



THE HOLY EUCHARIST

CHRISTMAS EVE ✠ 3:00PM

DECEMBER 24, 2025

The glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together.

Isaiah 40:5

WELCOME! St. Paul's Church builds bridges — to God, to one another, to the city and beyond. We are glad you have joined us today.

Our worship tonight reminds us that the Son of God was born into this world at a specific time and place. This is a celebration of more than an idea or a philosophy. It is the coming of God to be one of us and to join God's divine life to our humanity, thus joining things earthly and things heavenly into one new life. That life is ours to share with God, with each other, and with all the world.

This service booklet, *The Book of Common Prayer* (red), *The Hymnal 1982* (blue), and *Wonder, Love and Praise* ("WLP," green paperbound) provide the resources needed for participation in our worship. Please silence your cell phones.

MUSIC NOTE

The German carol "Stille Nacht" was written on December 24, 1818, when the new organ at St. Nicholas had just broken. Joseph Mohr, Assistant Priest of the parish, wrote the words and brought them to the organist Franz Gruber, and asked if he could write a tune to be played on his guitar. The carol "Silent Night" was sung that evening and is now sung throughout the world on Christmas night.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S LITURGIES

Readers: James Door, Susan Dow

Eucharistic Ministers: Vicki Harrison, Cynthia Miller

Acolytes: Dan Wright, Emily Wright, Ring Gum

Ushers: Judy McGrath, Bill Moore, Jane Newcomb, Margaret Cochran

ASL Interpreter: Luanne Haggarty

Live-Stream Operator: Sonja Slother

Cover illustration by Sonja Slother

Before worship, let God speak to you. During worship, speak to God.

After worship, speak to one another.

VOLUNTARIES

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Johannes Brahms

Variations on "He is Born, the Divine Christ Child"

Morgan Simmons

What Child is This

Ralph Vaughan Williams

John W. W. Sherer, *organist*

Lord of the Dance

Jason W. Krug

St. Paul's Bell Choir

✠ *indicates to stand as able.*

✠ HYMN 83 (stz 1, 2, 3, & 6)

Adeste fidelis

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the King of angels;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord! | 3 Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above.
Glory to God,
glory in the highest;
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord! |
| 2 God from God, Light from Light eternal
lo! He abhors not the virgin's womb.
Only begotten
Son of the Father;
O come let us adore 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.
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord! |

✠ STATION AT THE CHRISTMAS CRECHE

Presider The glory of the Lord has been revealed;

People **And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.**

Presider Most merciful and loving God, you have made this day holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of this day, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

✠ HYMN 96

Gloria

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
<i>Gloria in excelsis Deo.</i> | 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
<i>Gloria in excelsis Deo.</i> |
|---|--|

3 *Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

4 *See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

✠ CHRISTMAS COLLECT

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray. O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

✠ HYMN 78 (stz 1)

Forest Green

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

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

People **Glory to you, Lord 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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray
Cast out our sins and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

A brief period of quiet reflection follows the sermon.

✠ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon All things have been clothed in grace by the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; all the earth has been enlightened in his dawning. Trusting in His light and grace, let us pray for all people in need and all the world.

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us;

help us to know you, to worship and serve you.

Wonderful Counselor, you order all things with your wisdom;

help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders;

guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your reign of peace.

Everlasting Father, you protect all your children;

bless our families and renew our communities.

Prince of Peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross;

give wholeness to all who suffer.

Jesus, our Emmanuel, whose radiance filled a lowly manger;

give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

Additional prayers may be offered, and the Presider adds a concluding collect.

✠ EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please greet one another in Christ's Name. Words of welcome and announcements are then made.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

The Deacon says: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due God's Name; bring offerings and come into the courts with praise. (Psalm 96:8)

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

God's Love made Visible

Dave Brubeck

God's love made visible! Incomprehensible! He is invincible! His love shall reign! From love so bountiful blessings uncountable make death surmountable! His love shall reign! Joyfully pray for peace and goodwill! All of our yearning he will fulfill. Live in a loving way! Praise him for every day! Open your hearts and pray his love shall reign! Holly and mistletoe, candles and faces glow; all little children know it's Christmas Day! Stockings and candy canes, wreaths on the windowpanes; sleighing down country lanes, it's Christmas Day! Mothers and fathers join in our play, laughing and singing on Christmas Day! Each happy family shares in the mystery of the nativity! It's Christmas Day! God gave his Son to us to dwell as one of us. His blessings unto us! His love shall reign! To him all honor bring, heaven and earth will sing, praising our Lord and King! His love shall reign! Open all doors this day of his birth, all of good will inherit the earth. His star will always be guiding humanity throughout eternity! His love shall reign! Bells in the tower ring, children are caroling, neighbors come visiting, it's Christmas Day! Presents beneath the tree may be for you and me! We'll have to wait and see till Christmas Day! Giving, receiving in our small way, help us recall that first Christmas Day! God's love is everywhere! Let praises fill the air! Blessings and joy we share! It's Christmas Day! God's love made visible! Incomprehensible! He is invincible! His love shall reign forevermore!

✠ HYMN 100

Antioch

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing. | 2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy. |
| 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found. | 4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love. |

✠ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin and death, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

✠ SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

based on The Sussex Carol



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and God of might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Glo ry to you O Lord, Most High.
Blest is the One who comes in the Name of the Lord:
Ho - san - na in the high est!

The congregation may remain standing or kneel, as the Presider continues.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember Christ's death,

We proclaim Christ's resurrection,

We await Christ's coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [_____, and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

AT THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

A period of silence is kept.

Presider Behold the mystery of the Incarnation; behold Christ in bread and wine.

People **May the Word become flesh in us. Amen.**

Presider The gifts of God, for the people of God.

All are welcome at God's table.

All may come forward for Communion at the direction of the ushers. The Sacrament is given in both kinds: bread and wine. If you are not able to go to any of the stations, please let an usher know and communion will be brought to you. Gluten-free wafers are available.

COMMUNION ANTHEMS

In the Bleak Midwinter

Julie Turner

Joys Seven

Stephen Cleobury

The first good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of one; to see the blessed Jesus Christ when he was first her son, good man; and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of two; to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the lame to go, good man; and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of three; to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to make the blind to see, good man; and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of four; to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to read the Bible o'er, good man; and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of five; to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to bring the dead alive, good man; and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of six; to see her own son, Jesus Christ, upon the crucifix, good man; and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity. The next good joy that Mary had, it was the joy of seven; to see her own son, Jesus Christ, to wear the crown of heaven, good man; and blessed may he be, both Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, to all eternity.

✠ PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

BCP p. 365

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

✠ HYMN 111

Stille Nacht

1 *Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
'round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.*

2 *Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born.*

3 *Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

✠ CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

✠ HYMN

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

- 1 *Hark! the herald angels sing, Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!*
- 2 *Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!*
- 3 *Hail the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by, Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, Born to give them second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!*

✠ THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol

Gerald Near

*We thank Herb Smith, our guest trumpeter
for joining our Christmas celebration this afternoon.*

*Text PAUL to 73256 to make a financial gift
to support the mission and ministry of St. Paul's.*



From the Clergy, Staff, and Vestry of St. Paul's

A Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS AND MEMORIALS

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The Wandersee, King,
Juneau, Guarino
Families.

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The Reale family
Upshur & Jennifer
Spencer, Parke, Nina,
Jack, Athena, & Teddy
Spencer
Amelia & Caroline Dow,
and Jane & Samuel
Longman
Spencer Jones, Kyle
Jones, and Bruce Flores
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St. Paul's

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