

# CHRISTMAS EVE

## Festival Eucharist

Thursday, December 24, 2020 at 5:30pm

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

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

## THE GATHERING RITE

**Gathering Music** *Adrienne Lotto, soprano, and Charlie Johnson, trumpeter*

*Once in Royal David's City*, arranged by Richard Walters

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

*Mariä Wiegenlied* by Max Reger (1873-1916)

Maria sitzt im Rosenhag und wiegt ihr Jesuskind,  
Durch die Blätter leise weht der warme Sommerwind.

Zu ihren Füßen singt ein buntes Vögelein:  
Schlaf, Kindlein, süße, Schlaf nun ein!

Hold ist dein Lächeln, Holder deines Schlummers Lust,  
Leg dein müdes Köpfchen Fest an deiner Mutter Brust!

*Amid the roses Mary sits and rocks her Jesus child,  
while amid the treetops sighs the breeze so warm and mild.*

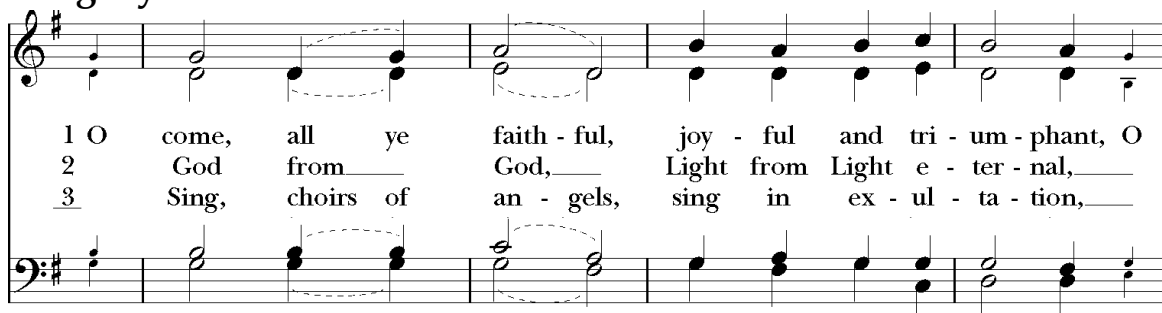
*And soft and sweetly sings a bird upon the bough:  
Ah, baby, sleep, dear one. Slumber now!*

*Happy is thy laughter, holy is thy silent rest,  
lay thy head in slumber fondly on thy mother's breast.*

words: Martin Boelitz (1874-1918), translated by Edward Teschmacher (1876-1940)

music: Max Reger (1873-1916)

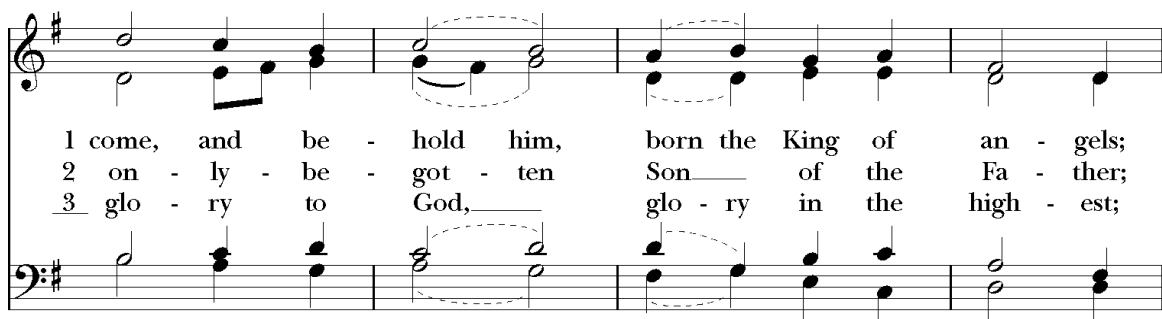
## Opening Hymn



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;

*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.

6. Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

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 Opening Acclamation

*The people's responses are in bold.*

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

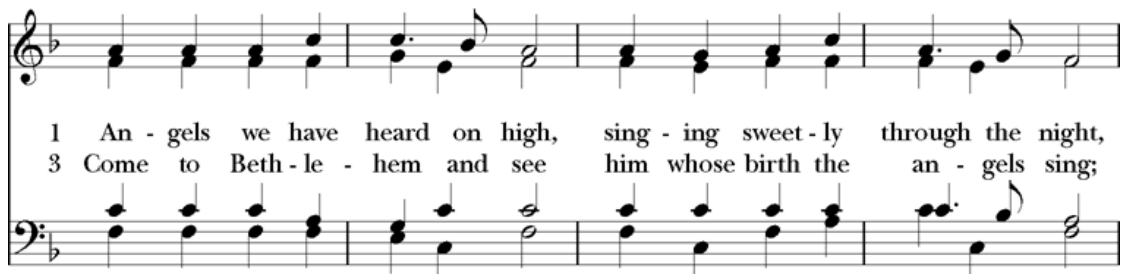
**Glory to God for ever and ever.**

For unto us a child is born,

**unto us a Son is given.**

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.

## Song of Praise



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
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.  
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!

words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813–1882), alt.  
music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958)

## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your word made flesh, 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 9:2-7*

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. 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.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 96** *sung by the soloist*

Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.  
Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.  
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.  
As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.  
Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!  
Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.  
Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.  
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.  
Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."  
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.  
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

Anglican chant: William Crotch (1775-1847)

**The Epistle** *Titus 3:4-7*

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn at the Gospel Procession

*Unison or harmony*

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!  
 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.  
 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,  
 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.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

music: *Forest Green*, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

## **The Gospel**    *Luke 2:1-20*

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

**Glory to you, O Christ.**

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 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 Holy Spirit is the spirit of Wisdom, the feminine Sophia, and the Hebrew Scripture calls the Spirit "ruah," a feminine word, to describe the feminine aspect of the Godhead, the breath of God.*

*\*\*Here "catholic" means universal. It refers to the belief that the message of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus is a "universal" one that the Church proclaims to everyone, everywhere and always.*

## 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 night 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 above on this page.*

## Hymn at the Offertory



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That  
4. For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, By  
glo - rious song of old, From an - gels bend - ing  
proph - ets seen of old, When with the ev - er -  
near the earth To touch their harps of gold: "Peace  
cir - cling years Shall come the time fore - told, When  
on peace the earth, good will to all, From  
peace shall o - ver all the earth Its  
heav'n's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn  
an - cient splen - dors fling, And all the world give  
still - ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.  
back the song Which now the an - gels sing.

words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt.  
music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

## 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.**

O Eternal Wisdom, we praise you and give you thanks, because you emptied yourself of power and became foolishness for our sake; for on this night you were delivered as one of us, a baby needy and naked, born into poverty and exile, to proclaim the good news to the poor, and to let the broken victims go free.

Therefore, we sing with the stars of heaven, with the angels of this night, and with all those who have loved you throughout the ages, and we praise your name, singing:

## Sanctus and Benedictus



*The choir sings alone:*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,



setting: Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930)

© 1975 GIA Publications, Inc.

OneLicense.net License #A-709109

Blessed is our brother Jesus, bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh; who, on the night when he was delivered over to death, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said: "This is my body, which is for you. Do this to remember me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me." Therefore, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we are proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes.

setting: Jackson Hill (b. 1941)

© 1982 Church Publishing, Inc.

OneLicense.net License #A-709109

Come now, Holy Spirit, embrace us with your comforting power. Brood over these bodily things, and make us one body in Christ. As Mary's "Yes" brought forth your Son, may Christ be ever born in us for the life of the world.

All this we pray in the risen life of the one who unites heaven and earth, your son, Jesus Christ, through whom, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all power and glory are yours, now and for ever.



setting: McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015)  
© 1982 Church Publishing, Inc.  
OneLicense.net License #A-709109

## The Lord's Prayer

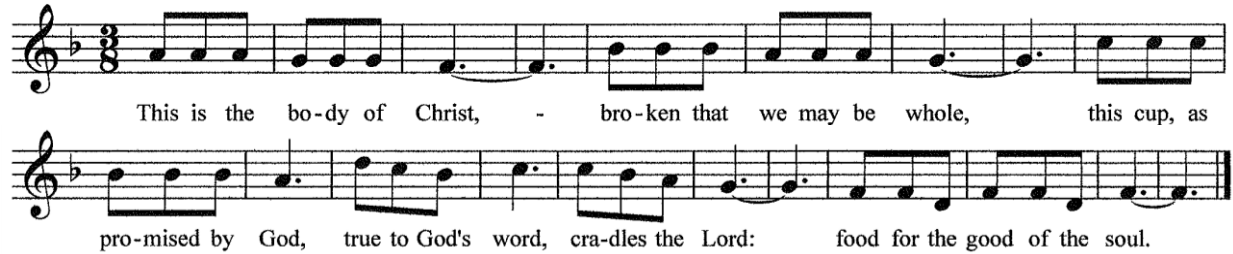
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hall - owed be your Name, your king - dom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
And for - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
Save us from the time of trial, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.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

setting: Nicolai Rimsky-Korsakov (1844-1908); adapted.

## The Communion

The Word became flesh;  
**and we have beheld God's glory.** —John 1:14

Receive the one who comes among us; God comes to us, so that we might come to God.



words and music: John L. Bell (b. 1949)  
© 1998 Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.). OneLicense.net License #A-709109

## Carol at the Communion *Greensleeves*, arr. Bernard Fitzgerald (1911-1976)

## The Prayer after Communion

*The Celebrant and people pray*

**We bless you, Creator of all, for in the Holy One of Bethlehem and in this holy meal you have visited your people, and in our humanity you have revealed the face of divinity. Gather into your arms all the peoples of the world, so that in your embrace we may find blessing, peace, and the fullness of our inheritance as your children. Amen.**

## Hymn

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

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)

# THE SENDING RITE

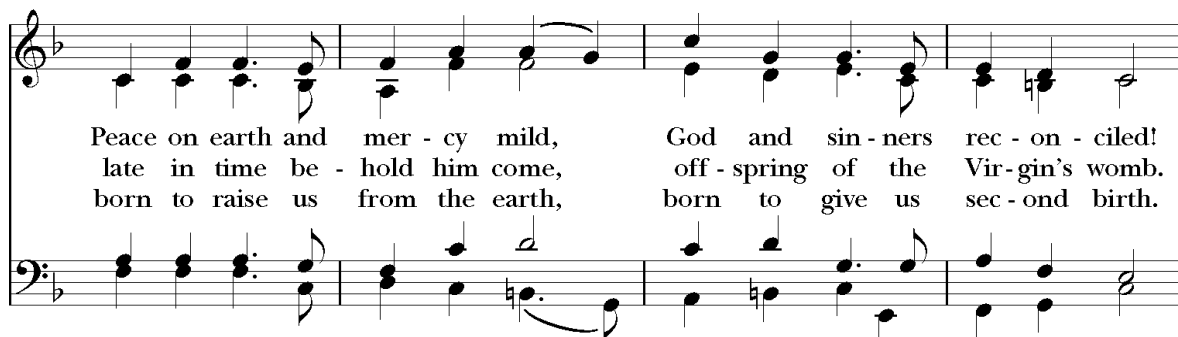
## The Blessing

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. **Amen.**

# Hymn



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!

words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.

music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915)

## The Dismissal

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

**Postlude** *Farandole* by Georges Bizet (1838-1875)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

St. Paul's on the Green  
The Rev. Daniel Simons, *Priest-in-charge*  
60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851  
[stpaulsnorwalk.org](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org) | [info@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:info@stpaulsnorwalk.org)