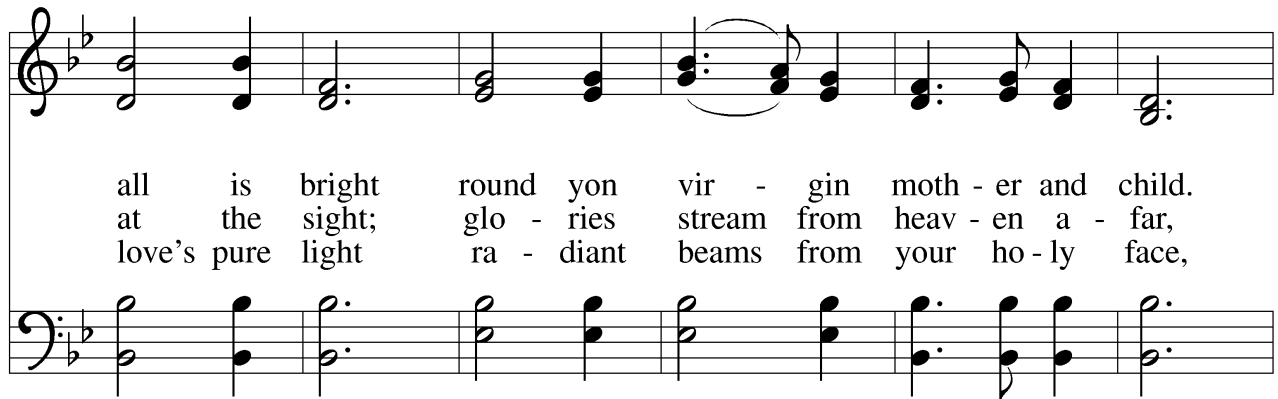
O holy night! The stars are brightly shining. It is the night of our dear Savior’s birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining ’til he appears and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices for yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees; O hear the angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born.
O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly he taught us to love one another; his law is love and his gospel is peace.
Chains shall he break, for the slave is our brother and in his name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we. Let all within us praise his holy name.
Christ is the Lord; O praise his name forever! His power and glory evermore proclaim.
His power and glory evermore proclaim.

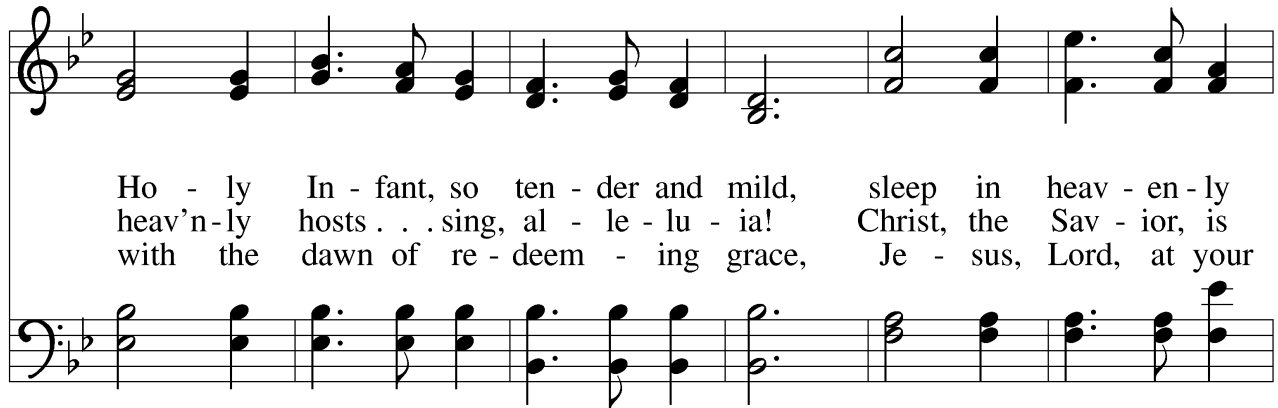
HYMN ELW 281 Silent Night, Holy Night



1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,



all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.
at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly
heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your



peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

PROLOGUE TO THE GOSPEL OF JOHN John 1:1–5, 14

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. 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.

READING "I Will Light Candles This Christmas"

Howard Thurman (1899–1981)

I will light candles this Christmas,
Candles of joy despite all the sadness,
Candles of hope where despair keeps watch,
Candles of courage for fears ever present,
Candles of peace for tempest-tossed days,
Candles of grace to ease heavy burdens,
Candles of love to inspire all my living,
Candles that will burn all year long.

CHRISTMAS 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 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 everlasting 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 now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Setting of *Stille Nacht*

By Rachel Chapin (b. 20th C.)

Andrew Larsen, soprano sax



Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy and 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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