# Christmas Eve Festival Eucharist

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | DECEMBER 24, 2023 - 6:00 & 10:00 PM



### Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme, BuxWV 100

Versus II: Zion hört die Wächter singen

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

Zion hört die Wächter singen,
Das Herz tut ihr vor Freuden springen,
Sie wachet und steht eilend auf.
Ihr Freund kommt vom Himmel prächtig,
Von Gnaden stark, von Wahrheit mächtig,
Ihr Licht wird hell, ihr Stern geht auf.
Nun komm, du werte Kron,
Herr Jesu, Gottes Sohn!
Hosianna!
Wir folgen all

Zion hears the watchmen sing, her heart leaps for joy, she awakes and gets up in haste. Her friend comes from heaven in his splendour, strong in mercy, mighty in truth. Her light becomes bright, her star rises. Now come, you worthy crown, Lord Jesus, God's son! Hosanna! We all follow to the hall of joy and share in the Lord's supper.

Jared Swope, baritone (at 5:30pm) Benjamin Ferriby, baritone (at 9:30pm)

#### Gesu Bambino

Zum Freudensaal

Und halten mit das Abendmahl.

Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

Translation: Frederick Herman Martens (1874-1932)

When blossoms flowered amid the snows upon a winter night, was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light. The angels sang. The shepherds sang. The grateful earth rejoiced. And at his blessed birth, the stars their exultation voiced. O come let us adore Him, Christ the Lord. Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night that gave the world the Christmas Rose, the King of love and light. Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell! From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell. O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

Joe Lerangis, tenor (at 5:30pm) Gene Stenger, tenor (at 9:30pm)

### I sing of a maiden

Patrick Hadley (1899-1973) Words: Traditional English Carol

I sing of a maiden That is makeless; King of all kings To her son she ches.

He came all so still Where his mother was, As dew in April That falleth on the grass. He came all so still To his mother's bower, As dew in April That falleth on the flower.

He came all so still Where his mother lay, As dew in April That falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden Was never none but she; Well may such a lady Godës mother be.

### Sea Han, soprano Natalie Kikkenborg, mezzo-soprano

Gaudete, Gaudete

Music: Anonymous Words: Piae Canciones, 1582

Gaudete! Gaudete!

Christus est natus ex Maria virgine.

Gaudete!

Rejoice! Rejoice!

Christ is born of the Virgin Mary:

Rejoice!

Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus;

carmina laetitiae devote reddamus.

Deus homo factus est, natura mirante; mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante.

Ezechiellis porta clausa pertransitur; unde lux est orta, salus invenitur.

Ergo nostra contio psallat iam in lustro; Benedicat Domino; salus regi nostro. The time of grace has come for which we have prayed; Let us devoutly sing songs of joy.

God is made man, while nature wonders; The world is renewed by Christ the King.

The closed gate of Ezekiel has been passed through; From where the Light has risen; salvation is found.

Therefore, let our assembly sing praises now at this time of purification; Let it bless the Lord: greetings to our King.

### O magnum mysterium

Tomas Luis de Victoria (c. 1548-1611)

O magnum mysterium, et admirable sacramentum ut animalia viderent Dominum natum, jacentum in praesepio! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia! O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin, whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Christ. Alleluia!

#### In the bleak midwinter

Harold Darke (c. 1888-1976) Words: Christina Rossetti

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.

### The Unexpected Early Hour

from A Winter Breviary

Reena Esmail (b. 1983) Words: Rebecca Gayle Howell (b. 1975)

Praise be! praise be!

The dim, the dun, the dark withdraws

Our recluse morning's found.

The river's alive

The clearing provides

Lie down, night sky, lie down.

I feel the cold wind leaving, gone,

I feel the frost's relief.

My tracks in the snow can still be erased

In us, the sun believes. Winter is, Winter ends, So the true bird calls. The rocks cry out

My bones cry out

All the trees applaud.

Ev'ry hard thing lauds.

Lie down, night sky, lie down.

I know the seeding season comes,

I know the ground will spring.

My fate is not night

I don't need to try

Behold! The dawn, within.

Horizon lights across my thoughts,

Horizon lines redraw.

Inside of my throat a rise of the gold

Inside my chest I thaw.

Winter is, Winter ends,

Nothing stays the same.

The moon strikes high,

The sun strikes high and

Now I hear your name:

Earth's Untired Change.

Praise be! praise be!

The unexpected early hour

grows the good light long. Our darkness ends,

O mercy sun,

Trust can warm us all.

Begin again, again, again,

O may our day begin!

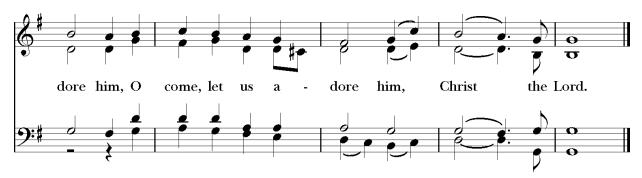
#### Verbum Caro Factus Est.

15<sup>th</sup> cent. English Carol arr. Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

Verbum caro factum est; habitavit in nobis. Alleluia. Notum fecit Dominus salutare suum. Alleluia. Prope invocavit me Pater meus es tu. Alleluia. Word made flesh, dwell in us. Alleluia. Thus has God made known to us our salvation. Alleluia. Close to me, he called my name; you are my Father, I your Son. Alleluia.

### HYMN IN PROCESSION





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

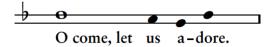
### Refrain

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

### OPENING ACCLAMATION

The Celebrant intones

Christ, the Light of the world, is born this night;



### SONG OF PRAISE



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

#### 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 LESSON seated Isaiah 9:2,6-7

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. 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 sung by the Choir Psalm 96

Sing to God a new song; \* sing to God all the whole earth.

Sing and bless God's holy Name; \* proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare God's glory among the nations, \* God's wonders among all peoples.

For God is great and greatly to be praised, \* more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols, \* but it is God who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of God's presence! \* Oh, the power and the splendor of God's sanctuary!

Ascribe to God, you families of the peoples, \* ascribe to God honor and power.

Ascribe due honor to God's holy Name; \* bring offerings and come into God's courts.

Worship the Most High in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth tremble before God.

Tell it out among the nations that God reigns! \*
God has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved and 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 God, who will come, \* who will come to judge the earth.

God will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with truth.

Setting: William Crotch

THE EPISTLE

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 the People.

Thanks be to God.

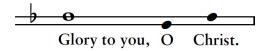
### GOSPEL HYMN



Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893)

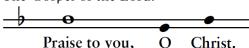
Music: Forest Green, English melody; adapt. and harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

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 Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON The Rev. Daniel Simons

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

### 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 continues

Almighty God, you wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored the dignity of human nature. 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 always with you.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with those around you.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

seated

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Thank You!

MUSIC AT THE OFFERTORY sung by the Choir

In the stillness

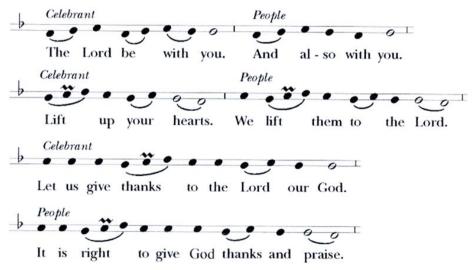
Sally Beamish Words: Katrina Shepherd

In the stillness of a church Where candles glow, In the softness of a fall Of fresh white snow, In the brightness of the stars That shine this night, In the calmness of a pool Of healing light, In the clearness of a choir That softly sings, In the oneness of a hush Of angels' wings, In the mildness of a night By stable bare, In the quietness of a lull Near cradle fair, There's a patience as we wait For a new morn, And the presence of a child Soon to be born.



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 imprisoned 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

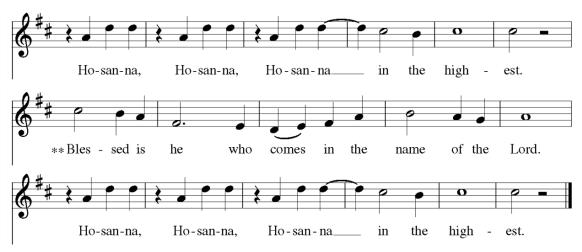
The congregation and choir sing together:



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

The congregation and choir sing together:





Setting: Ronald Arnatt (b. 1930)

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, gathered his friends, took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and said: "This is my body, given for you." In the same way he took 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."

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



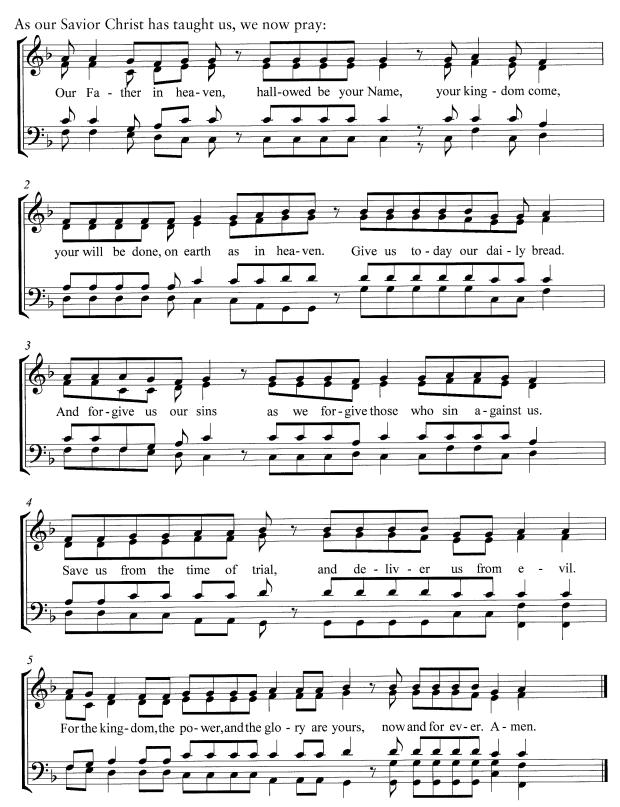
Setting: Jackson Hill (b. 1941)

Come now, Holy Spirit, embrace us with your comforting power. Bless these gifts, 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)

THE LORD'S PRAYER



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

#### THE COMMUNION

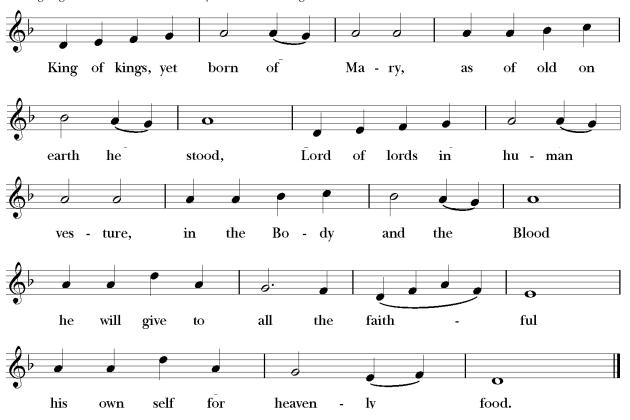
The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying

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. Gluten-free bread is available upon request; grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups at the side altars. (For the health of all, we are no longer dipping the bread into the chalice wine by hand.)

All sing together as the distribution of Communion begins.



Picardy, French Carol (17th cent.)

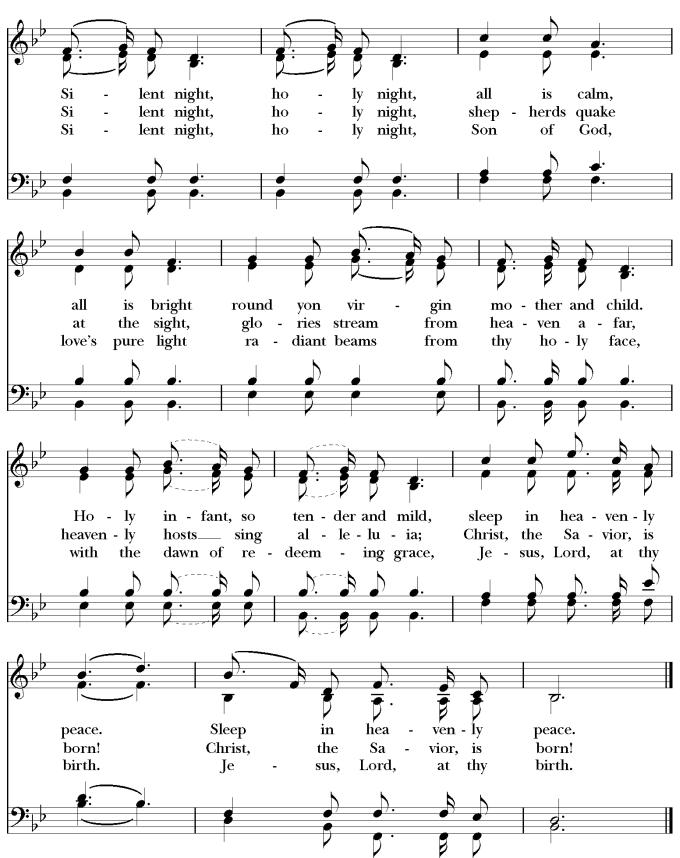
MUSIC AT COMMUNION

sung by the Choir

A Stable Lamp is Lighted

David Hurd (b. 1950)

### HYMN



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 together.

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, Eternal Majesty, Incarnate Word, and Abiding Presence, 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.

## Glory to God in the highest!

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Christmas 'Variations on Adeste Fideles' - Gaston Dethier (1875-1958)

# Coming up at St. Paul's

### Christmas Day Holy Eucharist

December 25, 11:00am (one service only)

### Burning Bowl - a year-end ritual

December 31, 6:00pm

### THE WORSHIP IS OVER - THE SERVICE BEGINS

ST Paul's on the Green - 60 East Ave., Norwalk, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 info@stpaulsnorwalk.org
The Rev. Daniel Simons Rector
The Rev. Paul Carling Priest Associate
Molly Cooke Seminarian
Will Doreza Interim Director of Music
Josh Ehlebracht Interim Organist
Marsha Dunn Parish Administrator

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