

# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023 | 5:00 PM

# Merry Christmas!

**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.

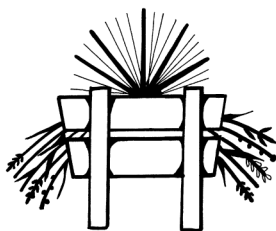
**Assistance during communion:** If you are unable to come forward for communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will be happy to commune you at your pew.

**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 Intergenerational Christmas Choir; St. John's Choir, The Luther Ringers; St. John's Festival Brass 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 Děvo, ráduyšĭa,  
 Blagodátnaya Maříye, Ghospód s Tobóyu.  
 Blagoslovĕnna Tĭ v zhenáh,  
 i blagoslovĕn Plod chřĕva Tvoyegó,  
 yáko Spása rođilá yeši 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 Lauridsen

*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!

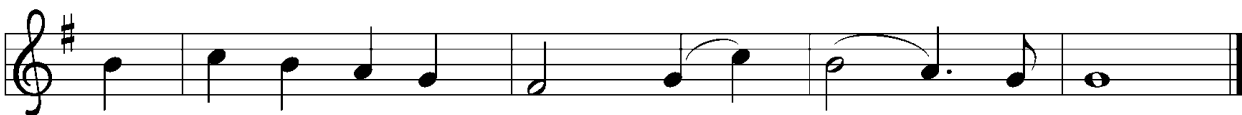


come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

*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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 289 Angels We Have Heard on High

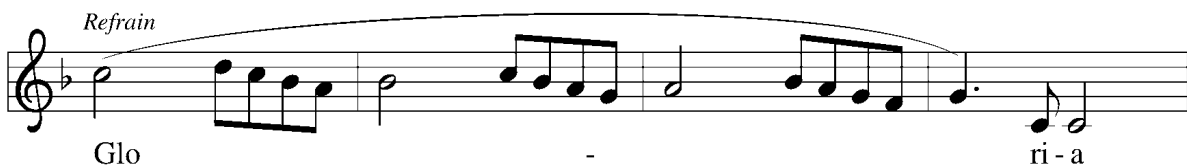
Arr. Richard Webster



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.*

**ANTHEM** I am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Intergenerational Christmas Choir

I am so glad each Christmas Eve,  
The night of Jesus' birth!  
Then like the sun the star shines forth,  
And angels sang on earth.

The little child in Bethlehem,  
He was a king indeed!  
For he came down from heaven above  
To help a world in need.

He dwells again in heaven's realm,  
The Son of God today;  
And still he loves his little ones  
And hears them when they pray.

I am so glad each Christmas Eve!  
His praises then I sing;  
He opens then for every child  
The palace of the king.

Marie Wexelsen, tr. Peter A. Sveeggen (20<sup>th</sup> C.)

**FIRST READING** Isaiah 9:2, 6–7

<sup>2</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>For 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. <sup>7</sup>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 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.



## The All-In Christmas Pageant

Luke 2:1-20

*(Pageant characters come forward as directed in the bulletin.)*

**HYMN** ELW 279 O Little Town of Bethlehem, verses 1 & 4

*(The Holy Family come forward during the singing of this carol.)*



O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>Joseph 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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>And 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.

**HYMN** ELW 277 Away in a Manger

*(Animals come forward during the singing of this carol.)*

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.



<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord.

<sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.”

<sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of angels, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and peace to all people on earth!”

**HYMN** ELW 290 Go Tell It on the Mountain 1 & 2

*(Angels come forward during the singing of this carol.)*



**Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

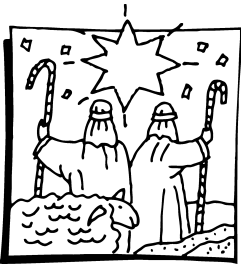
**While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain***

**The shepherds feared and trembled when, lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain***

<sup>15</sup>When 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." <sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**HYMN** ELW 300 The First Noel, verses 1 & 2

*(Shepherds come forward during the singing of this carol.)*



**The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

**They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.**

<sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

**MUSIC** Chorale for Bells

J.W. Franck

Luther Ringers

**REFLECTION**

The Rev. Blake A. Scalet



Please stand.

# HYMN OF THE DAY 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  
and heav'n and na - ture sing, and

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.  
heav'n and na - ture sing,

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748  
Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

## 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](http://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.



COMMUNION MUSIC O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Emma Miller, flute

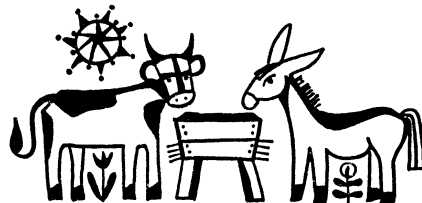
COMMUNION HYMN ELW 269 Once in Royal David's City

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from heav - en who is God and Lord of all,  
 3 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;  
 4 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing by,

where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 for that child so dear and gen - tle is our Lord in heav'n a - bove;  
 we shall see him; but in heav - en, set at God's right hand on high;

Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
 with the poor and meek and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.  
 and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 there his chil - dren gath - er round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander, 1818–1895  
 Music: IRBY, Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876



COMMUNION HYMN ELW 275 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 2 Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;  
 4 All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 God with us is now re - sid - ing, yon - der shines the in - fant light.  
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions, you have seen his na - tal star.  
 ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing to the e - ter - nal Three in One.

*Refrain*

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt., sts. 1–3; *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857, st. 4  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879



I come to proclaim  
 good news to you

COMMUNION HYMN 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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*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.**



*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

## 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 † Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **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,



## Gifts for the chancel decorations this Christmas Season are given to the glory of God

- 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:

- 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
- 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





**SAINT JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
587 Springfield Avenue, Summit, NJ 07901  
stjohnssummit.org | 908-273-3846



Reconciling in Christ

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