

CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH HOLY EUCHARIST

DECEMBER 26, 2021 AT 11:00 AM

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | 60 EAST AVENUE | NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 06851

PRELUDE

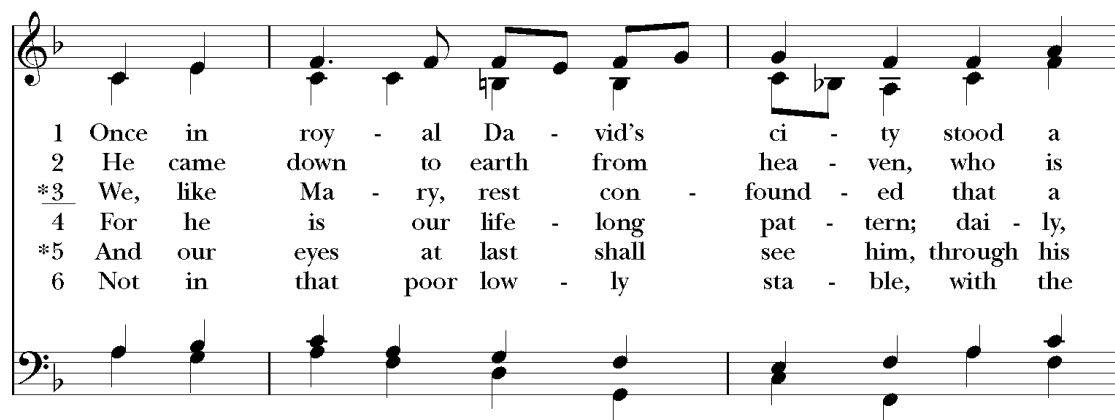
THE OPENING ACCLAMATION *Please stand as the bells sounds.*

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

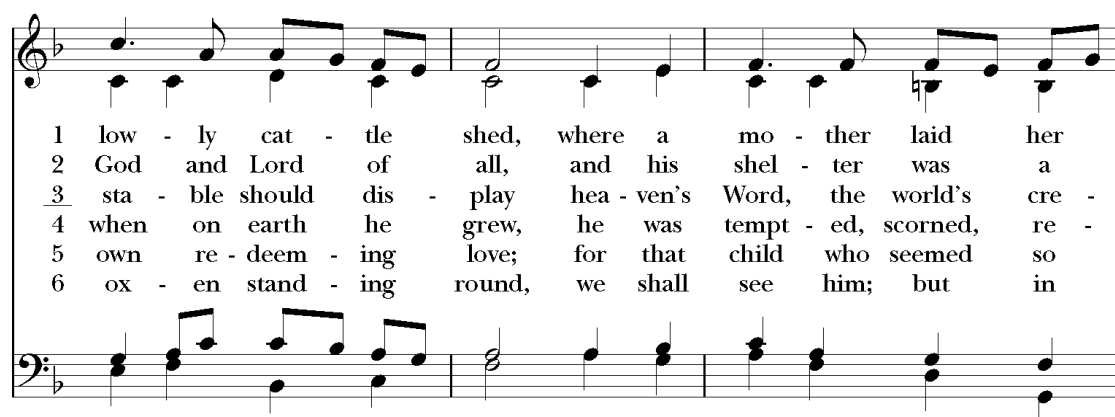


HYMN IN PROCESSION

verses 1 & 2 sung by choir only, congregation joins at verse 3



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
 *3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 *5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the



1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in



1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -



1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Words: Sts. 1-2, 4-6, Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938)

Music: Irby, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

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THE BIDDING AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Dear People of God: In this Christmas season it is our joy and 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, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise and our prayers of thanksgiving.

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 FIRST LESSON

seated

Isaiah 9:2-7

A reading from the book of 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. 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 the People.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



Refrain
 O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Words: London carol, 18th cent.

Music: *God Rest You Merry*, melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

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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, favoured 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 favour 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.' 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

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,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

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,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"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."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

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

Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924)

Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943)

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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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

CAROL

standing

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!
 *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!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

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

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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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

Thanks be to God.

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

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

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: English Carol, 18th cent.

Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901); alt. refrain harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968)

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A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray to Christ our Savior. The response is, *hear our prayer.*

O Holy One, born in a stable, give strength and sustenance to all who are homeless.

Christ our Savior,

Hear our prayer.

O Holy One, for whom the angels sang, give the song of gladness to all who weep.

Christ our Savior,

Hear our prayer.

O Holy One, worshiped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed.

Christ our Savior,

Hear our prayer.

O Holy One, before whom the wise ones knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern.

Christ our Savior,

Hear our prayer.

Please offer your own prayers and thanksgivings aloud, or in silence.

Christ our Savior,

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant prays

Christ our Savior, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayers.
Glory to you, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with a distanced gesture to those nearby.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Giving to St. Paul's

The work and mission of St. Paul's is fully supported by the generous contributions of its members and friends. You can make a one-time offering or a sustaining gift to St. Paul's by visiting stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or text to give at 203-889-9983. For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/support.



Thank you for your support!

ANTHEM AT THE OFFERTORY

seated; sung by the choir

Verbum caro factum est, et habitavit in nobis;
cuius gloriam vidimus quasi unigeniti a Patre.

*The word was made flesh and dwelt among us;
whose glory we have seen as only-begotten by the Father.*

Words: Anonymous, 15th Century English
Music: Richard Proulx (1937 2021)

HYMN AT THE OFFERTORY

standing; the gifts of bread, wine, and the offering are brought forward

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
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
 beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain

now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
 ye have seen his na - tal star:
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

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

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.

Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. 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.

O Eternal Wisdom, we praise you and give you thanks, because you emptied yourself of power and became foolishness for our sake; for 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 and archangels, and with all those who have loved you throughout the ages, and we praise your name, evermore singing:

SANCTUS

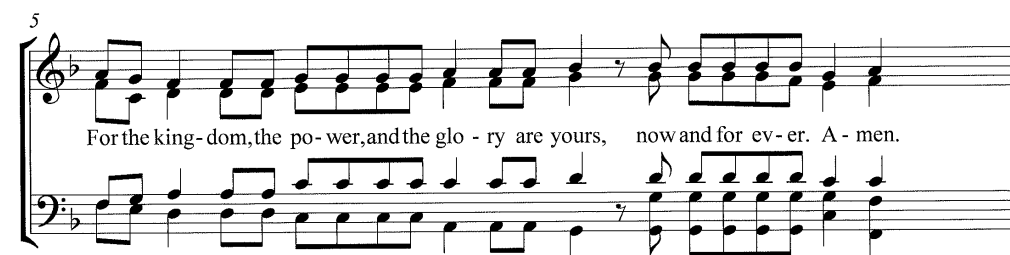
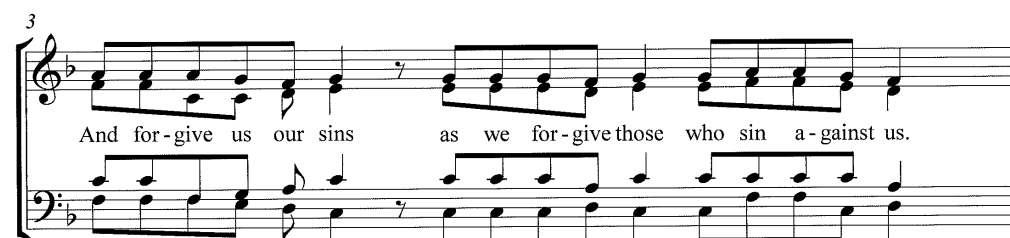
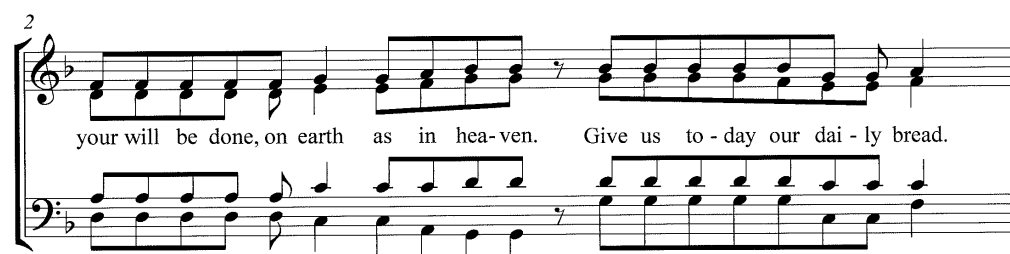
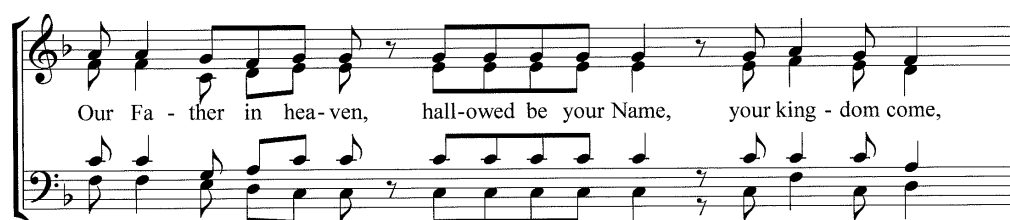
Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly,
10 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heav - en and earth are
19 full, full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high -
28 est. Ho - san - na in the high - est Bless - ed is he who comes
37 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the
43 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 for the remembrance of 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, for the remembrance of me." 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,



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THE LORD'S PRAYER



THE COMMUNION

The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying

This is the true bread which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.

Whoever eats this bread will live for ever.

Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers.

All sing together as the distribution of Communion begins.


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

7 mer - cy on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the

12 world: give us your peace, give us your peace.

Words and Music: Franz Schubert (1797-1828)
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CAROL AT THE COMMUNION



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.

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925);
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 Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

standing

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May Christ born among us fill you with joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you now, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

HYMN IN PROCESSION

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

The musical score is written for three voices (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor) and a piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a strong emphasis on the lyrics. The piano accompaniment provides a steady harmonic foundation with chords and moving lines in both hands.

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

THE DISMISSAL

Go in the peace of the newborn Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

THE WORSHIP IS OVER – THE SERVICE BEGINS

ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org