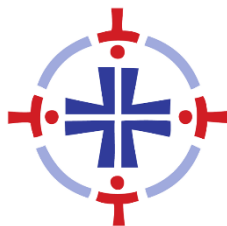




St. Simon's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**The Epiphany of
Our Lord Jesus Christ
Sunday, January 4, 2026**



Welcome to St. Simon's

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly. (John 10:10)

St. Simon's exists so that everyone can experience the abundant life Jesus came to bring. While there are many, many ways God's abundance comes to us, here at St. Simon's we understand our call to help each other and our neighbors...

...experience delight and joy as a way to connect with God.

...have basic needs met as a way to be safe.

...enjoy connection to community as a way to avoid loneliness.

If you are here today, you belong, no matter where you are on your journey of faith. St. Simon's is a joyful and hopeful congregation that invites everyone to this abundant life, doubts and questions included. Please feel free to participate as fully in the worship of God as you wish. Lift your voice in praise, respond to the prayers and readings, and come to the altar for communion or a blessing. Or, if you prefer, sit back quietly and allow God's Spirit to speak to you in the way that feels most comfortable.

Wherever you find yourself on the journey, there is a place for you here.
May you encounter God in this community.

The Holy Eucharist

** Indicates the assembly stands, if able.*

*All portions of the service in **Bold** are spoken by the assembly.*

Please silence your cell phone.

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Processional Hymn 109

“The first Nowell”

The First Nowell

The musical score is written for a two-part setting in G major (one sharp). It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first four systems are the main body of the hymn, and the last two are the refrain. The tempo is marked 'Moderato'.

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
2 They look - ed up and saw a star

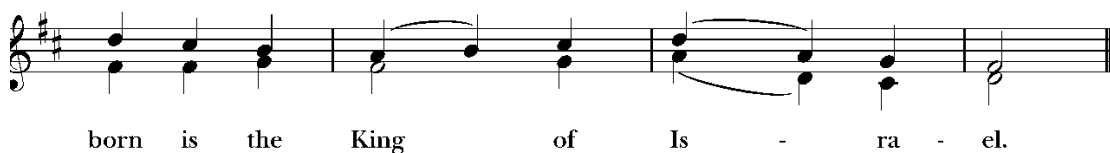
1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
2 and to the earth it gave great light,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,



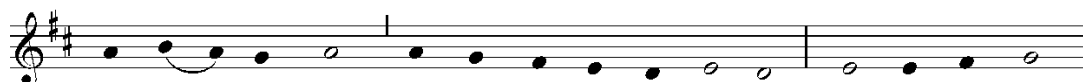
6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

Blessed be God: the Author, the Only-Begotten, and the Gift.
You come to set your people free.

The Gloria

S-277





5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Word of God

The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.**

The Lessons

The Assembly is seated

The First Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

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.

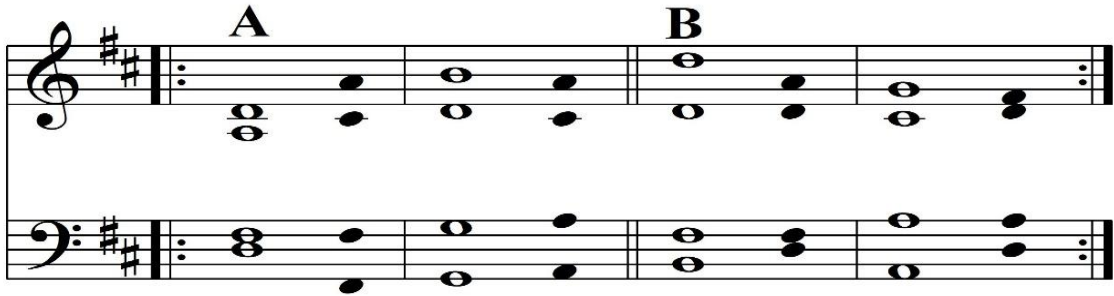
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

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

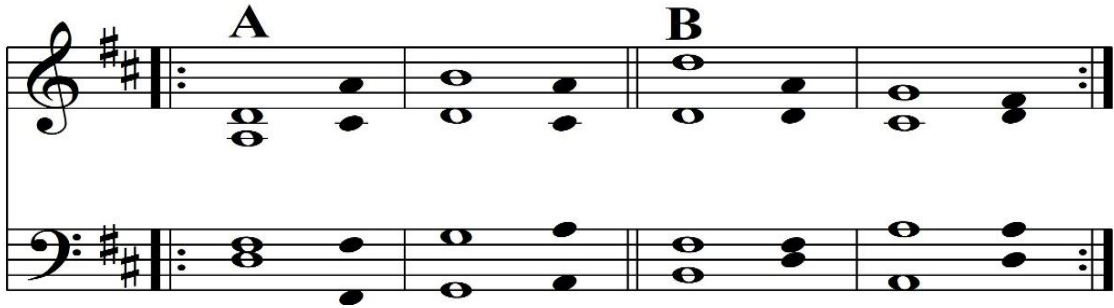
Thanks be to God.

The Psalter

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14



- A** God, give your king judgment,
the son of the King
- B** your sense of what is right;
Help him judge your people and do right for the powerless.
- A** May mountains bear peace
hills bring forth justice.
- B** May the king defend the poor,
set their children free, and kill their op-pres-sors.
- A** May he live as long as the sun,
as long as the moor, for ever.
- B** May he be like rain on a field,
live showers that soak the earth.
- A** May justice sprout in his time,
peace till the moon is no more.
- B** Kings from Tarshish and the island
will bring their riches to him.
- A** Kings of Sheba, kings of Saba
will carry gifts to him.
- B** All kings will bow be-fore him,
all the nations serve him.



A He will rescue the poor at their call,
those no one speaks for.

B Those no one cares for
he hears and will save,

A Save their lives from violence,
lives precious in his eyes.

B God, give your king judgment,
Help him judge your people and do right for the powerless.

The Second Lesson

Ephesians 3:1-12

A reading from the letter to the 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.

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

Thanks be to God.

The Assembly stands as they are able to face the Gospeler.

***The Gospel Procession**

All join in singing both before and after the gospel.



Sp - rit, take us home, take us home by a-noth-er way, take us
long way 'round the ty-rants and their schemes. Give us strength to
walk, show us dreams of a bet-ter day, and we'll pave the way with
just - ice go - ing home by a - no - ther way.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior 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:

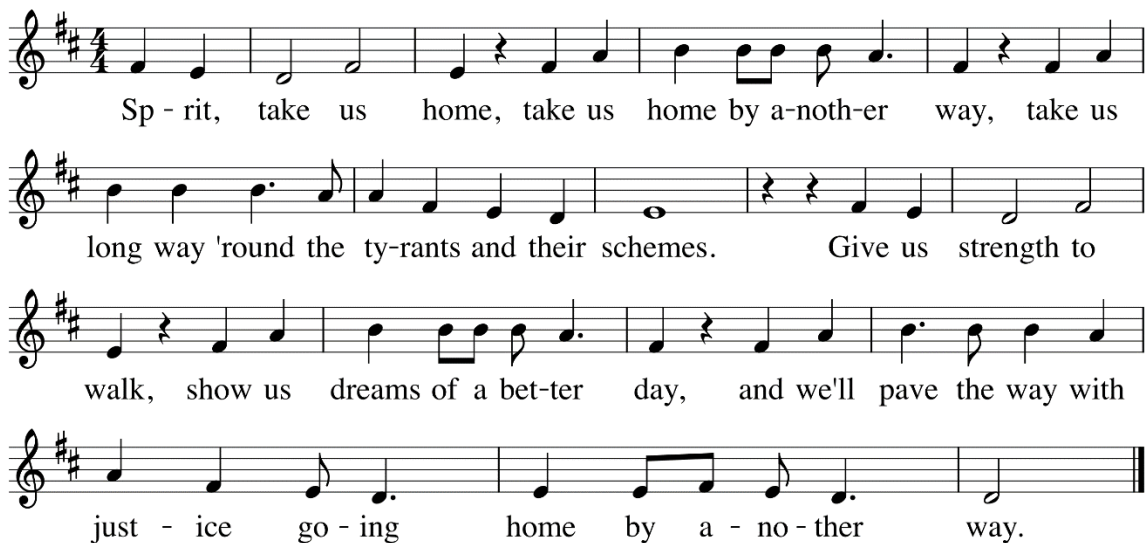
‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;

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 Sermon

Jenny Hulen

A period of silence is shared after the sermon.

*An Affirmation

As children of God, we affirm:

**That God, who is Love, created all and called it good,
 that God is present with all of creation,
 and that, in darkness and in light, God is faithful;
 therefore we, too, seek to be faithful.**

**That Jesus came to show us Love with a human face,
 that he taught justice and reconciliation and
 suffered on our behalf,
 and that through his faithful example, he embodies hope;
 therefore we, too, seek to be people of justice,
 reconciliation, and hope.**

That the Holy Spirit guides and accompanies us,

**that this same Spirit offers wisdom discernment,
and that, when we are open, the Spirit can always find a way;
therefore, we seek to be people filled with God's Spirit:
discerning, loving and transforming our world.
Amen.**

***The Prayers of the People**

BCP Form II, Modified

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world, for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Paula, our Bishop, for this gathering, and for all we who are ministers by virtue of our baptism.
Pray for the Church.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat or feed

I ask your prayers for peace, especially in areas of conflict, for goodwill among nations, and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat or feed

I ask your prayers for our country, for our President, Donald, for mutual respect across differences, and for an end to the endemic violence in thought and action in our communities.
Pray we may see Christ in one another.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat or feed

I ask your prayers for this congregation, for the Holy Spirit's guidance in all we do, and for courage to follow where God leads.
Pray for clarity.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat or feed

I ask your prayers for all refugees, for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, the disappeared, and those in prison. Especially we remember Jan Becker, Chuck Braden, Mike Bruce, Sharon Grieger, Sandra Janowski, Sunita Johnston, Bonnie Liess, Jerry Shields, Judy Wade, Maria Whelan, and all patients, family members and staff at Northwest Community Hospital
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat or feed

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God.
Pray that they may find and be found by God.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat or feed

I ask your prayers and thanksgivings for this congregation, for our neighbors, friends, and families.
Pray for all those to whom we are connected.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat or feed

I ask your prayers for all those who rejoice with us, but on another shore and in a greater light.
Pray for those who have died.

Please add your prayers silently, aloud, or in the chat or feed

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored.
Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins to God.
Silence may be kept.

**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.**

***The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And also with you.

The Ministers and Assembly stand to greet one another in the peace of Christ.

Blessing Birthdays and Anniversaries

All those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries of any kind are invited to add their name to the chat on Zoom or feed on Facebook

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Engagement Opportunities

Offertory *Text 73256 to give. In the body of the text type saintsmons*

Offertory Anthem What Star Is This?

What star is this, with beams so bright,
More beauteous than the noonday light?
It shines to herald forth the King,
And Gentiles to His crib to bring.

Thus spake the prophet from afar
Who told the rise of Jacob's star:
And eastern sages with amaze
Upon the wondrous token gaze.

The guiding star above is bright:
Within them shines a clearer light,
And leads them on with power benign
To seek the Giver of the sign.

To God the Father, heav'nly Light,
To Christ, revealed in earthly night,
To God the Holy Ghost we raise
Our equal and unceasing praise.

Arranged by Michael Bedford, Text: Charles Coffin

*Presentation of the Gifts

5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

*The Great Thanksgiving

BCP Form B

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. 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.

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 in the mystery of

the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:

S 128

The musical score is written on five staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are written below the staves, aligned with the notes. The text is: "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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." The score ends with a double bar line.

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

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

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 Mary the God-bearer, Blessed Simon and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

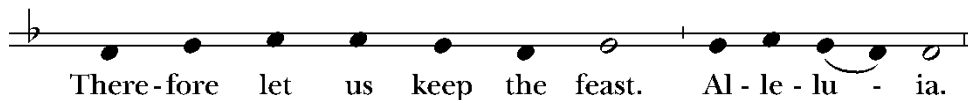
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and Glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.


A - men.

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 Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:



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.

The Presider consumes the host with those online with these words:

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Everyone has a place at God's table and all are invited to share in communion.

You may stand or kneel at the rail. Wine is offered in individual cups around the outside of the tray. Grape juice is offered in the middle. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please tell the priest. If you would like to participate but do not wish to receive the bread and wine, simply cross your arms across your chest and the priest will give you a blessing instead.

Both the common cup (chalice) and individual cups are offered. Join the line for the chalice on the left (pulpit) side or the line on the right (screen) side to receive the individual cups. Grape juice is available in the individual cups.

Communion Hymn 119

“As with gladness men of old”

Dix

1 As with glad - ness men of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger - bed;
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger rude and bare;

1 as with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
 2 there to bend the knee be - fore him whom heaven and earth a - dore;
 3 so may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,

1 so, most gra - cious Lord, may we ev - er - more be led to thee.
 2 so may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek the mer - cy - seat.
 3 all our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ! to thee, our heaven - ly King.

***Post Communion Prayer**

Let us pray.

**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.**

When members of the community are unable to attend the service, representatives of the people are sent with bread and wine to extend our communion with them.

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

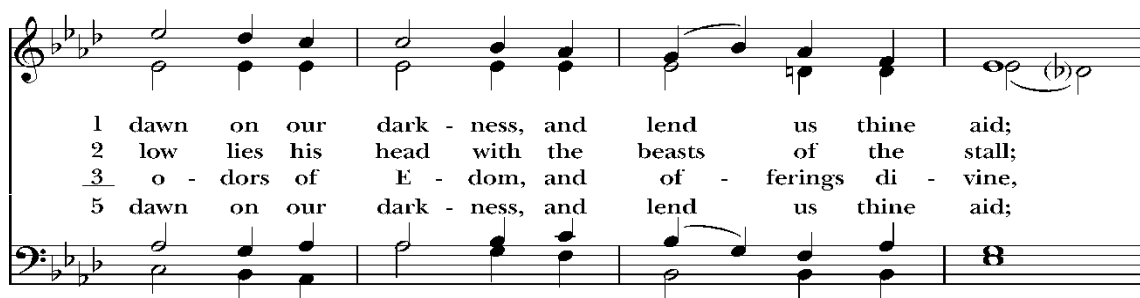
***The Blessing**

The blessing of God Almighty, the Author, the Only-begotten, and the Gift be with you this day, and remain with you until the day dawns and the shadows flee, and the Morning Star rises in your hearts forever.
Amen.

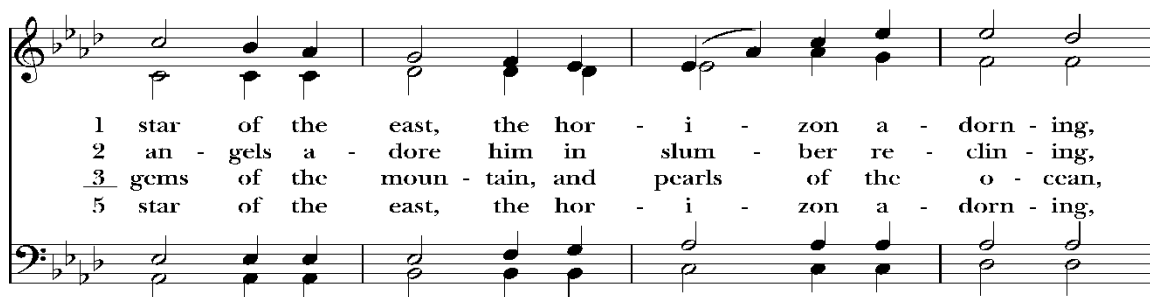
Closing Hymn 117 “Brightest and best of the stars of morning” *Morning Star*



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
 2 Cold on his crea - ture the dew - drops are shin - ing,
 3 Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



1 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;
 2 low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;
 3 o - dours of E - dom, and of - ferings di - vine,
 5 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend us thine aid;



1 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,
 2 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,
 3 gems of the moun - tain, and pearls of the o - cean,
 5 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,



1 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
 2 Ma - ker and Mon - arch and Sa - vior of all.
 3 myrrh from the for - est, and gold from the mine?
 5 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

LIVE-STREAM NOTICE

A reminder, this public service will be live-streamed and your image or the image of any children or vulnerable adults in your care may appear in the video. By your entry and presence in this service, you agree on behalf of yourself and any children or vulnerable adults attending with you to be photographed, filmed, and/or otherwise recorded, and also agree to our use of such images in any and all media.

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St. Simon's Episcopal Church

717 W. Kirchhoff Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois 60005

847.259.2930 ~ office@saintsimons.org ~ www.saintsimons.org

Parish Office Hours ~ Monday—Thursday ~ 9:00am—3:00pm

The Rt. Rev. Paula Clark, *Bishop of the Diocese of Chicago*

The Rev. Jennifer Hulen, *Rector*

Martin Pazdioch, *Music Director*

Jo Gantzer, *Associate for Parish Ministry*

Today's Service Leaders

Presider & Preacher	The Rev. Jenny Hulen
Crucifer	Sara Lewandowski
Chalice Minister	Karen Waechter
Readers	Sandy Ladd
	Mike Bruce
Intercessor	Dianne Shields
Ushers	Cleo Nykol Allison Newhouse
Altar Guild	Betty Bacula
Porter	Patricia Grund
Organist	Martin Pazdioch
Technical Production Team	Mike Krause