

CHRISTMAS EVE

Candlelit Eucharist

Thursday, December 24, 2020 at 11pm

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.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 Corey Shotwell, tenor*

In diesen Wintertagen, text by Karl Henckell (1864-1929), music by Richard Strauss (1864-1949)

In diesen Wintertagen,
Nun sich das Licht verhüllt,
Laß uns im Herzen tragen,
Einander traulich sagen,
Was uns mit innerm Licht erfüllt.

Was milde Glut entzündet,
Soll brennen fort und fort,
Was Seelen zart verbündet,
Und Geisterbrücken gründet,
Sei unser leises Losungswort.

Das Rad der Zeit mag rollen,
Wir greifen kaum hinein,
Dem Schein der Welt verschollen,
Auf unserm Eiland wollen
Wir Tag und Nacht der sel'gen Liebe weih'n.

*In these winter days,
now the light disguises itself,
let us bear in our hearts
and say confidentially to one another
what fills ourselves with inner light.*

*That which inflames mild ardor,
should burn on and on;
that which tenderly binds souls
and builds ghostly bridges
should be our soft password.*

*The wheel of time may roll,
but we hardly grasp it,
forgotten in the glow of the world.*

*On our island we would
dedicate day and night to blissful Love.*

The Holy Boy by John Ireland (1879-1962)

Verbum caro factum est, traditional medieval text, setting by Richard Proulx (1937-2013)

*Verbum caro factum est; habitavit in nobis. Alleluia.
Notum fecit Dominus salutare suum. Alleluia.
Prope invocavit me pater meus es tu. Alleluia.*

The Word was made flesh and dwelled among us. Alleluia.
The Lord has made his salvation known. Alleluia.
Near is he who called me. You are my father. Alleluia.

The Opening Acclamation

The people's responses are in bold.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

For unto us a child is born,
unto us a Son is given.

His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Opening Hymn



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have _____ been, and that fu - ture
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! _____

words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?), tr. John Neal (1818-1866), alt.
 music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th cent.; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582

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.

Hymn

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor— earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What— can I give him, poor— as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throug - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow— on— snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise— man, I would do my part;

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord— God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
 music: *Cranham*, Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

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 Homily *The Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon.

The Prayers of the People

We will pray the following prayers with a reflective pause after each bidding.

God of darkness and silence, 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 re-creation.

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 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 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, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit 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.

Carol at the Offertory *sung by the soloists*

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming
From tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming
As seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright,
Amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,
The Rose I have in mind,
With Mary we behold it,
The Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright,
She born to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

words: traditional German, translated Theodore Baker (1851-1934)
music: traditional German, harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The lyrics are placed below the notes. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system has two lines of music. The second system has two lines of music. The third system has two lines of music. The fourth system has two lines of music. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

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

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

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

setting from *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)
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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."

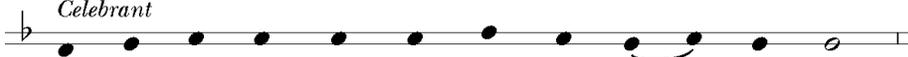
In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, whenever you drink it, to remember me." Therefore, as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we are proclaiming the Lord's death until he comes.

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. **AMEN.**

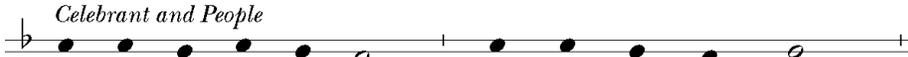
The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant

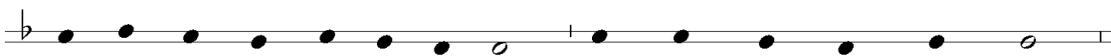


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Celebrant and People



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



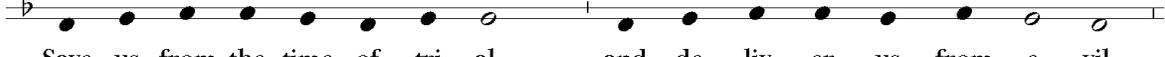
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



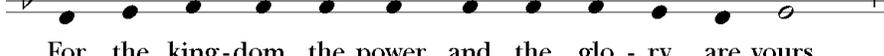
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.



For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.



Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.



For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,



now and for ev - er. A - men.

setting: *Ambrosian Chant*, adapt. Mason Martens
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The Communion

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

Music at the Communion *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The Prayer after Communion

After a period of silent reflection the people pray the following

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with one another through Christ who is born anew among us; and you have made us one with all creation in heaven and on earth.

Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, proclaiming the good news of great joy to all people, that we may continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. 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. 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 SENDING RITE

The Blessing and Dismissal

The wonder and wildness of God, whose coming among us as a child shakes heaven and earth, whom death could not contain, who lives to disturb and heal us, bless you with power to go forth and proclaim the gospel. **AMEN.**

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

Postlude *Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich* by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

St. Paul's on the Green
The Rev. Daniel Simons, *Priest-in-charge*
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