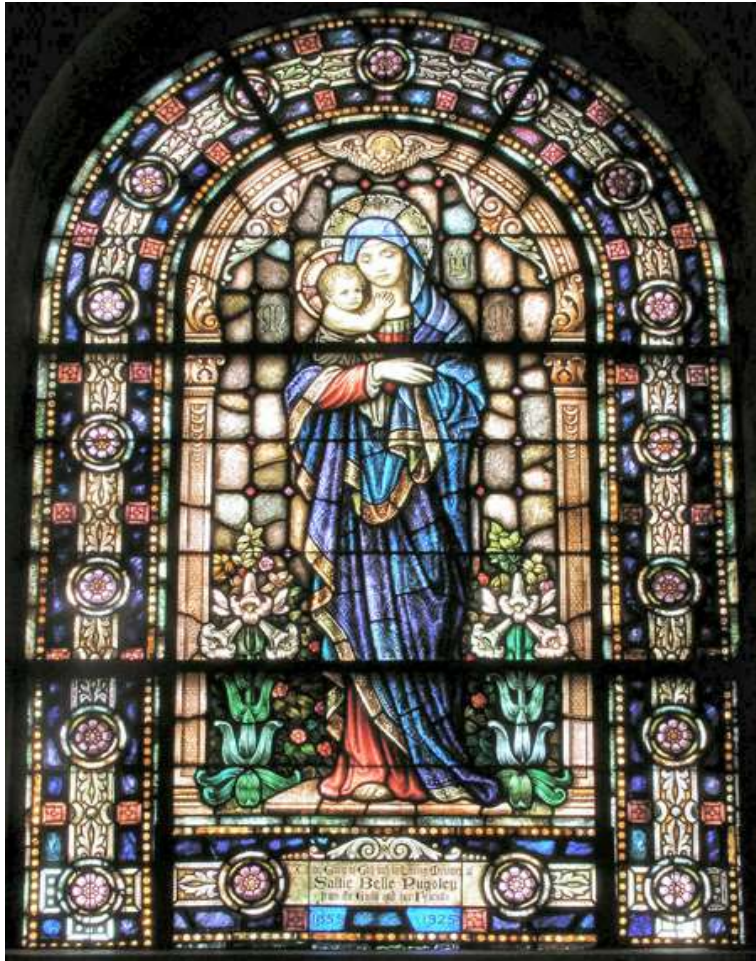


**The Nativity of Our Lord  
6:00 p.m.  
December 24, 2025**



**St. Paul's Episcopal Church**

28788 North Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

The Rev. Thack H. Dyson, Rector  
The Rev. S. Albert Kennington, Priest Associate  
The Rev. Judith Comer, Priest Associate  
Telephones: Church office - [251] 626-2421 FAX 626-2456  
Church e-mail: [officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com](mailto:officestpaulsdaphne@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.stpaulseasternshore.org](http://www.stpaulseasternshore.org)  
Facebook Page: St. Paul's Eastern Shore

*We worship together as we seek God, serve God,  
and share God with love and acceptance for all.*

## Christmas Preludes *see the music insert*

### Processional Hymn 83 *verses 1,2,3 & 6* O come, all ye faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God, from Light from Light e - ter - nad,  
 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;

*Refrain*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Cokley (1802-1880) and others  
 Music: *Adagio fideles*, present form of melody at. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

## The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Gloria** [tune: Angels we have heard on high, #96]

*Glory be to God on high, to all people, peace on earth!*

*Angels, shepherds, drawing nigh, join to celebrate his birth.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Jesus Christ, we now declare Lamb of God and Lord of Love.*

*Grant us mercy, hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'n above.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Praises to the Holy One, praises sing in highest heav'n:*

*to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit giv'n.*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

## The Collect

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## First Lesson

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah**

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

**Psalm 96** *responsively by half verse*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 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.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

## **Second Lesson**

### **A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus**

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.

Lector        The word of the Lord.

*People        Thanks be to God*

# Sequence Hymn 87

# Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heav-en 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 Christmas Pageant

### Hymn 111

### Silent Night

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, born! birth. Sleep Christ, in hea - ven - ly peace, 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 Nicene Creed**      *Please stand*

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 he is worshiped and glorified. He 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.*

## **The Prayers of the People**      **Form III**

Leader      Let us pray. Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*People*      *That we all may be one.*

Leader      Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve  
you;  
*People*      *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Leader      Remembering today our Archbishop Elect, Sarah, our presiding  
Bishop, Sean; In the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, we pray for our Bishop,  
Russell, our Rector, Thack, our Priest Associates, Albert and Judith, our  
Seminarians, Necie, Vivian and Jessica; For the Episcopal Diocese of the Central  
Gulf Coast. From the Anglican Cycle of prayer, pray for the Diocese of Sao Paulo  
Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil. From the Cycle of Prayer for Prisons, pray for  
the prisoners, the staff and their families at the Escambia County Jails, Brewton,  
Alabama and Pensacola, Florida. We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*People*      *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

Leader      We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the  
world;  
*People*      *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*



Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
 People *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Leader Have compassion on all oppressed Christians. Pray for all persecuted people everywhere, and those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
 People *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Leader We pray for those for whom our prayers have been requested. We pray also for those who will celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week. Give to the departed, [Especially: \_\_\_\_\_] eternal rest,  
 People *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
 People *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Leader We give thanks for the altar flowers given to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for his son, Jesus Christ. *(Please see the Christmas Memorial Flower Insert.)*

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

### **Prayer for the Military**

We commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; In your Holy name we pray, Amen.

### **Prayer for Peace in Ukraine and the World**

Heavenly Father, please hear our prayers for all those who have died and will die because of the wars in Ukraine and other war-torn countries all over this world. May these untold victims experience that eternal peace that is only found in You. We pray for the people of Ukraine, Russia, and all nations — that war and bloodshed will cease, and that a just and enduring peace may be had. Please inspire all world leaders with wisdom, compassion, and decisiveness so they can be instruments of that peace that passes all understanding. We also pray that our world leaders will respect the dignity of all of your creation so that future alliances will be forged on the basis of trust and shared humanity and not on military might and nationalism. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of the heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Confession of Sin**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

### *Minister and People*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

### **The Peace**            *All stand*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*            *And also with you.*

## **The Holy Communion**

**Anthem at the Offertory**            In the Bleak Midwinter            Gustav Holst

**Presentation Acclamation**            [tune: Joy to the World, #100]

*Sing praises to our Father God, sing praises to the Son, and praises to the Spirit Blest; Creator, Savior, Holy Ghost. Let heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and nature sing, and heav’n and heav’n and nature sing!*

### **The Great Thanksgiving:            Eucharistic Prayer B**

*Please stand*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

*People*            *And also with you.*

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

*People*        *We lift them to the Lord.*  
*Celebrant*    *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*  
*People*        *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

*Celebrant*    It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty 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 receive power to become your children.

*Celebrant*    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:

*Celebrant and People*

**Sanctus:**            [tune: Good Christian friends, rejoice!, #107 ]

*Sing HOLY, HOLY, HOLY LORD, God of power, God of might, Heav'n and earth are full---, full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest! Blest is he who comes---, in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest!*

*Please stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant*    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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord 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 he 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,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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

*Celebrant and People* 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.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

**Fraction Anthem:** [tune: What Child is this?, #115]

*O Lamb of God, O Holy Child, who takes the sin of the world away, Have mercy on, Lamb so mild, the Babe, the Son of Mary. This, this is your Body giv'n, your Precious Blood, the gift of heav'n. Take, eat for we are one in the Babe, the Son of Mary.*

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

# Communion Hymn 89

It came upon the midnight clear

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the  
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly  
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly  
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 hymn have rolled thou - sand years of wrong;  
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King," The world in sol - emn  
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its  
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and  
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 Ba - bel - sounds the blest an - gels sing.  
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!  
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: Carol Richard Sears Wills (1819-1900)

# Communion Hymn 101

## Away in the manger



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,  
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
 \* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Words: Traditional carol Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) Copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

# Communion Hymn 78

## O Little Town of Bethlehem

*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  
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### **Postcommunion Prayer**

Celebrant Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People* 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.

Celebrant 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.*



# Recessional Hymn 100

# Joy to the World

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far and  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

**Celebrant** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

**Those who serve – December 24, 2025  
6:00 pm**

Homilist and Celebrant: The Rev. Thack H. Dyson

Altar Guild:

Barbara James, Sue Cody, Peggy Connell,  
Shory Dudley, Mary Dunn, Gaye Wilson, Shelby Wilson

Lector: Sue Ann Turnipseed

Crucifer: Noah Pino

Chalice: Mike Turnipseed, Elizabeth Thomason, Matt Thomason

Server: Mary Claire McTaggart

Torch Bearers: Timothy Pino, Eley Hatcher

Ushers: Donna Brown, Diane Watson

Verger: Donna Nolte      Vestry: John Sharp