# CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

DECEMBER 24, 2021 AT 6 PM

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

CHORAL PRELUDE

#### 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! Words: Piae Cantiones, 1582 Music: Anonymous

#### 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 Rosetti (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)

## HODIE

Hodie Christus natus est. Hodie Salvator apparuit, Alleluia. Hodie in terra cannunt angeli, laetantur archangeli. Hodie exultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia.

Today Christ is born. Today the Savior has appeared, Alleluia. Today the angels sing, the archangels rejoice. Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory be to God in the highest. Alleluia.

> Benjamin Britten (1913 – 1976) Opus 28

#### HYMN IN PROCESSION

Please stand as the bells sounds.



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



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

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

seated

## 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.

standing; all turn toward the Gospel as it is brought among the People

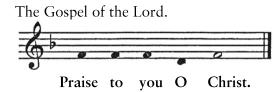


Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)Music: Forest Green, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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



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 SERMON

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

seated

The Rev. Daniel Simons

# 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 the 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.

His 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.

I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: Under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

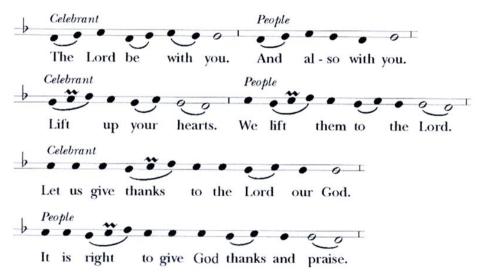
This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

> Music: Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987) Words: Joshua Smith, 1784



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

#### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:

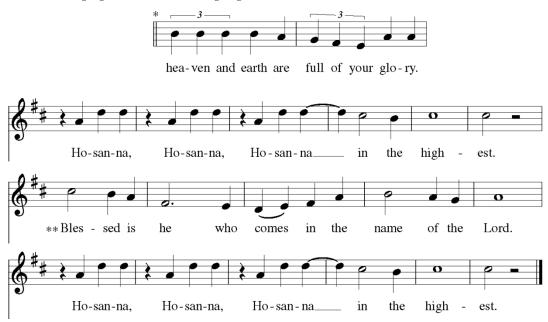
#### SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS

The congregation and choir sing together:



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

The congregation and choir sing together:

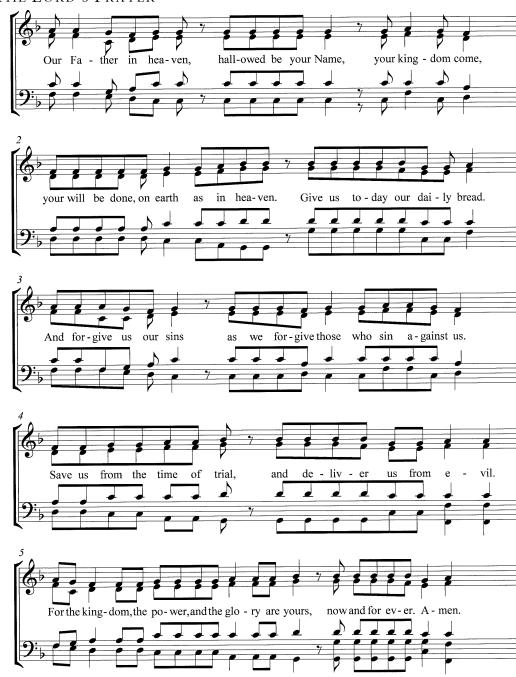


Music: Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930) Music Copyright © 1975, G. I. A. Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-709109

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,



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## THE LORD'S PRAYER

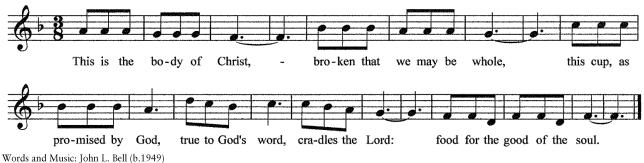
## The Communion

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.



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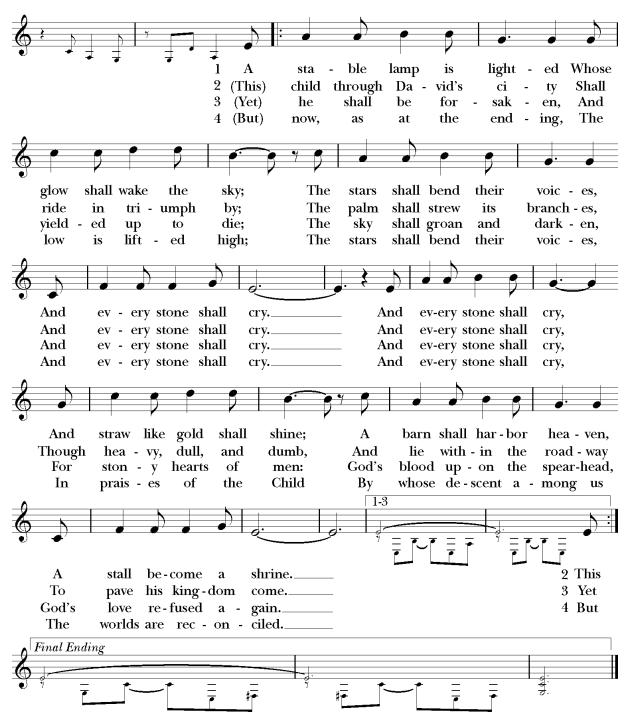
CAROL

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

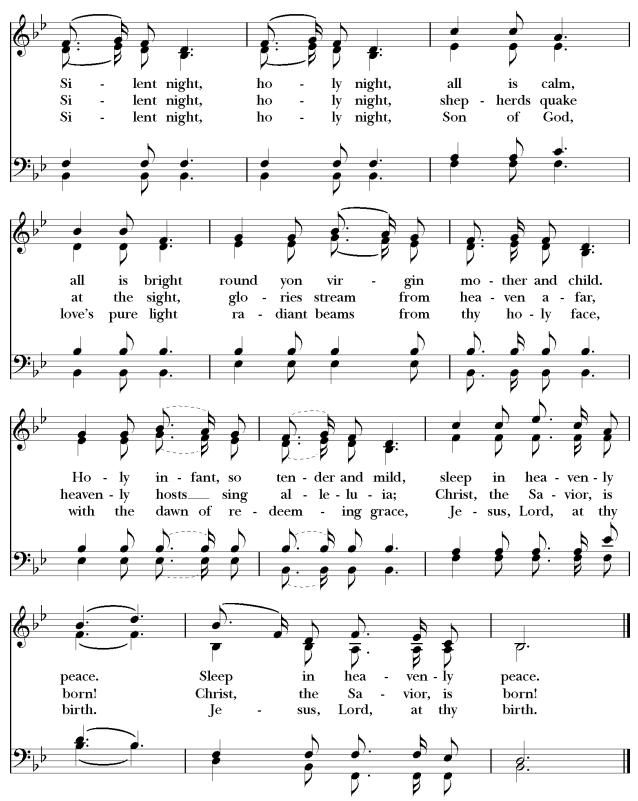
HYMN



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Music: Andújar, David Hurd (b. 1950) Copyright © 1984, G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Нуми



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



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