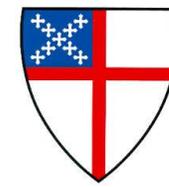


# St. Mary's Episcopal Church Welcomes You



Morning Prayer Will Begin Momentarily

Please Remain on Mute During Morning Prayer

Your Microphone Can Be Activated Following Morning Prayer



Connect with us:

 [parishofc@stmarysepiscopalcl.org](mailto:parishofc@stmarysepiscopalcl.org)

 815-459-1009

The Reverend Fran Holliday, Rector  
Deacon Mike Choquette

# We Three Kings

*Music:* J. Hopkins

*Performed by:* Saint Rafqa's Choir, Lebanon

1. We Three Kings of Orient are,  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain,  
Moor and mountain,  
Following yonder Star.

O Star with Royal Beauty bright,  
Westward leading,  
Still proceeding,  
Guide us to Thy perfect Light.

2. Born a King on Bethlehem plain,  
Gold I bring to crown Him again,  
King for ever,  
Ceasing never  
Over us all to reign.

O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,  
Star with Royal Beauty bright,  
Westward leading,  
Still proceeding,  
Guide us to Thy perfect Light.

3. Frankincense to offer have I,  
Incense owns a Deity nigh:  
Prayer and praising  
All men raising,  
Worship Him God on High.

O Star of Wonder, Star of Night,  
Star with Royal Beauty bright,  
Westward leading,  
Still proceeding,  
Guide us to Thy perfect Light.



Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your rising.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***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.***

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.*

Lord, open our lips

***And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever, Amen***

***Alleluia***

The Lord has shown forth his glory: Come let us adore him.

## Venite

Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*

***let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.***

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*

***and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.***

For the Lord is a great God, \*

***and a great King above all gods.***

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*

***and the heights of the hills are his also.***

The sea is his, for he made it, \*

***and his hands have molded the dry land.***

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*

***and kneel before the Lord our Maker.***

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*

***Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!***

## Psalm 72:1-7,10-14

Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
***and your righteousness to the King's Son;***

That he may rule your people righteously \*  
***and the poor with justice;***

That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
***and the little hills bring righteousness.***

He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
***he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.***

He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
***from one generation to another.***

He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
***like showers that water the earth.***

In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
***there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.***

The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
***and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.***

All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
***and all the nations do him service.***

For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
***and the oppressed who has no helper.***

He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
***he shall preserve the lives of the needy.***

He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
***and dear shall their blood be in his sight.***

## A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.  
For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.  
Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.  
Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.  
Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.  
A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

The word of the Lord

***Thanks be to God***

## A Song of Christ's Humility

Though in the form of God, \*

***Christ Jesus did not cling to equality with God,***

But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, \*

***and was born in human likeness.***

Being found in human form, he humbled himself \*

***and became obedient to death, even death on a cross.***

Therefore, God has highly exalted him \*

***and given him the name above every name,***

That at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, \*

***in heaven and on earth and under the earth,***

And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, \*

***to the glory of God the Father.***

## A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Ephesians

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

The word of the Lord

***Thanks be to God***

## The Song of Simeon

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
***to go in peace as you have promised;***

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
***whom you have prepared for all the world to see:***

A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
***and the glory of your people Israel.***

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
***as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

**Glory to you, Lord Christ**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’“

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

The Gospel of the Lord

***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

## The Apostles' Creed

***I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth;  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.  
He descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

The Lord be with you

***And also with you***

Let us pray

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.

Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
***And grant us your salvation.***

Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
***Let your people sing with joy.***

Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
***For only in you can we live in safety.***

Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
***And guide us in the way of justice and truth.***

Let your way be known upon earth;  
***Your saving health among all nations.***

Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
***Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.***

Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
***And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.***

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

### Prayers of the People

Lord, in your Mercy

***Hear our Prayer***

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

***Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.***

*Let us bless the Lord*

***Thanks be to God***

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore.

*Amen.*

# ***The First Nowell***

*Arrangement by Sir David Willcocks*

*Performed by King's College Cambridge*

1. The first Noel the angels did say  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay:  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

2. They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far  
And to the earth it gave great light  
And so it continued both day and night  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

3. And by the light of that same star  
Three Wise men came from country far  
To seek for a King was their intent  
And to follow the star wherever it went  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

4. This star drew nigh to the northwest  
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest  
And there it did both stop and stay  
Right o'er the place where Jesus lay  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!

5. Then let us all with one accord  
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord  
That hath made heaven and earth of naught  
And with his blood mankind has bought  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel  
Born is the King of Israel!



Please Join Us for Conversation  
Activate Your Microphone At This Time



Connect with us  [parishofc@stmarysepiscopalcl.org](mailto:parishofc@stmarysepiscopalcl.org)  815-459-1009  
The Reverend Fran Holliday, Rector