

# CHRISTMAS DAY

## Festival Eucharist

Friday, December 25, 2020 at 11am

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

## THE GATHERING RITE

### Gathering Music *Corey Shotwell, tenor*

Wie schön geschmückt der festliche Raum!  
Die Lichter funkeln am Weihnachtsbaum!  
O fröhliche Zeit! o seliger Traum!

Die Mutter sitzt in der Kinder Kreis;  
Nun schweiget alles auf ihr Geheiß:  
Sie singet des Christkinds Lob und Preis.

Und rings, vom Weihnachtsbaum erhellt,  
Ist schön in Bildern aufgestellt  
Des heiligen Buches Palmenwelt.

Die Kinder schauen der Bilder Pracht,  
Und haben wohl des Singen acht,  
Das tönt so süß in der Weihenacht!

O glücklicher Kreis im festlichen Raum!  
O goldne Lichter am Weihnachtsbaum!  
O fröhliche Zeit! o seliger Traum!

*How gaily decked the scene doth appear!  
How brightly burning the candles here!  
O rapturous time, O vision so dear!*

*The mother sits with her children there,  
who silent wail with expectant air  
the tale of the Christ child, beyond compare.*

*Around, displayed by candle light,  
are many colored pictures bright  
of Biblical scenes that charm the sight.*

*The children look at the scenes unrolled,  
and hear the tale so sweetly told,  
a wondrous tale of the times of old!*

*O circle so bright, how glad all appear!  
O golden candle light gleaming here!  
O rapturous time! O vision so dear!*

words and music: Peter Cornelius (1824-1874)

### The Opening Acclamation

*The people's responses are in bold.*

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
**Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

## Opening Hymn

1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy - ful and tri-umphant; O come ye; O come ye to  
2 True God from true God, Light from light e - ter - nal, born of a vir - gin, a  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels; sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; sing, all ye cit - i - zens of  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; Je - sus, to thee be all

Beth - le - hem! Come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels!  
mor - tal he comes; ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed! O come, let us a -  
heaven a - bove! Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est!  
glo - ry given; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing!

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

words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Fredrick Oakley (1802-1880) and others  
music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

We praise you, gracious God, for the glad tidings of peace, the good news of salvation: your Word became flesh, and we have seen his glory. Let the radiance of that glory enlighten the lives of those who celebrate his birth. Reveal to all the world the light no darkness can extinguish, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## **The Lesson** *Isaiah 52:7-10*

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 98** *sung by the soloist*

Sing to the Lord a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.

With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.

The Lord has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to the Lord with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.

In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

Anglican chant: Charles Villiers Stanford (1852-1924)

## The Epistle *Hebrews 1:1-4*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

### Hymn at the Gospel Procession



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.  
music: *Antioch*, Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

## **The Gospel** *John 1:1-14*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Christ.**

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **The Sermon** *The Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

*A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

**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, She\* is worshipped and glorified. She 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 Prayers of the People

*Please offer your own petitions silently or aloud during the silences, or via a Facebook comment, which we will read aloud at the end of the prayers. The intercessor says*

God of wonder, on this sacred day you become one of us. Startle us with your good news, and be born in our hearts, we pray.

Prince of Peace, you disarm the forces of violence. End all war and hatred, and unite every people and nation.

God of wonder,  
**be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Child of the stable, you appear among the poor and the excluded. Reveal yourself to us in the forgotten and the dismissed.

God of wonder,  
**be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Word made flesh, you sanctify our bodies with your presence. Teach us to treat the bodies of others and of ourselves with dignity and respect.

God of wonder,  
**be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Vulnerable Savior, you know what it is like to suffer and be in need. Attend to those who yearn for your healing, including those we now name. *The People add their own prayers.*

God of wonder,  
**be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Delight of the angels, you travel the distance between heaven and earth. Bring all who have died to the glories of your eternal home. *The People add their own prayers.*

God of wonder,  
**be born in our hearts, we pray.**

*The Celebrant continues*

God of wonder, you arrive in our lives in ways we can neither anticipate nor fully understand: may we so marvel at the mystery of your Incarnation that we neither reject it without thinking nor accept it without being transformed. In the name of Jesus Christ, whose birth changes everything. **Amen.**

## The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Please share the peace wherever you are: with a comment posted on Facebook, a bow to those nearby, or some other distanced gesture of peace.*

## The Announcements

### GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit [stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard), or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit [stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate).

**Thank you** for your generous support!



## THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

### The Offertory

*The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give on the previous page.*

### Carol at the Offertory *sung by the soloist*

Long ago, prophets knew  
Christ would come, born for you,  
come to make all things new;  
bear his people's burden,  
freely love and pardon.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?

God in time, God in man,  
this is God's timeless plan:  
He will come, as a man,  
born himself of woman,  
God divinely human.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?

Mary, hail! Though afraid,  
she believed, she obeyed.  
In her womb God is laid;  
till the time expected,  
nurtured and protected.  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
When he comes, when he comes,  
who will make him welcome?

Journey ends! Where afar  
Bethlehem shines, like a star,  
stable door stands ajar.  
Unborn Son of Mary,  
Savior, do not tarry!  
Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring!  
Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!  
Jesus comes! Jesus comes!  
We will make him welcome!

words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000)

music: Personent hodie, melody from Piae Cantiones, 1582; arr. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

# The Great Thanksgiving

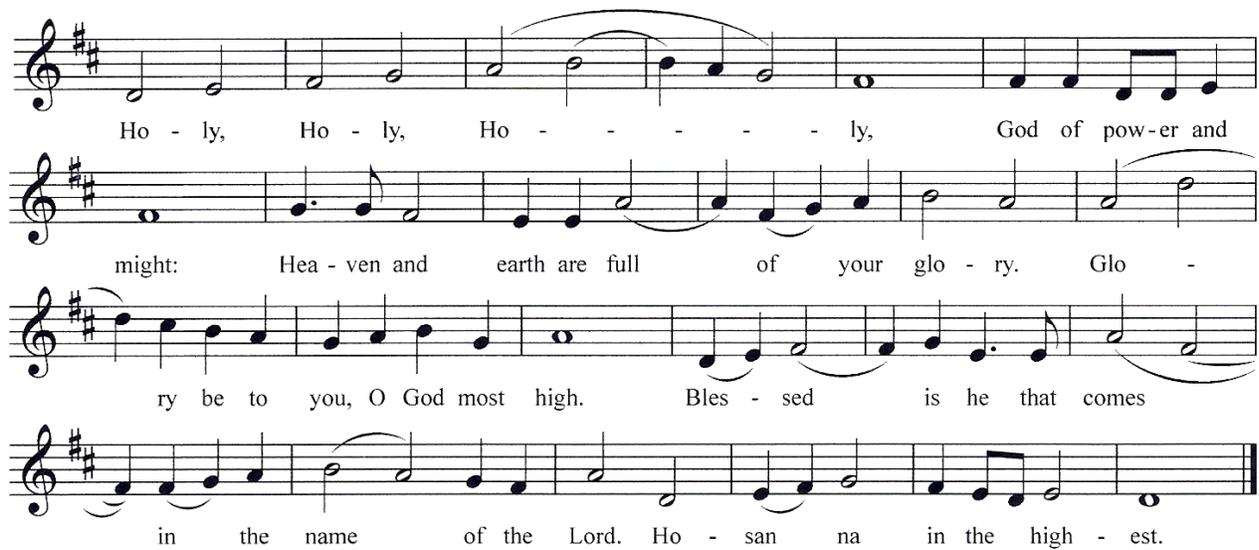
The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 and Benedictus



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - - - - ly, God of pow-er and  
might: Hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Glo -  
ry be to you, O God most high. Bles - sed is he that comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san na in the high - est.

setting: *Missa de Sancta Maria Magdalena*, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

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Gracious and ever-loving God, we thank you for sending your Child to shine among us while we were still under the shadow of death. You broke the yoke of sin and loneliness that burdened us. You dwelt among us in justice and truth, giving us grace and peace, and we have seen your glory. Teach us, Child of Bethlehem, Prince of Peace, to follow your example of righteous living, and help us to grow in the image of your Love.

On the night when he was given up to death, knowing that his hour had come, having loved his own, Jesus loved them to the end. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying: "Take, eat. This is my body; it is broken for you."

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me."

Be among us now as we proclaim the mystery of faith:



setting: Jackson Hill (b. 1941)  
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Fill us and these gifts of bread and wine this day with your Holy Spirit, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Christ, and that we may know you in the breaking of the bread and drinking of the cup and see you incarnate among your people gathered here. At this table, unify our hearts and lives, that we may be your people who return to the world, like the shepherds of old, glorifying and praising you.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.



setting: McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015)  
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# The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant*  
 As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*Celebrant and People*  
 Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,  
 your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.  
 Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
 For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
 Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.  
 For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,  
 now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens  
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# The Communion

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus  
 in the breaking of the bread.

—Luke 24:35

# Hymn

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord  
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

words: English carol, 18<sup>th</sup> c.  
 music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17<sup>th</sup> cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901)

*After a period of silent reflection the people pray the following*

**God of abundance,  
you have fed us with the bread of life  
and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with one another  
through Christ who is born anew among us;  
and you have made us one with all creation  
in heaven and on earth.**

**Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
proclaiming the good news of great joy to all people,  
that we may continue forever in the risen life  
of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## THE SENDING RITE

### The Blessing and Dismissal

The wonder and wildness of God, whose coming among us as a child shakes heaven and earth, whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us, bless you with power to go forth and proclaim the gospel. **AMEN.**

Go forth with joy, glorifying and praising God for all you have seen and heard.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude** *In dulci jubilo* by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

## THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

St. Paul's on the Green  
The Rev. Daniel Simons, *Priest-in-charge*  
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