

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020
5:00 PM

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

Merry Christmas!

Virtual Christmas Pageant: Thanks to everyone who submitted videos to participate in this year's Christmas pageant: Alexa Reeves, Preethi Bandi, Liam Johnson, Matthew Hering, Emily Hering, Matilda Moss, Mabel Moss, Greta Moss, Paul Fullner-Auld, Anna Schwartz, Zach Schwartz, David New, Elsie New, Adam New, Luke Tomlinson, Zach Tomlinson, Olivia Soffer.

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 this service: Lutherringers, Recorder Ensemble, Adult Choir and guest singers, Courtney Rothman–flute, David Neiman–oboe, Pattie Gould–cello, Stephanie Rothman–trumpet, the Moss and New families, Johna Miller–soprano, and members and friends of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians.

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](#).

Ministers: The People of St. John's

Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Gladys G. Moore, Pastor

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The Rev. Blake A. Scalet, Pastor

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The Rev. Dr. Harry Kocotos, Visitation Pastor

Harold Wyss, Weekday Sexton

Anne Ryan Dello Russo, Nursery

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ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
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PRELUDE Setting of *In dulci jubilo*

By Paul Manz (1919–2009)

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!

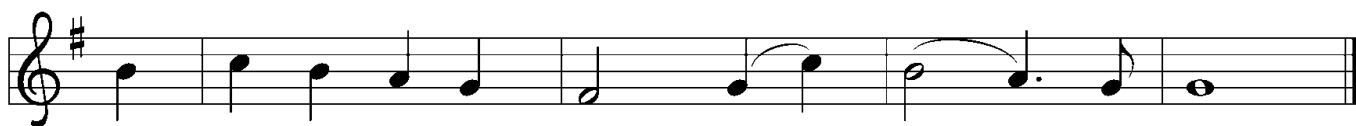


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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.**

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.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Deacon Linda Walker

MUSIC Setting of *Es ist ein Ros*

By Donna Garzinsky (b. 20th C.)

Virtual Recorder Ensemble

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

Modified from *A Lectionary for Children*

The people who have been walking in the dark for so long have seen a great light. You have built them up and expanded their joy. They are as happy as people who have harvested a huge crop and won't go hungry this year, as happy as people opening birthday presents, or dividing up found money. They no longer feel like they're pulling someone else's wagon.

For a child has been born for us. A baby boy has been given to us. He will be someone whom we respect and look up to. And his name is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His influence will keep growing until there is no end of peace for the family of King David and all who followed him. This baby boy will develop a nation held together with justice and goodness now and always. The love of the Lord will do this.

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



Christmas Eve

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Luke 2:1–20

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar 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.

HYMN ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verse 1



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835–1893

Music: ST. LOUIS, Lewis H. Redner, 1831–1908

⁵[Joseph] 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.

MUSIC Away in a Manger

Moss and New families

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

The cattle are lowing; the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky
and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

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

Text: North American, 19th cent.

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 Christ, 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, good will to all people!”

HYMN ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain

Verse 2

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!

2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth

rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

Refrain

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

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 292 Love Has Come



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
2 Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is God now a -
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
sleep in the hay. See the glow in the eyes of his moth - er;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to
what is the name her heart is say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
name she whis - pers; Love! Love! Je - sus, Im - man - u - el.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

Text: Ken Bible, b. 1950

Music: UN FLAMBEAU, F. Seguin, *Recueil de noëls composés en langue provençale*, 1856

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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.

MUSIC “Angels We Have Heard on High”

Arr. Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)

Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

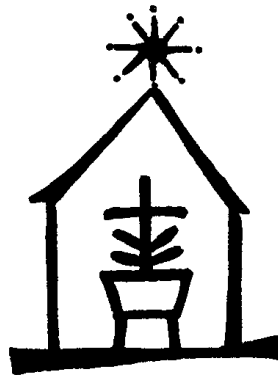
Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song?

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.



*A light will shine on
us this day:
The Lord is born for us*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

In this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption to all people in every place. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all who have died trusting in the hope of the resurrection. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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.**

In this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

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 the Lord 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 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

By Mack Wilberg (b. 1955)

Johna Miller, soprano

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him nor earth sustain; Heav'n and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd 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.
Yet what I can I give him, give my heart, my heart.

OFFERING HYMN ELW 296 What Child Is This

Verses 1 & 3



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an-thems sweet while shep-herds watch are keep - ing?
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898
Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

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.**

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.

CHRISTMAS 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 \dagger Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



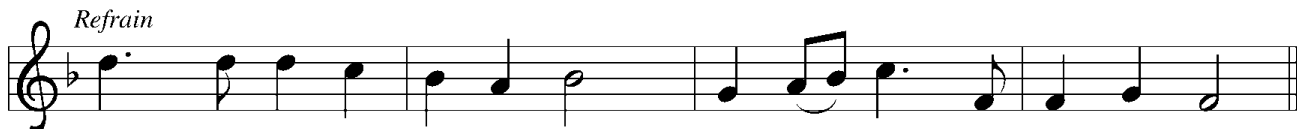
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE Setting of *Mendelssohn*

By Diane Bish (b. 1941)