

# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

PREACHER AND PRESIDER, THE REV. KURT C. WIESNER



WE BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, KNOWN TO US IN JESUS CHRIST. WE SEEK TO CELEBRATE THE IMAGE OF GOD IN EVERY PERSON. WE ARE A HOUSE OF PRAYER, WORSHIP, AND SERVICE FOR EVERYONE, WELCOMING ALL WHO SEEK AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY OF LOVE.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE  
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24  
8 P.M.

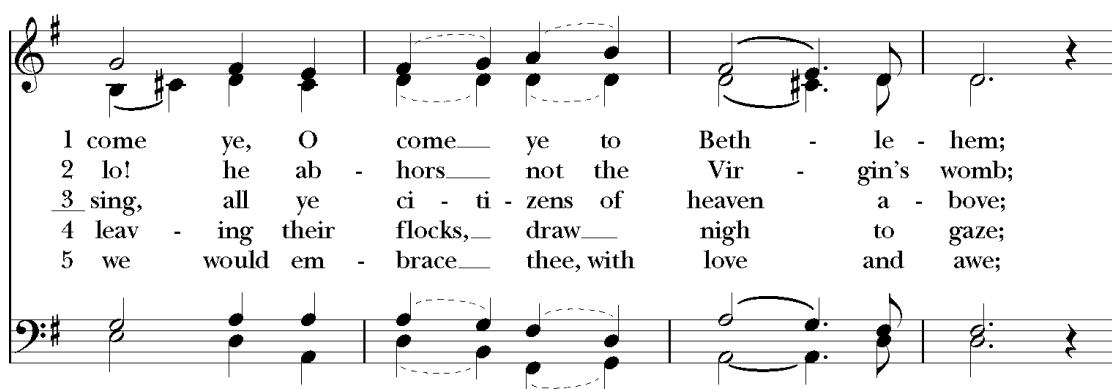
# PRELUDE SOLO: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN ARR. HAYES

[PLEASE STAND.]

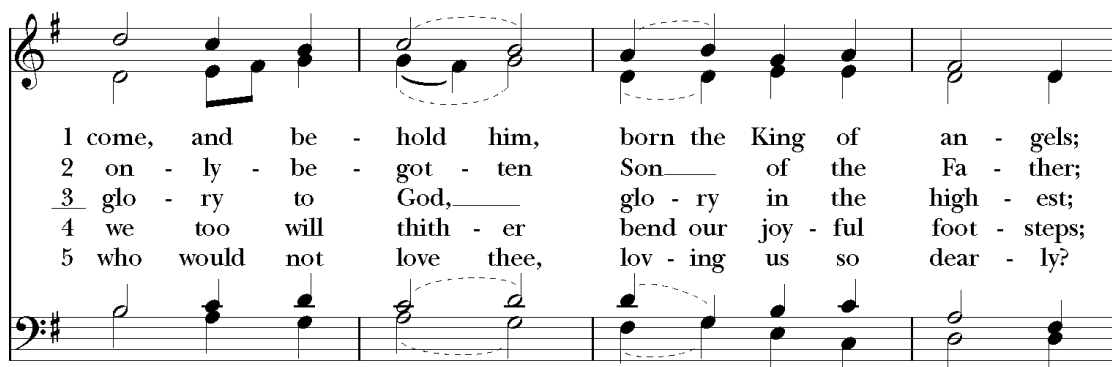
## PROCESSIONAL HYMN 83: O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL- VERSES 1-5



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

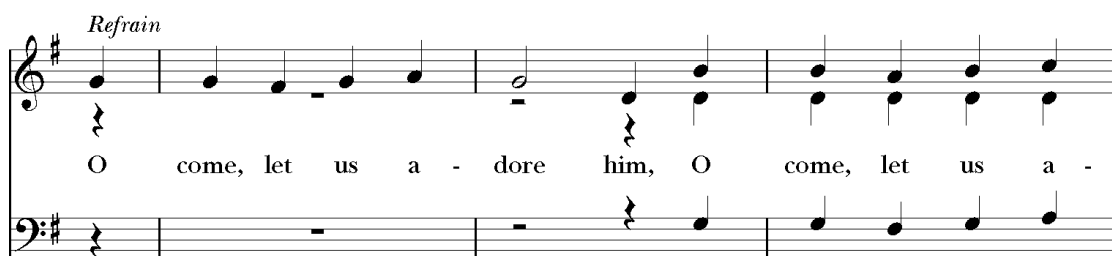


1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;



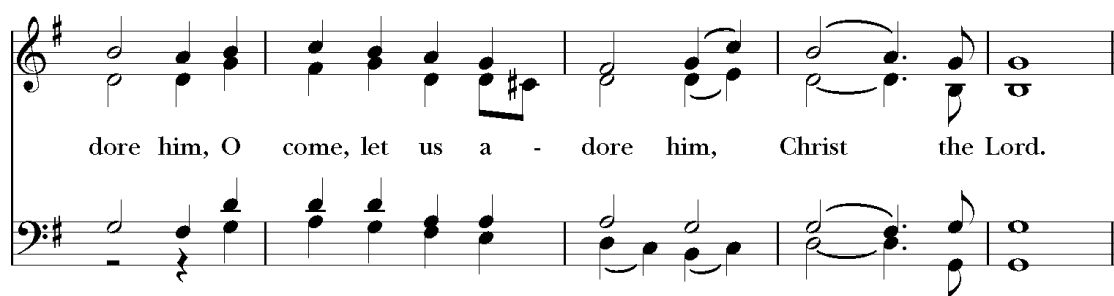
1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

PROCESSIONAL HYMN CONTUNUED ON THE NEXT PAGE.



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 Oakeley (1802-1880) and others  
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

## BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE AND THE BABY JESUS

O Lord, our God, bless all who look upon this manger; through all the days of Christmas, may it remind us of the humble birth of baby Jesus, and raise up our thoughts to him. Fill our homes with hospitality, joy, gentleness, and thanksgiving, and guide our steps in the ways of peace. Grant this through Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**ALL:               Amen.**

## VERSE 6—"O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL"

### OPENING SENTENCES — BCP 355

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

**ALL:               And blessed be God's 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.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

CELEBRANT: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: **And also with you.**

CELEBRANT: Let us pray. O, 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.

ALL: **Amen.**

## A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH 26:16-19

HOLY ONE, in distress they sought you,  
They pressed out a whispered prayer  
When your chastening was on them.  
Just as an expectant mother  
writhes-in-labor and cries out in her pangs  
when her birthing time is near;  
thus were we because of you, Holy One.  
We too, were expectant, we writhed-in-labor,  
But it was as though we birthed only wind.  
No victories have we won on earth,  
neither do the inhabitants of the world fall.  
Your dead shall live; their corpses shall rise.  
Awake and sing for joy you who dwell in the dust!  
For your dew is a radiant dew,  
and the earth shall release those long dead.

READER: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

ALL: **Thanks be to God.**

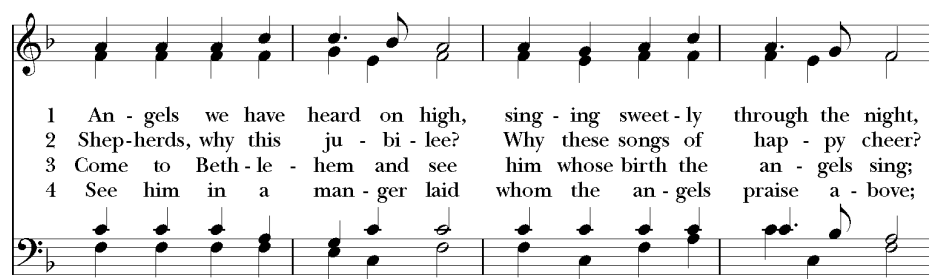
## A READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be ignorant, sisters and brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve as those do who have no hope, for since we believe that Jesus died and rose, even so they who sleep, will God by Jesus, will bring with him. For this we declare to you by the word from the Most High God, that we who are alive, who remain until the coming of Jesus, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For Jesus himself, with a command, and the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, together with them, will be caught up in the clouds to meet Jesus in the air; and so we will be with Jesus forever. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

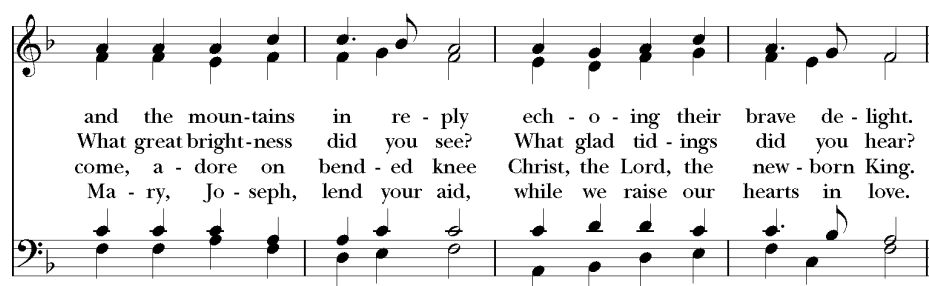
READER: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## SEQUENCE HYMN 96: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



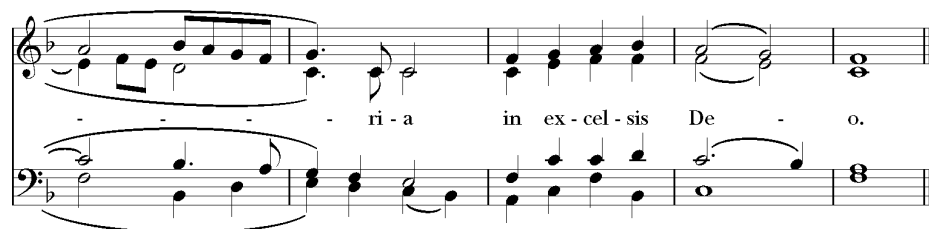
and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



*Refrain*  
Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 2:1-20

### **ALL: GLORY TO YOU, LORD CHRIST.**

Now it happened In those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered (for taxation). This was the first registration and occurred while Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be registered; each to their own towns. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth in to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, for he was from the house and heritage of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was betrothed and who was pregnant, So it was, that, while they were there, the time came for her to birth her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and swaddled him, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Shepherds were in that region there staying in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Most High God came upon them, and the glory of the Living God shone around them, and they were greatly terrified. But the angel said to them, "Fear not. Look! For I proclaim to you good news of great joy for all the people: city of David. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby swaddled and lying in a manger."

And immediately there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly array, praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace among people whom God favors!"

And it happened when the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to be, which the Sovereign God has made known to us." So they came hurrying and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. Now seeing this, they made known that had been spoken to them about this child. And all who heard marveled at what was spoken by the shepherds to them. But Mary preserved all these words and pondered then in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was just as it had been told them.

PRIEST: The Gospel of the Lord.

**ALL: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

[PLEASE BE SEATED.]

## SERMON

### THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT-BCP 304

CELEBRANT: Let us, together, renew our baptismal covenant. Do you believe in God the Father?

PEOPLE: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

PEOPLE: **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.**

CELEBRANT: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

PEOPLE: **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.**

CELEBRANT: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and

PEOPLE: **I will, with God's help.**

CELEBRANT: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

PEOPLE: **I will, with God's help.**

CELEBRANT: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

PEOPLE: **I will, with God's help.**

CELEBRANT: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

PEOPLE: **I will, with God's help.**

CELEBRANT: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

PEOPLE: **I will, with God's help.**



## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: SPECIAL FOR THE HOLY DAY

THE READER WILL LEAD EACH PRAYER; THE CONGREGATION RESPONDS TO EACH WITH "LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER."

LEADER: God, our Father, on this holy night your Son, our Savior, was born into the human family. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

LEADER: On this holy night Christians around the world are celebrating Jesus' birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

LEADER: On this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

LEADER: On this holy night Mary in the pain of labor brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress today.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

LEADER: On this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

LEADER: On this holy night the angels sang "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in the world.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

LEADER: On this holy night strangers found the Holy Family and saw a baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love on this day.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

LEADER: On this holy night heaven is come down to earth and earth is raised to heaven. Keep in safety all those who have gone through death in the hope of heaven.

**ALL: Lord, hear our prayer.**

[THE CELEBRANT ADDS A CLOSING COLLECT]

## THE PEACE —BCP 360

CELEBRANT: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**PEOPLE: And also with you.** [GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.]

[PLEASE BE SEATED.]

## OFFERTORY SOLO: O HOLY NIGHT BY ADAM

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING — EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B — BCP 367

CELEBRANT: The Lord be with you.

**PEOPLE: And also with you.**

CELEBRANT: Lift up your hearts.

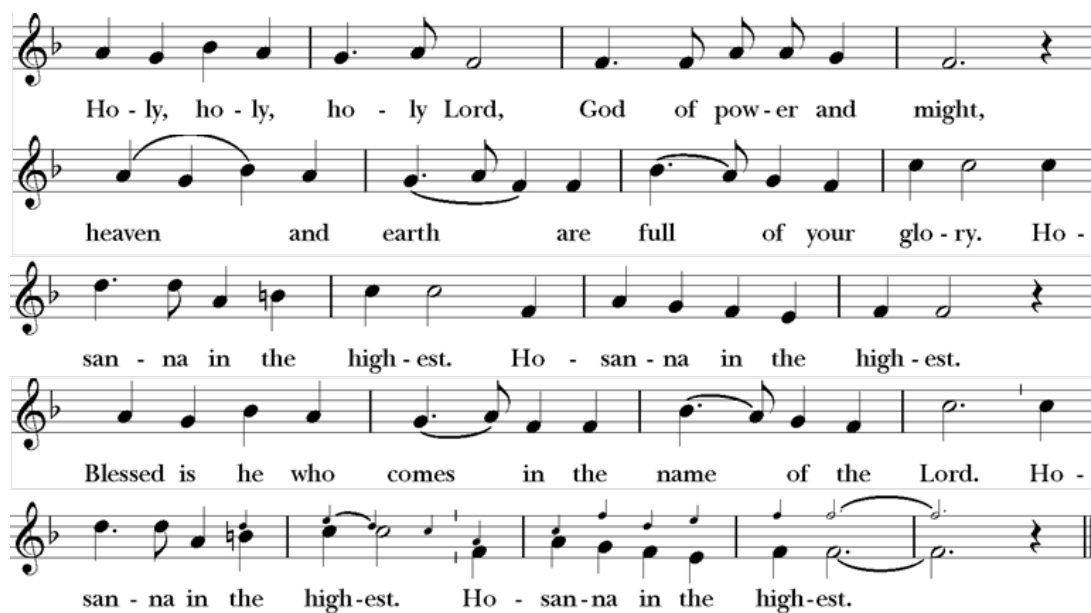
**PEOPLE: We lift them to the Lord.**

CELEBRANT: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**PEOPLE: It is right to give God 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; for you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## SANCTUS S-125



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 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 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 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, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink, 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 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 Mary, Joseph, Paul, and all your saints; we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all, the head of the Church, and the author of our. 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 ever. **Amen.**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**ALL: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 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.**

**AGNUS DEI S-164**

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

**COMMUNION SOLO: SILENT NIGHT ARR. HAYES**

## COMMUNION HYMN 79: O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER — BCP—365

[PLEASE STAND.]

CELEBRANT: Let us pray.

**ALL: 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.**

## THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## CHRISTMAS BLESSING

## 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  
 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,



## **DISMISSAL — BCP 366**

CELEBRANT: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**ALL: Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

<b>PRESIDER/PREACHER:</b>	KURT C. WIESNER
<b>SEMINARIAN:</b>	ASHLEY GURLING
<b>MUSIC DIRECTOR/ORGANIST:</b>	CHARLES BLACK
<b>MEZZO SOPRANO SOLOIST:</b>	MANDI BARRUS
<b>GREETERS:</b>	JENNIFER FRANKLIN
<b>ALTAR GUILD:</b>	SHARON CAMERON, JENNIFER FRANKLIN
<b>READERS:</b>	GERRY LEONARD

- SCRIPTURE SELECTION AND PASSAGES TAKEN FROM READINGS PRINTED UNDER, A WOMEN'S LECTIONARY FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH, YEAR W ©2021 CHURCH PUBLISHING INCORPORATED, NEW YORK, NY 10013.
- MUSIC PRINTED UNDER, RITESERIES.ORG.
- INTERNET SERVICES DONATED BY XMISSION.