



ST. THOMAS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

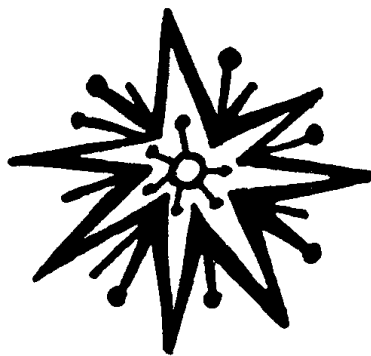
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**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**DECEMBER 24, 2025**  
**Pageant & Holy Eucharist**  
**4:00 pm**

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GODBURST

When the Holy Child is born into our hearts  
there is a rain of stars  
a rushing of angels  
a blaze of candles  
this God burst into our lives.  
Love is running through the streets.  
- Mary Weems



**VOLUNTARY**

*Festive music for Christmas*

*At the sound of the bell, all rise as able.*

**WELCOME**

**HYMN AT THE PROCESSION**

*O come, all ye faithful*

*All sing.*

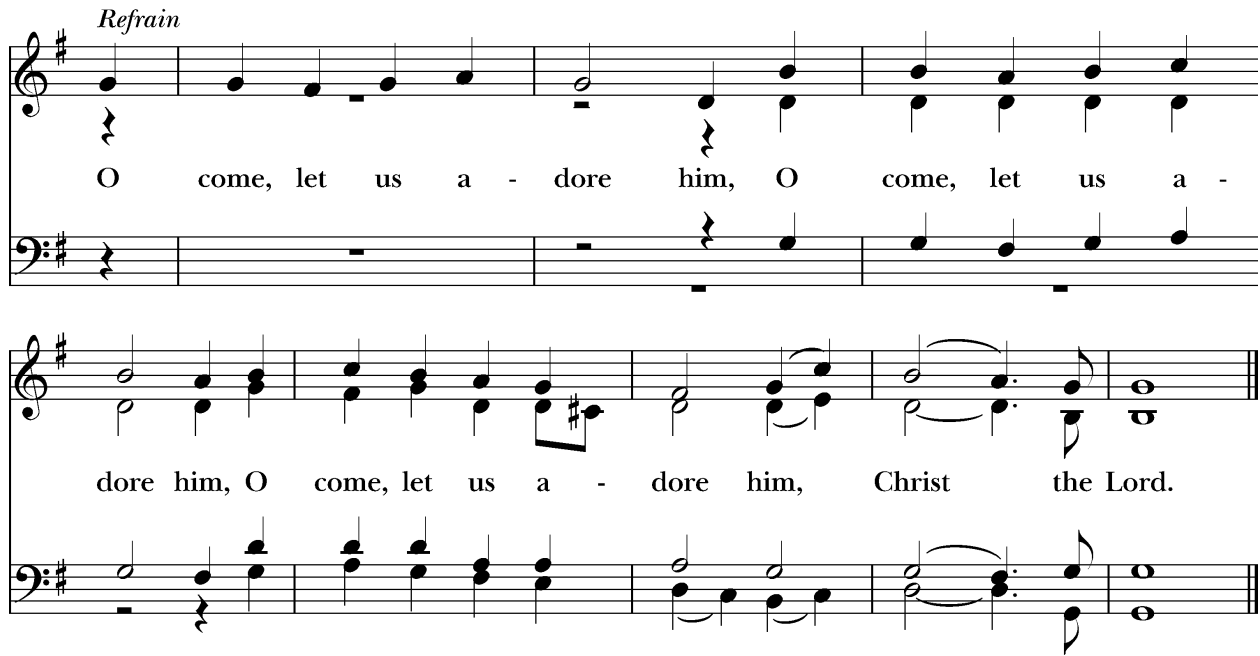
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

*Hymnal* 1982, 83 ©; Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others  
Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

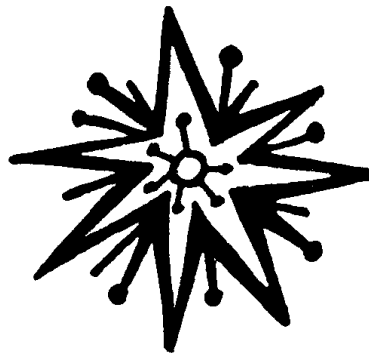
*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*All* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

**COLLECT FOR PURITY**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

*All* Amen.



# SONG OF PRAISE

*Angels we have heard on high*

*All sing.*

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
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 brave de - light.  
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
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.

Hymnal 1982, 96 ©; Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.  
Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**All** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All** Amen.

*All are seated.*

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

**The Prophet Isaiah** 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...  
For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests on his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
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 righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

## HYMN

### *People Look East*

*All sing.*

1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the

The image shows the first line of music for the hymn 'People Look East'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 6/8. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics '1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near of the crown-ing of the' are written below the treble staff.

*Wonder Love and Praise*, 724 ©; Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881-1965) © 1957 Eleanor Farjeon; Reprinted by permission of Harold Ober Associates, Inc.; Music: *Besançon Carol*, harm. John L. Hooker (b. 1944); harm. © 1997 John L. Hooker

1. year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble, trim the hearth and set the

1. ta - ble. Peo-ple, look East and sing to - day: Love the guest is on the way.

**Narrator** In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And Gabriel came to her and said,

**Gabriel** 'Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.'

**Narrator** But she was much perplexed by the angel's words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her,

**Gabriel** 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.'

**Narrator** Mary said to the angel,

**Mary** 'How can this be since I am a young woman?'

**Narrator** The angel said to her,

**Gabriel** 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.'

**Narrator** Then Mary said,

**Mary** 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

**Narrator** Then the angel departed from her.

During the hymn, children dressed as sheep and other animals are invited to gather around the manger, making animal noises.

HYMN

*The Angel Gabriel From Heaven Came*

*All sing.*

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!

Hymnal 1982, 265 ©; Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)  
 Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

**Narrator** In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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.

**Narrator** He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

**Joseph** Innkeeper, have you any room? My wife Mary is about to have a baby!

**Congregation** **There is no room!**

**Joseph** Innkeeper, have you any room?

**Congregation** **There is no room!**

**Joseph** Innkeeper, have you any room?

**Congregation** **There is no room!**

**Narrator** While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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** *Away in a Manger*

*All sing.*

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.

*Hymnal 1982, 101 ©;  
Words: Traditional  
carol; Music: Cradle  
Song, melody William  
James Kirkpatrick  
(1838-1921)*

**Narrator** In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified.

**Narrator** But the angel said to them,

**Gabriel** ‘Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.’

**Narrator** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and singing.

**HYMN** *Angels from the Realms of Glory*

*All sing.*

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;

*Refrain*  
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: come and wor - ship,  
yon - der shines the in - fant Light:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

*Hymnal* 1982, 93 ©; Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.  
Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

**Narrator** When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

**Shepherds** 'Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.'

**Narrator** So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (Luke 2: 8-20)

**HYMN**

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

*All sing verses 1 and 2.*

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and  
ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that  
Je - sus Christ is born! 1 While shep - herds kept their  
2 The shep - herds feared and  
3 Down in a low - ly

Hymnal 1982, 99 ©; Words: Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967)  
Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (1935-2009)

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
 trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang  
 man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

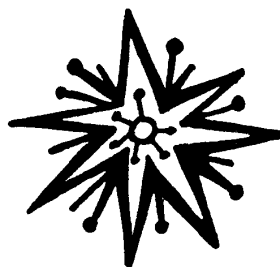
*Repeat Refrain*

hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

**NARRATOR** 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.

*All sing verse 3 and refrain above.*

*After verse 3, parents and friends are invited to take pictures. Children may then go to the back of the church to remove costumes.*



**HOMILY**

The Rev. Elizabeth (Liz) R. Costello

*All rise as able.*

## THE NICENE CREED

**All** 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**All** And also with you.

*The ministers and the people greet one another.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** *As stewards of all that God has given us, we share the many ways to be engaged in the life of our community.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Celebrant* Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

*An offering is received to support the mission of St. Thomas. All are invited to make a gift as the plate is passed, using the QR code at right, or at [stthomasmedina.org/giving](http://stthomasmedina.org/giving).*



## OFFERTORY

*Les Pins de Charlannes*

Henriette Renié

THE PRESENTATION HYMN

*Joy to the world!*

*All rise as able and sing.*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

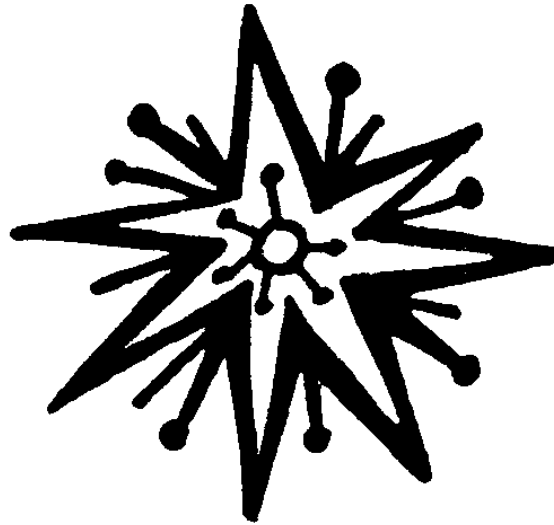
heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love. and

sing, and heaven, and heaven 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.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

*Hymnal 1982*, 100 ©;  
 Words: Isaac Watts  
 (1674-1748), alt.  
 Music: *Antioch*,  
 George Frideric  
 Handel (1685-1759);  
 adapt. and arr.  
 Lowell Mason (1792-  
 1872)



## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

**All** **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

**All** **We lift then to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All** **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

# SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

*All sing.*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

*Hymnal 1982, S 130 ©; Setting: From Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)*

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.

*Celebrant*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**All** We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

*Celebrant* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Blessed Mary, St. Joseph, St. Thomas, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

**All** AMEN.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
**All** Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

*The bread is broken.*

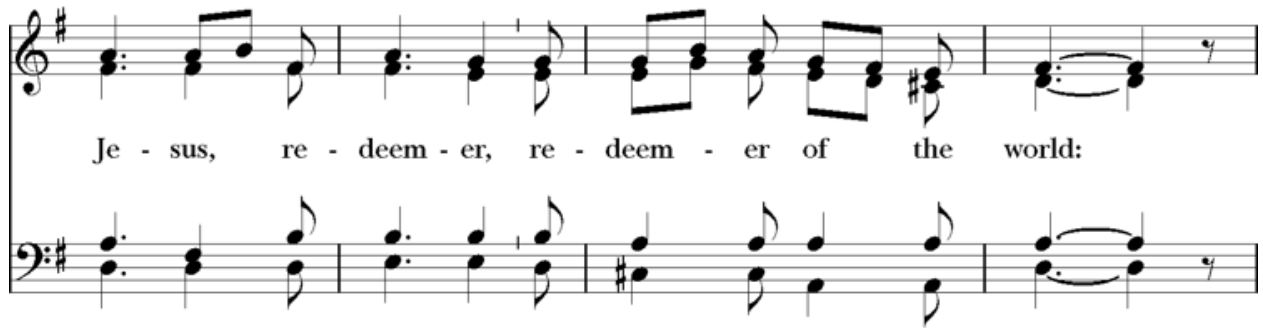
## FRACTION ANTHEM

*All sing.*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:



give us your peace, give us your peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All may be seated for the time of Communion.*

*Ushers will guide each row to the stations to receive Holy Communion. Please follow their instructions. Intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is **not** available at this time. If you prefer to receive a blessing (or not to receive bread and/or wine), place your arms across your chest as a sign. Gluten-free Holy Communion wafers are available upon request. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please inform the priest.*

COMMUNION HYMN

*O little town of Bethlehem*

*All sing.*

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Hymnal 1982, 79 ©; Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)  
 Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

COMMUNION HYMN

*What child is this*

*All sing.*

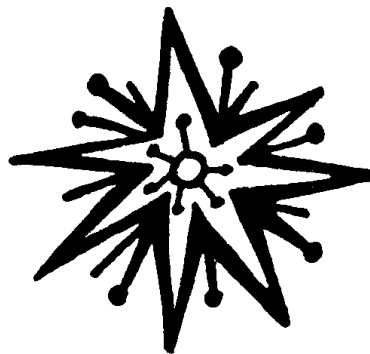
*Unison or harmony*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

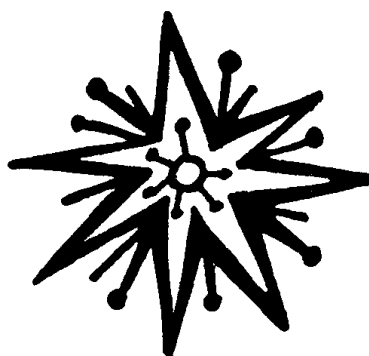
an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Hymnal 1982*, 115 ©; Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)  
 Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871, alt.



*Refrain*

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds  
guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to  
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.



COMMUNION HYMN

*In the bleak midwinter*

*All sing.*

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
 4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

*Hymnal 1982*, 112 ©; Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)  
 Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

*All rise as able.*

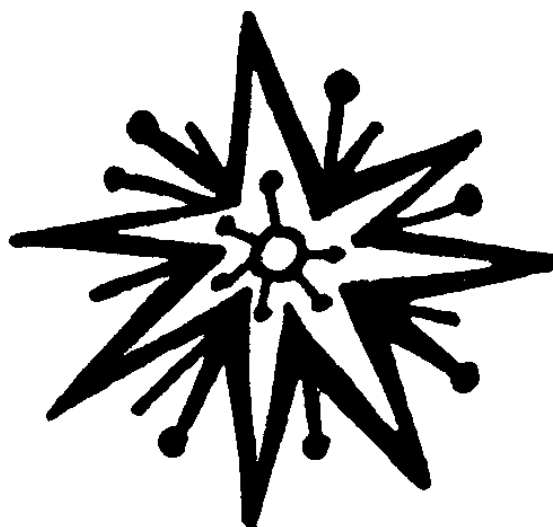
## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**All** Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **CANDLE LIGHTING**

*You are invited to light your candle during Silent Night. An usher will come to your pew and light the first candle in the pew. Help spread the light of Christ by lighting your neighbor's candle. But please, don't spread the light of Christ by lighting your neighbor's hair on fire. Yes, we have seen this happen before!*



HYMN

*Silent Night*

*All sing.*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. born! birth. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Hymnal 1982*, 111 ©;  
 Words: Joseph Mohr  
 (1792-1848); tr. John  
 Freeman Young  
 (1820-1885)  
 Music: *Stille Nacht*,  
 melody Franz Xaver  
 Gruber (1787-1863);  
 harm. Carl H.  
 Reinecke (1824-  
 1910)

*Please extinguish your candle at the conclusion of the hymn.*

**THE BLESSING**

*Celebrant* May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**All** Amen.

# HYMN AT THE CLOSING

## *Hark! the herald angels sing*

*All sing.*

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

## THE DISMISSAL

*Celebrant* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Prelude and Fugue in G major, BWV 541*

Johann Sebastian Bach



\* *Full gospel text*

Luke 2:1-20

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

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

2025 Christmas Flowers are given to the glory of God by...

Jana Anderson	In memory of Anne Carey Anderson and in thanksgiving for the blessings of this life.
JoAnne Brendle	In thanksgiving for the Ochs & Northeys.
Cynthia Davis	In memory of Kathryn Puccio.
Shirley Deffenbaugh	In memory of my parents, Katherine & Delmer Deffenbaugh.
The Diller Family	In memory of Irma Marie Diller, Irma and Bill Barton, Edie Kiernan.
Mary Fitzgerald	In memory of her loving parents, Charlie & Jennifer Pelly.
Roberta Goodnow & Daniel Lipkie	In thanksgiving Rector Costello, Associate Rector Harris, Priest Associate McEachran & all staff.
Dave & Judy Katri	In thanksgiving for so many blessings received.
Jim Kesl	In memory of Marge Kesl.
John G. Kimbrough & Bea Covington	In memory of Dr. & Mrs. John G. Kimbrough (Ouita) and in thanksgiving for Will & Wyatt Kimbrough.
Yvonne Lamey	In thanksgiving guidance, health, family.
Martha and Katie Lane	In thanksgiving for our parents, Bob and Betty Lane.
Phyllis C. Leppert	In memory of Rev. Walter Jennings Leppert and Alice Margaret Leppert..
Jackie & Jerry Livingston	In memory of Cindi Livingston Warberg.
Dick & Ruby Lyons	To the glory of God.
Jesse & Lorraine McReynolds	In memory of our parents.
Brandon & Mark Middaugh	In memory of Richard Berkeley.
Penelope Vaughn Nyder	In memory of Meredith Christie Nyder.
The Ong Family	In memory of Winifred Guillot, Jim Ong, Susan Guillot, and Donna Domzalski.
Jeannette M. Privat	In thanksgiving for the Privat Family.
Colin Radford	In memory of Colin Orme Radford and Jean Foster Radford.
Lisalynn Reed	In thanksgiving for my family and the community of St. Thomas.
Claude, Chris, and Kate Rogers	To the glory of God and in memory of Anne Rogers.
Dwight Russell	In memory of Martha Robinson and Paul E. Russell.
Ruthlyn Stephan	In loving memory of Marc Stephan.
Stephanie Waddle	In memory of Kathy Leland.
Mary & Ray Waldmann	In thanksgiving for the birth of River Ignatz Ortiz.
The Woosley Family	In memory of Hal & Marian Woosley, Tom & Christiane Gee
Curt and Vicky Young	In memory of Hope and Alan Young, Karma and Bob Wallace, Hetty and Bryan Elliott.



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SERVING AT ST. THOMAS CHURCH:

**The Rev. Elizabeth (Liz) Costello**

*Rector*



**Dr. Paul Meier**

*Director of Music & Organist*



**Crystal Jiao**

*Harpist*

**The Rev. Edmund Harris**

*Associate Rector*



**The Rev. James N. McEachran**

*Priest Associate*



**Ethan Haparnas**

*Cellist*

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