



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2023 | 10:00 PM



Christmas Eve: Nativity of Our Lord

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On a long winter evening we gather to proclaim the coming of light. Isaiah announces that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. In the familiar account of Christ's birth, the evening sky is bright with the heavenly host singing, "Glory to God in the highest." Amid our broken world we proclaim that the Prince of Peace is born among us. God comes to us in human flesh—in Christ's body and blood—so that we may be bearers of the divine light to all the world.

All are welcome at Saint John's regardless of race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, socioeconomic position, immigration path, or faith journey. We believe that a diverse and inclusive congregation benefits all, and that we grow when we listen to and learn from those who are different from us. Scripture teaches us to do good and seek justice, and we invite you to join us in striving for a just world. We are committed to continuing the work of anti-racism, social and economic justice, and environmental care. We look forward to learning from one another and growing together on this journey of faith, grace, and love. Jesus said: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35).

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. So that we may be in contact with you, we invite you to sign the guest book in the narthex. We worship every Sunday and hope you will join us again soon.

Children are welcome. We encourage them to attend worship with their parents—even their noise and restlessness are surely a delight to God. Children's bulletins are available.

Assistance during communion: If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will be happy to commune you at your pew.

Assisted Listening: To access assisted listening, Connect to the StJohnsALS WiFi network. Download the free WaveCast app to your phone. Tap ST_JOHNS_ALS to connect.



In this season of giving, please honor your 2023 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 2024, please do so now.

Musicians participating in this service: St. John's Choir, St. John's Festival Ensemble: Mark Lagatic—trumpet, Ryan Krewer, trumpet, Alex Mastrando—French horn, Dave DeMair—trombone, Frank Ortega—bass trombone, and Travis Salim—tympani.



Christmas Day

10:30 AM

We celebrate Christmas Day as we gather to sing favorite Christmas carols and hear the Good News of the coming of Christ from John's Gospel.

We're delighted you're worshiping with us. As part of our ongoing outreach, your voice and your image may be videographed and photographed and used by St. John's for ministry purposes. For any questions or concerns, contact the church office.

BRASS PRELUDE

Saint John's Festival Brass

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella

arr. Kenneth Abeling

Coventry Carol

arr. Abeling

CHORAL PRELUDE

Saint John's Choir

Adam Lay Ybounden

Boris Ord

Adam lay ybounden, bounden in a bond;
 Four thousand winter thought he not too long.
 And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
 As clerkes finden written in their book.
 Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
 Then had never Our Lady a-been heavené queen.
 Blessed be the time that apple taken was.
 Therefore we moun singen, *Deo gratias!*

– Anonymous 15th Century EnglishMagnificat (*Short Service*)

Orlando Gibbons

Thou Shalt Know Him

Mark Sirrett

Thou shalt know him when he comes,
 Not by any din of drums,
 Nor his manners, nor his airs,
 Nor by anything he wears.
 Thou shalt know him when he comes,
 Not by his crown nor by his gown,
 But his coming known shall be,
 By the holy harmony which his coming makes in thee.
 Thou shalt know him when he comes. Amen. Amen.

–Anonymous

In the Stillness

Sally Beamish

In the stillness of a church where candles glow,
 In the softness of a fall of fresh white snow,
 In the brightness of the stars that shine this night,
 In the calmness of a pool of healing light,
 In the clearness of a choir that softly sings,
 In the oneness of a hush of angels' wings,
 In the mildness of a night by stable bare,
 In the quietness of a lull near cradle fair,
 There's a patience as we wait for a new morn,
 And the presence of a child soon to be born.

–Katrina Shepherd

Bogoróditse Dyévo, ráduisya (*All-Night Vigil*), *Op. 37*

Sergei Rachmaninoff

*Bogoróditse Dĕvo, ráduyŝĭa,
 Blagodátnaya Mařĭye, Ghospód s Tobóyu.
 Blagoslovĕnna Tĭ v zhenáh,
 i blagoslovĕn Plod chřĕva Tvoyegó,
 yáko Spása rođilá yeřĭ dush náshĭh.*

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos,
 Mary full of grace, the Lord is with thee.
 Blessed art thou among women,
 and blessed is the fruit of thy womb,
 for thou hast borne the Savior of our souls.

O Magnum Mysterium

Morten Laurdisen

*O magnum mysterium
 et admirabile sacramentum,
 ut animalia viderent Dominum natum
 jacentem in praesepio.
 O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
 portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
 Ave Maria, gratia plena: Dominus tecum.
 O beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt
 portare Dominum Jesum Christum.
 Alleluia!*

O great mystery
 and wonderful sacrament,
 that animals should see the new-born Lord
 lying in a manger!
 O blessed is the Virgin, whose womb
 was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
 Hail Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with you.
 Blessed is the Virgin whose womb
 was worthy to bear Christ the Lord.
 Alleluia!

– Fourth of the nine responsories for Matins of Christmas Day

Away in a Manger

arr. David Willcocks

BRASS PRELUDE

Saint John's Festival Brass

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

arr. Abeling

WELCOME

Please stand.

GATHERING HYMN ELW 283 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Arr. David Willcocks



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!

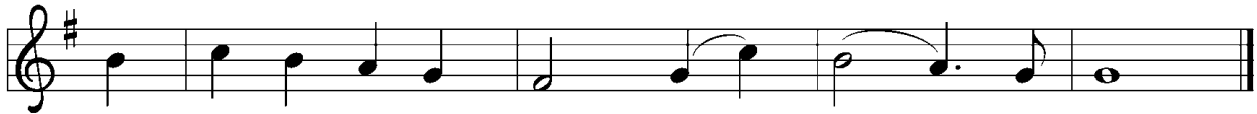


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

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!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

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.**



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;



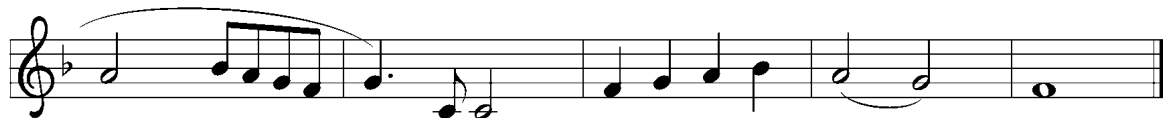
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



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.**

Please be seated.

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.



ANTHEM Let our Gladness Know No End

Hermann Schroeder

Let our gladness know no end, Hallelujah!
 Unto earth did Christ descend, Hallelujah!
 See the loveliest blooming rose, Hallelujah!
 From the branch of Jesse grows, Hallelujah!
 Into flesh is made the Word, Hallelujah!
 'Tis our refuge and our Lord, Hallelujah!

*On this day God gave us
 Christ, his Son, to save us.*

– G. Kucharik (Bohemian 15th cent.)

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.**

Please stand.

GRADUAL HYMN ELW 268 From Heaven Above

Arr. Felix Mendelssohn
Christopher Harlow-Jennings

1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come to bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, God's Son most high, who hears your

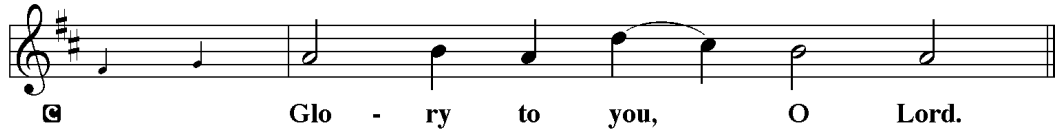
news to ev - 'ry home! Glad tid - ings of great joy I
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; this new - born child of low - ly
 sad and bit - ter cry, who will him - self your Sav - ior

bring to all the world, and glad - ly sing:
 birth shall be the joy of all the earth.
 be and from all sin will set you free."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: VOM HIMMEL HOCH, attr. Martin Luther; V. Schumann, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1539
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

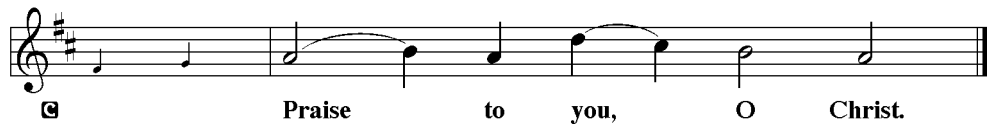
GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.



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 Gospel of the Lord.



GRADUAL HYMN ELW 268 From Heaven Above



12 Ah, dear - est Je - sus, ho - ly child, pre - pare a
13 My heart for ve - ry joy now leaps; my voice no
14 "Glo - ry to God in high - est heav'n, who un - to



bed, soft, un - de - filed, a qui - et cham - ber in my
long - er si - lence keeps; I too must sing with joy - ful
us the Son has giv'n." With an - gels sing in pi - ous



heart, that you and I may nev - er part.
tongue the sweet - est an - cient cra - dle - song:
mirth a glad new year to all the earth!

Please stand.
HYMN OF THE DAY 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!

Text: Medieval Latin carol; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO, German carol, 14th cent.; arr. Robert L. Pearsall, 1795–1856

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 those 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.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

GATHERING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

We present offerings for God's mission in the world through this congregation. Both visitors and members alike may use the pew envelope to make a contribution. If you would like to make a one-time or recurring electronic contribution, you may visit www.stjohnssummit.org or scan this code.



OFFERING MUSIC For Unto Us A Child is Born (*Messiah*)

G.F. Handel

For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given,
and the government shall be upon his shoulder;
and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor,
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

—Isaiah 9:6

*Please stand.***OFFERING HYMN** Oh, How Joyfully

1. Oh, how joy - ful - ly, oh, how hope - ful - ly, waits the
2. Oh, how joy - ful - ly, oh, how peace - ful - ly, sleeps the
3. Oh, how joy - ful - ly, oh, how thank - ful - ly, wakes the

earth on Christ - mas eve! Love comes heal - ling, God re -
earth on Christ - mas night! Sins are cov - ered, grace dis -
earth on Christ - mas morn! God has spo - ken, death is

veal - ling. Friends, be joy - ful and be - lieve.
cov - ered. In our dark - ness shines the light.
bro - ken. Al - le - lu - ia! Christ is born!

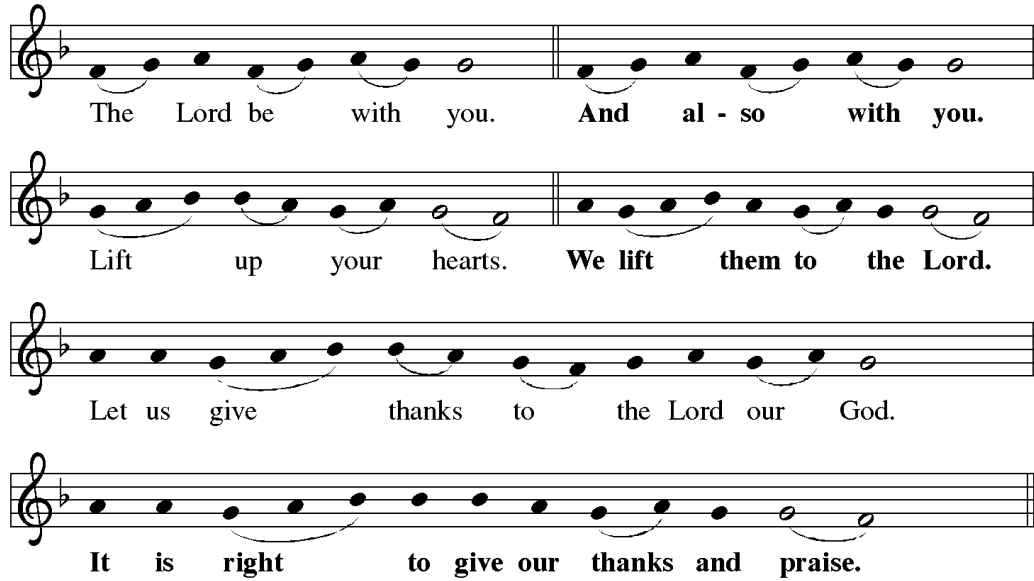
Text: Johannes D. Falk (St. 1), *Asserlesene Werke*, 1819, Heinrich Holzschuher (Sts. 2-3);
tr. Harris J. Loewen, re-envisioned by Brian Wren, 1990. ©1990 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: Traditional

O DU FRÖLICHE
55 7 55 7

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.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life . . . Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:



Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

All praise and glory are yours Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



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.

Please be seated.

RECEPTION OF COMMUNION

The wafer will be placed in your open hands. Please indicate if you need a gluten free wafer.

Receive the wine from the chalice—either by intinction or drinking from the common cup.

Alternately, you may receive the wine/grape juice in pre-filled individual cups.

All baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's table.

If you do not wish to commune, you may come forward for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD



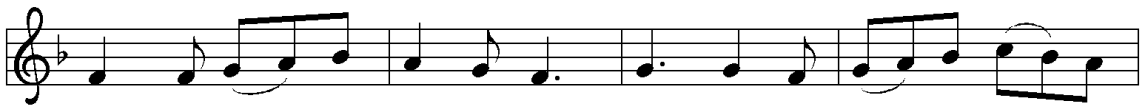
COMMUNION HYMN ELW 274 On Christmas Night



1 On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2 Then why should we on earth be sad, since our re-deem-er
 3 When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then life and health come
 4 All out of dark-ness we have light, which made the an-gels



an-gels bring. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
 made us glad? Then why should we on earth be sad, since
 in its place. When sin de-parts be-fore his face, then
 sing this night. All out of dark-ness we have light, which



hear the news the an-gels bring: news of great joy, news of great
 our re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. An-gels re-joice with us and
 made the an-gels sing this night: "Glo-ry to God in high-est



mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful king's birth.
 free, all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, all for to see the new-born king.
 heav'n; peace on earth, and good-will. A-men."

Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt.
 Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional





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

COMMUNION HYMN ELW 273 All My Heart Again Rejoices

1 All my heart a - gain re - joic - es as I hear, far and
 2 Je - sus' voice from low - ly man - ger soft - ly thus calls to
 3 Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and
 4 You, dear Lord, I'll ev - er cher - ish; though my breath fail in

near, sweet-est an - gel voic - es; "Christ is born," their choirs are
 us: "You are safe from dan - ger; come and see; from all that
 small, kneel in awe and won - der; love him who with love is
 death, I will nev - er per - ish: by your side in light e -

sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
 grieves you you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
 yearn - ing; hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
 ter - nal I shall be end - less - ly filled with joy su - per - nal.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: WARUM SOLLT ICH, Johann G. Ebeling, 1637–1676

Rachel Clark, soprano

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared 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!

Placide Cappeau (1847); tr. John S. Dwight

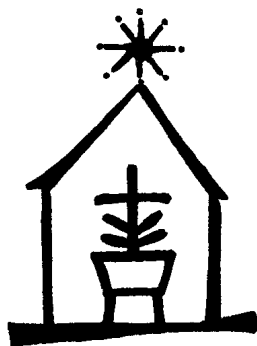
Please stand.

BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Great and saving God, your Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of Christ's grace illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds, through that same Lord Jesus Christ, our Emmanuel. Amen.**



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

During the hymn, congregational candles will be lighted from the aisles. Never tip a lighted candle!

HYMN ELW 281 Silent Night, Holy Night

descant by Gerre Hancock

1 *Stil - le* Nacht, *hei - li - ge* Nacht! *Al - les* schläft,
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake
 4 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht *nur* das *trau - te*, *hoch - hei - li - ge* Paar.
 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,

Hol - der *Kna - be* im *lok - ki - gen* Haar, *schlaf* in *himm - li - scher*
 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

Ruh, *schlaf* in *himm - li - scher* *Ruh.*
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885
 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863

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

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.**

SENDING HYMN ELW 270 Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Arr. Richard Webster



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.



Refrain
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 Final (*Symphony No. 1*)

Louis Vierne

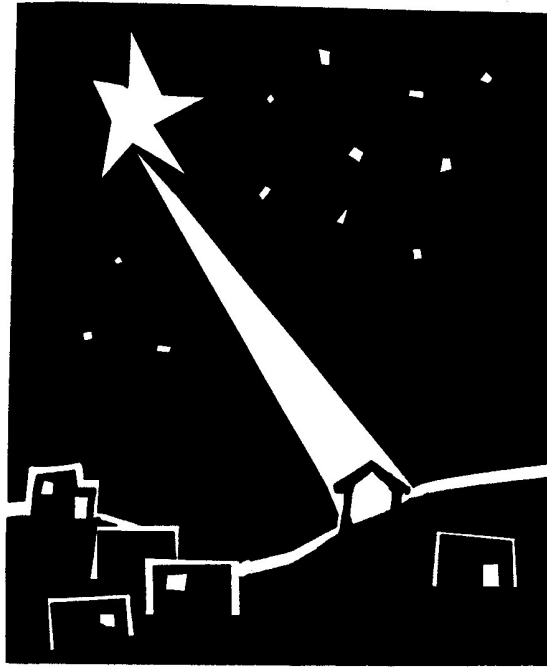
**Gifts for the chancel decorations this Christmas Season
are given to the glory of God by:**

- Katie and Zach Bowler in honor of Caden's and Hudson's birthdays
- Jane, Jama, & Zach Bowman with thanks for Bill & Nancy Bowman
- The Bresnahan Family in memory of Raymond Reed
- The Coble Family in memory of loved ones, especially David
- The Cristino Family in memory of Jean Grabinsky
- Carol Groote in memory of Viola Bishop
- The Lagatic Family in memory of Barbara McClure
- Susan, Chris, and John Leelike in loving memory of George Leelike
- Linda Liebiedz in memory of Gladys and George Biederman, and Barry Biederman, & Catherine Biederman Burkitt
- Gordon Meyer in memory of Pat Nelson Meyer
- Lucile, Jim, and Susan Nering in memory of Margaret and Edward Nering, Lucile and George Schmidt, and Gerald Schmidt
- Janet Onnen to the Glory of God
- Harvey and RuthAnn Peters in honor of our family
- Mark, Kristyn, Sarah, Anne, and Molly Shannon in memory of Patricia Brooke Shannon & Laura Shannon Hartman
- Beverly Sharpe in memory of Charlie & Millie Connelly
- Joan Smedberg in thanksgiving for all of St. John's volunteers
- Linda and Bill Walker in memory of Donald Krumm

And in memory of loved ones by:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linda and Craig Clark• Anne Crawford• The Feezer Family• The Gahan Family• Lois and Rodger Kopf• The Larsen Family• Christine and Russell McIntyre• The Medenica Family• Charlie, Nancy, Sarah, Abby, Emma, and Grace Miller | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Stephen Miller Family• The Ngo Family• Joy Petzinger• Carol & Fred Rogers• Helen and Steve Sanders• Margaret Sherman• Jennifer Terrizzi• The Wey Family• The Zabel Family |
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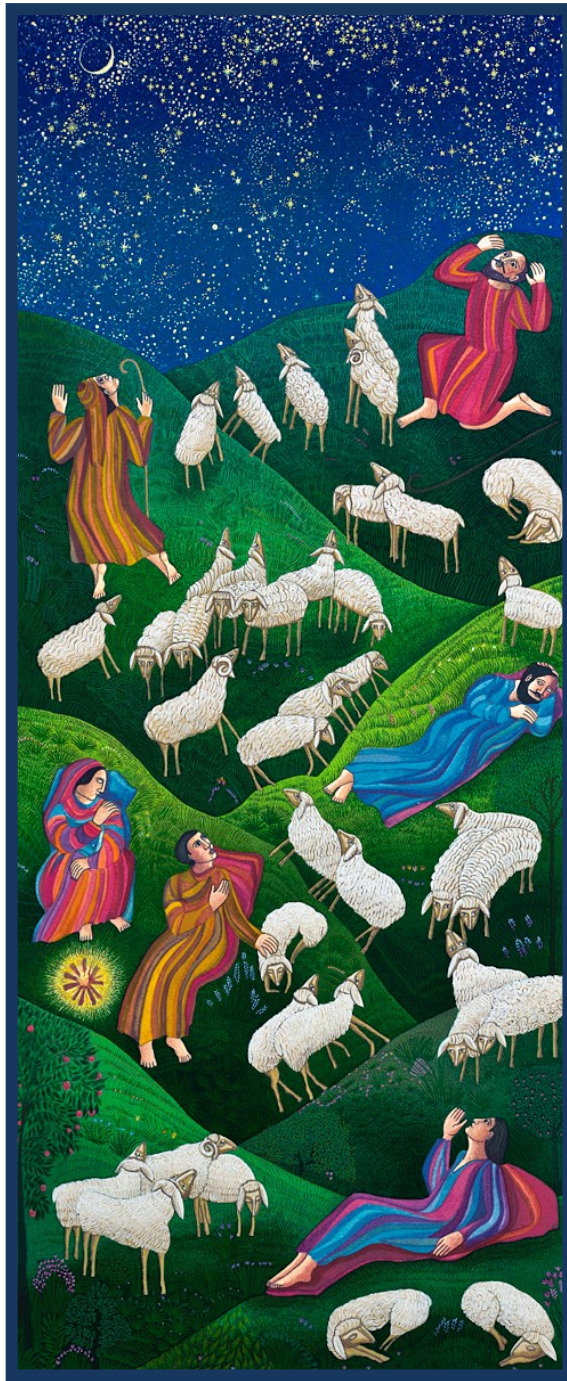


Ministers: The People of Saint John's

Clergy & Staff

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