

CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

DECEMBER 24, 2021 AT 10 PM

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

CHORAL PRELUDE

SWEET LITTLE JESUS BOY

Natalie Kikkenborg, Soloist

Sweet little Jesus Boy, They made you be born in a manger.
Sweet little Holy Child, Didn't know who you was,
Didn't know you'd come to save us, Lord to take our sins away.
Our eyes was blind; We couldn't see, We didn't know who You was.
Long time ago You was born, born in a manger low, Sweet little Jesus Boy.
The world treated You mean, Lord, treat me mean too,
But please, sir, forgive us Lord, We didn't know 'twas You.
Sweet little Jesus Boy, Born long time ago, Sweet little Holy Child,
And we didn't know who You was.

Robert MacGimsey

ENTRE LE BŒUF ET L'ÂNE GRIS

Entre le bœuf et l'âne gris
Dort, dort, dort le petit fils
Mille anges divins, mille séraphins
Volent à l'entour de ce grand dieu d'amour.
Entre les deux bras de Marie
Dort, dort, dort le fruit de vie
Mille anges divins...
En ce beau jour si solennel
Dort, dort, dort l'Emmanuel
Mille anges divins...
Entre les roses et les lys
Dort, dort, dort le petit fils
Mille anges divins...

*Between the ox and the grey donkey
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps the little son,
A thousand divine angels, a thousand
seraphim
Fly around this great God of love.
Between the two arms of Mary
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps the fruit of life,
A thousand divine angels...
On this beautiful, so solemn day
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps Emmanuel,
A thousand divine angels...
Between the roses and the lilies,
Sleeps, sleeps, sleeps the little son,
A thousand divine angels...*

Traditional French Carol
arr. Willem Pijper

UNE JEUNE PUCELLE DE NOBLE CŒUR,

Une jeune pucelle de noble cœur,
Priant en sa chambrette son Créateur.
L'ange du Ciel descendant sur la terre
Lui conta le mystère de notre Salvateur.
La pucelle esbahie de ceste voix,
Elle se peint à dire pour ceste fois:
Comment pourra s'accomplir telle affaire?
Car jamais n'eus affaire à nul homme qui soyt.
Ne te soucie, Marie, aucunement,
Celui qui Seigneurie au firmament,
Son Saint-Esprit te fera apparaître,
Dont tu ne pourras connaître tost cet enfantement.
Sans douleur et sans peine, et sans tourment,
Neuf moys seras enceinte de cet enfant;
Quand ce viendra à le poser sur terre,
Jésus faut qu'on l'appelle, le Roy sur tout
trionphant.
Lors fut tant consolée de ces beaux dits,
Qu'elle pensait quasi être en Paradis.
Se soubmettant du tout à lui complaire,
disant voicy l'ancelle du Sauveur Jésus-Christ.
Mon âme magnifie, Dieu mon sauveur,
Mon esprit glorifie son Créateur,
Car il a eu egard à son ancelle;
Que terre universelle lui soit gloire et honneur.

*A young maid with a noble heart,
praying to her Creator in her chamber.
The angel, descending from heaven to earth,
told her the mystery of our Saviour.
The maid, astonished at this voice,
was moved to say at this point:
'How can such a thing be accomplished?
For never did I have converse with any man at all.'
'Fear not, Mary, at all:
he who is Lord of the firmament will send you his
Holy Spirit,
from whom you will soon learn of the Child to be
born.
Without sorrow, without pain, without torment,
you will carry this Child for nine months;
when the time comes to give him birth,
you must call him Jesus,
the King triumphing over all things.'*

*Then she was so consoled by these fine words,
that she felt as though she were in Paradise.
She submitted entirely to comply with all he said,
saying 'Here is the handmaid of the Saviour Jesus
Christ.
My soul glorifies God my Saviour,*

GAUDETE!

Gaudete! Gaudete!
Christus est natus ex Maria virgine.
Gaudete!
Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus;
carmina laetitiae devote reddamus.
Gaudete! Gaudete!
Deus homo factus est, natura mirante;
mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante.
Gaudete! Gaudete!
Ezechiellis porta clausa pertransitur;
unde lux est orta, salus invenitur.
Gaudete! Gaudete!
Ergo nostra contio psallat iam in lustro;
Benedicat Domino; salus regi nostro.
Gaudete! Gaudete!

Rejoice! Rejoice!

*Christ is born of the Virgin Mary:
Rejoice!
The time of grace has come for which we have
prayed;
Let us devoutly sing songs of joy.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
God is made man, while nature wonders;
The world is renewed by Christ the King.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
The closed gate of Ezekiel has been passed
through;
From where the Light has risen; salvation is
found.
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Therefore, let our assembly sing praises now at
this time of purification;
Let it bless the Lord: greetings to our King.
Rejoice! Rejoice!*

IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

In the bleak midwinter, frosty winds made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed,
the Lord God Almighty Jesus Christ.

Enough for him, whom cherubim worship night and day,
a breast full of milk and a manger full of hay;
enough for him, whom angels fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give him poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)

GOD BLESS THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSE

God bless the master of this house,
with happiness beside;
where e'er his body rides or walks,
Lord Jesus be his guide.

God bless the mistress of this house
with gold chain round her breast;
where e'er her body sleeps or wakes,
Lord send her soul to rest.

God bless your house, your children too,
your cattle and your store;
the Lord increase you day by day
and send you more and more.

Words: English traditional
Music: English traditional, arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

ANTHEM

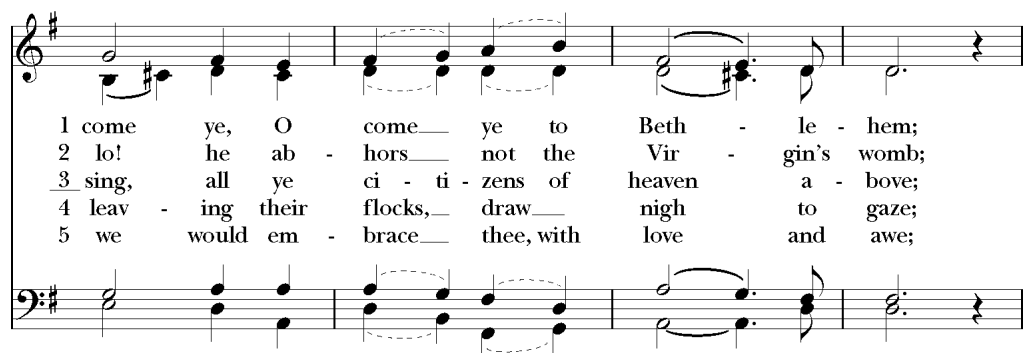
Verbum caro factum est, et habitavit in nobis;
cuius gloriam vidimus quasi unigeniti a Patre.
*The word was made flesh and dwelt among us;
whose glory we have seen as only-begotten by the Father.*

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

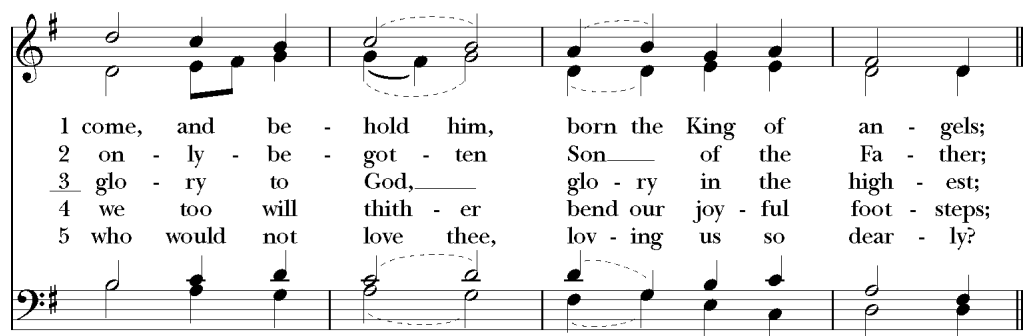
HYMN IN PROCESSION

Please stand as the bells sounds.


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,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,



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;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

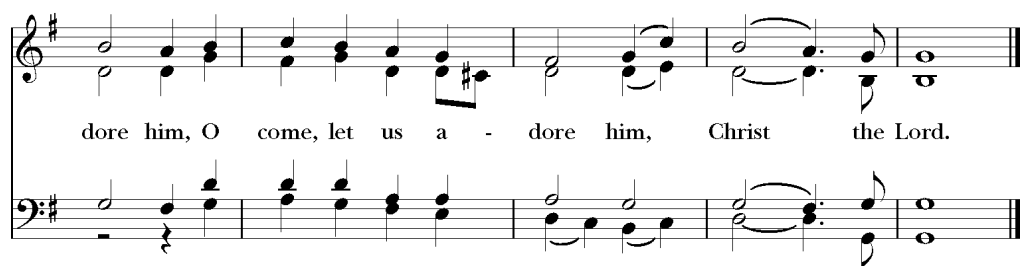


1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

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 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

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

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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.

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.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. 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, God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST LESSON

seated

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 the People.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-9

Sung by the choir

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.

Chant: William Crotch (1775-1847)

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

Thanks be to God.

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.

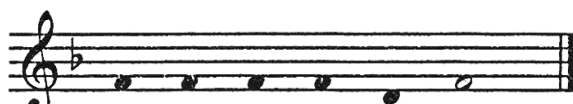
1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an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

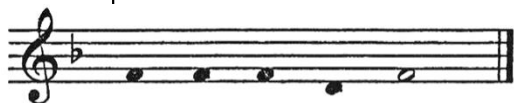
The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.



Glo - ry 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

seated

The Rev. Daniel Simons

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.

**Holy Spirit in biblical languages is a feminine-gendered word,
and we use the feminine pronoun here to highlight that aspect of God's fullness.*

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of silent wonder: you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word made flesh.

May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us.

On this holy night angels proclaim the peace of your unconquered Sun of righteousness.
Strengthen all who work for peace and justice.

On this holy night shepherds and outcasts hear your good news.
Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation.

On this holy night you come to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed of straw.
Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

On this holy night your living Word leaps down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind and spirit.

On this holy night we rejoice at the coming of this season of feasting and refreshment.
Guard those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us.

On this holy night heaven and earth embrace, and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Hold in your love all who have departed this life and gone before us in faith.
May we, like them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light.

The Celebrant prays

Almighty God, you wonderfully created the dignity of human nature and yet more wonderfully restored it. In your mercy, bring us to share the divine life of the one who came to share our humanity, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **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*

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.
This beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree.
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.
I'm weary'd with my former toil, here I will sit and rest a while;
Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Text: compiled by Joshua Smith, 1784
Music: Stanford E. Scriven

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 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, evermore singing:

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

The congregation and choir sing together:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,

The choir sings alone: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

The congregation and choir sing together:

hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the high - est.

**Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na in the high - est.

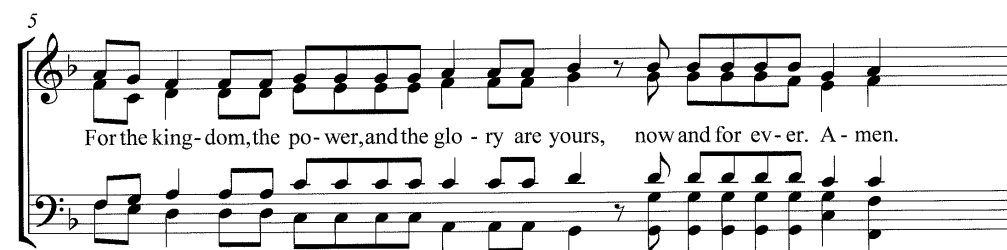
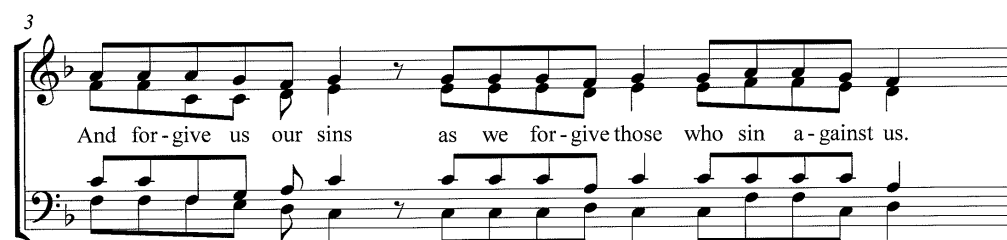
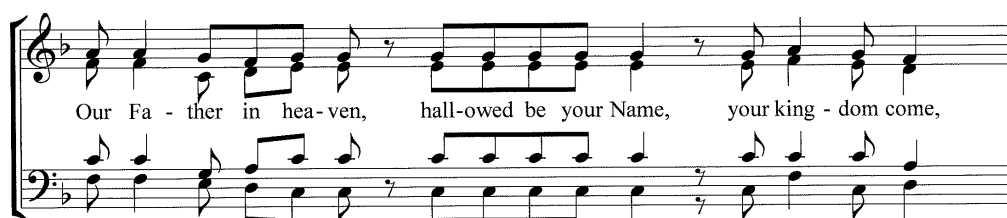
Music: Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930) Music Copyright © 1975, G. I. A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-709109

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 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,



Music: McNeil Robinson II (1943-2015) Music: © 1943 Church Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved; OneLicense.net License #A-7091

THE LORD'S PRAYER



THE COMMUNION

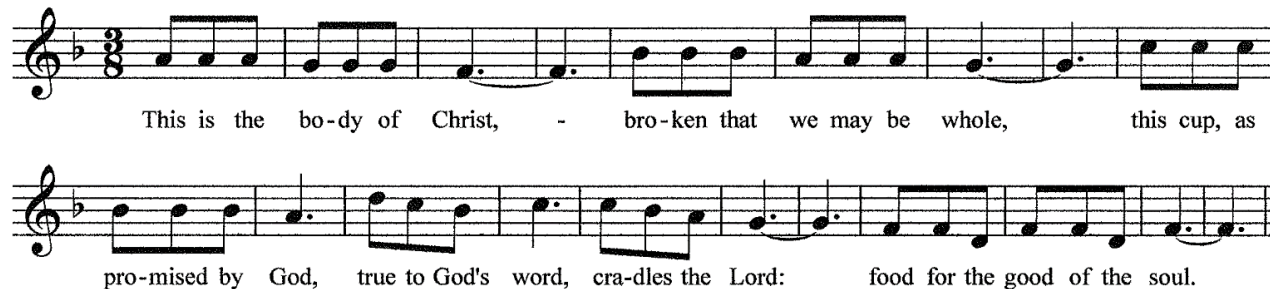
The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying

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.

sung three times.



Words and Music: John L. Bell (b.1949)

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ANTHEM AT COMMUNION

sung by the Choir

What is this lovely fragrance wafting like to the scents of flow'rs in spring!

Shepherds, O tell us, whence such beauty, hear you not heav'nly caroling?

What is this light so fair, so tender breaking upon our wond'ring eyes?

Never the Morning Star so radiant followed his course o'er eastern skies.

Shepherds, O haste with eager footsteps, seek the Saviour born today.

Low at his feet we lay our treasure, heart's adoration, love for aye.

Words: Old French Carol, translated by Ysobel

Music: arranged by Healey Willan

HYMN

1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose
 2 (This) child through Da - vid's ci - ty Shall
 3 (Yet) he shall be for - sak - en, And
 4 (But) now, as at the end - ing, The

glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their voic - es,
 ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its branch - es,
 yield - ed up to die; The sky shall groan and dark - en,
 low is lift - ed high; The stars shall bend their voic - es,

And ev - ery stone shall cry. And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. And ev - every stone shall cry,
 And ev - every stone shall cry. And ev - every stone shall cry,
 And ev - every stone shall cry. And ev - every stone shall cry,

And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor hea - ven,
 Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the road - way
 For ston - y hearts of men: God's blood up - on the spear-head,
 In prais - es of the Child By whose de - scent a - mong us

A stall be - come a shrine. 2 This
 To pave his king - dom come. 3 Yet
 God's love re - fused a - gain. 4 But
 The worlds are rec - on - ciled.

Final Ending

Words: Richard Wilbur (b. 1921) Copyright © 1961, Richard Wilbur. Reprinted from his volume, *Advice to a Prophet and Other Poems* by permission of Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.
 Music: Andújar, David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright © 1984, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

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. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. 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 PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

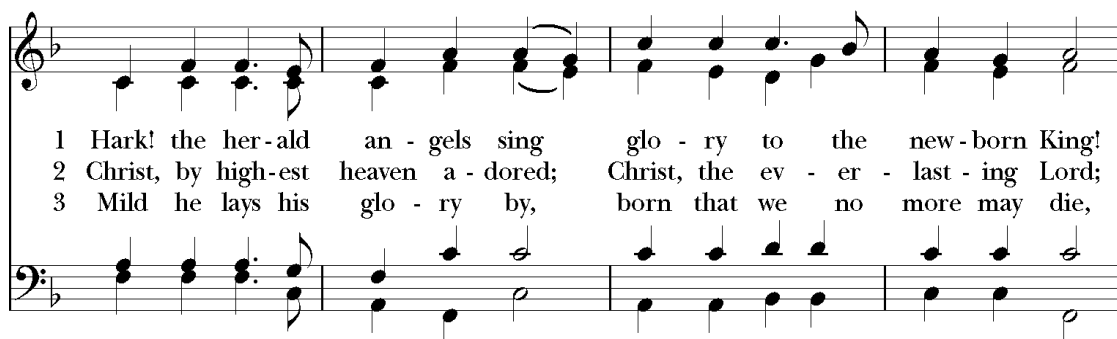
Let us pray.

Loving God, you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. As we stand at the manger and worship your Son, fill us with the message of the angels, so that we may be messengers of your love and goodness to the world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 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

Let us go and tell the world that we have seen the glory of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER – THE SERVICE BEGINS

ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN

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

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Priest in Charge*

Will Doreza *Interim Director of Music*

Josh Ehlebracht *Interim Organist*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*