

CHURCH OF
OUR SAVIOUR

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

CANDLELIGHT VESPERS & SOLEMN EUCHARIST

DECEMBER 24, 2021 | 11:00 PM



THE ENTRANCE RITE

Prelude

Carol of the Manger (Cradle Song)

What Child is This

arr. Dale Wood (1934-2003)

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Celebrant The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us: Alleluia.

People **Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord: Alleluia.**

Celebrant Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

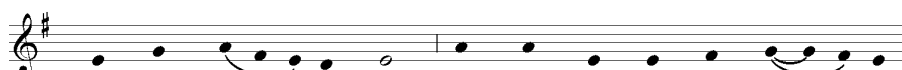
Gathering Hymn

O Come, O Come Emmanuel (Verses 1, 7, 8)

VENI, EMMANUEL



(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
(Dec. 18) 3 O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy
(Dec. 19) 4 O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from
(Dec. 20) 5 O come, thou Key of Da - vid, come, and o - pen
(Dec. 21) 6 O come, thou Day - spring from on high, and cheer us
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the
(Dec. 23) 8 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
3 tribes on Si - nai's height in an - cient times didst give the
4 Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny that trust thy might - y power to
5 wide our heaven - ly home; make safe the way that leads on
6 by thy draw - ing nigh; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions
8 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go.
3 law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty, and awe.
4 save, and give them vic - tory o'er the grave. Re - joice! Re - joice!
5 high, and close the path to mis - er - y.
6 night, and death's dark shad - ow put to flight.
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace.
8 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

THE LESSONS

Celebrant Dear people of God: on this Christmas Eve, let it be our delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of Israel's exile in Babylon until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

First Lesson *God calls on his people to prepare for redemption* Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather in the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Interlude

He Shall Feed His Flock (Messiah)

G. F. Handel (1685-1750)

Second Lesson *The angel Gabriel visits the Virgin Mary* Luke 1:26-38

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 he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "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 forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "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." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn

Lo how a rose e're blooming

ES IST EIN ROS

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
 * 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
 with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
 death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Third Lesson *The angel of God appears to Joseph in a dream*

Matthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look,

the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife.

Interlude

Sweet Was the Song

Derek Holman (b. 1931)

Fourth Lesson *Jesus is born in Bethlehem*

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.

The Homily

The Rev. Jeff Thornberg, *Rector*

Silence is kept.

All stand.

The Prayers

Intercessor Let us pray for the needs of God's world, for peace and justice on earth, and for the unity and mission of the Church for which Jesus died.

And because Jesus particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know the love of God in Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

During the silence, the people add their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

The Celebrant concludes with a Collect.

The people stand, as they are able, for The Peace.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Musical Offering

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

arr. Glenn L. Rudolph (b. 1950)

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The people remain standing, as they are able, and the Celebrant begins,

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Holy, holy, holy Lord *Sanctus*

Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

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
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.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your reign and give himself freely for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the blessed Virgin Mary, Joseph, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. Amen.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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 Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem *Angus Dei*

Schubert

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.

The Celebrant says the Invitation to Communion.

Communion Music

Still, Still, Still

In the Bleak Midwinter; Love Came Down at Christmas

arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)

trad.

Prayer for Spiritual Reception

(A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion).

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. **Amen.**

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787; from Bishop Curry)

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

The people stand.

Mysterious God, we thank you for feeding us with yourself; and for making yourself known to us in the holy child Jesus, the Christ. Let us carry within our hearts your Holy Spirit, that same Spirit which was in Jesus, so that we may help bring your peace to all the earth in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Fifth Lesson *The Word was made flesh, and we have seen his glory*

John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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.

Closing Hymn

Silent night, holy night

STILLE NACHT

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

Night Prayer

Lord,
it is night.

The night is for stillness.
Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.
What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.
Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.
Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.
Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.
Amen.

WORSHIP IS FINISHED. YOU ARE INVITED TO MAKE
SPACE FOR REFLECTION AND PRAYER.



Christmas Flowers

The decorations in the church for this Christmas have been given as an offering of prayer and praise to God.

The Altar Guild *In loving memory of Ruth Pack, Robert Allan, Ruth Wilson Patton, Annie Patton, Anne Patton, George S. Patton, Sr., George S. Patton, Jr., Teddy Bradley, Clara Lindsay, Mary Cahoon, Olivia and Dr. Crawford Brown, Mamie Asbury, Beatrice Wittenberg, Elaine Hood, Josephine Jardine, Caroline and Willard Kising, Carmen Adams, Ruth McMillian, Bob Williams, June Goldie, June Fiedler, Martha Johnson, Beatrice Bird, Shirley Wright, Vera McKee, Marie Lopez, Eleanor Esterly, Norma Smith, Helen Tuthill, Jane Messler, Alice Clark, Kate Martin, Phyllis Shuman, Pat Narver, Joni Lowe, Patricia Keedy, Lesi Jackson, Ruth Greer, Andrea Blensly, Jacqueline Walter, Dorothy Fancher, Betty Williams, Pinky Key, Pam Wilke, Lucretia Cloran, Isabel Eyles, Mel Weston, Emil Steck, Ellie Cowen, Suzanne Bradley, Jean Johnson, Dorothy Somers, Lupe Donovan, Dorothy Kolts, Beth Yale, Mary Jean Wilson, Martha West, Betsy Hoover, and the Rev. Nancy Shier.*

Ed & Debbie Andersen *in memory of Holly Scatterday*

Angela & Vito Angiuli *in memory of Imacolatta Attolico and Dolores "Lola" Gallego*

Michele Baker *in memory of Ronald Baker, Holly & Stephen Baker, Robert & Lucille Pearce*

Patti Beith

Lee & Fran Benuska *in memory of Patrick Healy*

Marilyn Stalder-Burke & Jonathan Burke *in memory of loved ones*

John Michael Cahoon *in memory of John S. Cahoon, Mary K. Cahoon, Mike R. Enriquez, Lynne Levin Eisler, Lori Tiger Nishimura, Norma Good*

Lynda Canzoneri *in memory of Rich Canzoneri*

Gail & John Cooper

Georgie Erskine *in memory of Paul Anderson Erskine & Family, Evelyn Lewis Bray*

Mark & Linda Goluskin

Rose Gonzalez

Yulanda Yijun He

Trish Healy

Vera Hoalim *in memory of William, Rachel & Clara Hoalim, Donald Gibbons*

Cece Horne

Jo Hunter *in memory of Roy Hunter, Stella & Art Macdonald, Shirley Hargrave, Barbara Freathy, Florence & Clarence Hunter*

Thomas Johnson *in memory of Doris Johnson*

Scott & Juli Kennedy *in memory of Richard Kennedy and Doris Johnson*

Henrietta Ma

Roberta Marshall *in memory of Chuck Marshall*

Gretchen Notley

Marilyn Omernick & Carol Grosvenor *in thanksgiving for all the blessings we have received*

Susan Salisbury *in memory of Ravi & Madelyn Salisbury and in thanksgiving for Sam Thomas*

Tom & Doni Satorhelyi

Sue Smock *in memory of Sandy Smock*

Cheryl St. George

Kari & Paul Stewart *in memory of Kathleen Stewart*

Cheryl Townsend *in thanksgiving for family*

Charlotte VanFleet

Frank Waller

Susan Williams *with thanksgiving and blessings for friends & family*

Ping Xu & Jian Rong Liu *in thanksgiving for family*

Long Jiang Yu

PARTICIPANTS

Celebrant and Preacher
The Rev. Jeff D.S. Thornberg, *Rector*

Deacon
The Rev. Bill Doulos

Acolytes
Aiden Correnti,
Tori Cooper, Trish Healy

Verger
Joanna Cory

Readers
Patti Beith, Vera Hoalim,
Maurice Saldebar, Trish Healy

Intercessor
Juli Kennedy

Musicians
Dustin Seo – Cello, Alice Rucker – Organ

Our Saviour Ensemble
Juli Kennedy, Addie Voris, Aiden Correnti, Lisa Hsu,
Cheryl Townsend, Kim Sirean

Usher
David Waller

Altar Guild
Juli Kennedy, Patti Beith, Peggy O'Leary

Audio/ Video
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Music Director
Taylor Vazquez-Reyes

Associate for Children's Ministry
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The Rev. Jeff Thornberg, Rector

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We are better because you choose to spend time among us...