

Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church



"Christ Candle" by John Stuart, www.stushieart.com

December 24, 2021
Christmas Carol Sing 3:30 PM
Christmas Eve Service 4:00 PM

For 135 years, Saint Mary's has been
a Christ-centered community
with a mission to express God's love for all people.

Congregational Carol Sing

The First Nowell (vs. 1-3) Hymnal 109

A Stable Lamp is Lighted (vs. 1, 2, 4) Hymnal 104

Love Came Down at Christmas (vs. 1-3) Hymnal 84

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen (vs. 1, 2, 4) Hymnal 105

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Welcome

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Please stand as you are able.

Processional Hymn O Come, All Ye Faithful (vs. 1, 3, 6) Hymnal 83

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

People **Glory to God forever and ever.**

Christmas Eve Collect

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Son of God, light that shines in the dark, child of joy and peace, help us to come to you and be born anew this holy night. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings.

Reading 1

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader Let us prepare ourselves for the word that comes to us from Isaiah.
People **Our hearts and minds are open.**

Reader 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, 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

1. Star-Child, earth-Child,
go-between of God,
love Child, Christ Child,
heaven's lightning rod,

Refrain: this year, this year,
let the day arrive
when Christmas comes for everyone,
everyone alive!

3. Grown child, old child,
memory full of years,
sad child, lost child,
story told in tears, [*Refrain*]

5. Hope-for-peace Child,
God's stupendous sign,
down-to-earth Child,
Star of stars that shine, [*Refrain*]

The Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

Deacon The Holy Gospel of Jesus 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.**

Please be seated.

Christmas Pageant

Please stand as you are able.

The Affirmation of Faith

Celebrant &
People You, O God, are supreme and holy.
 You create our world and give us life.
 Your purpose overarches everything we do.
 You have always been with us.
 You are God.
 You, O God, are infinitely generous,
 good beyond all measure.
 You came to us before we came to you.
 You have revealed and proved
 your love for us in Jesus Christ,
 who lived and died and rose again.
 You are with us now.
 You are God.
 You, O God, are Holy Spirit
 You empower us to be your gospel in the world.
 You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.
 You are our God. We worship you. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Lay Leader In peace let us pray to the Lord.

O GOD, in this holy night, your Son our Savior was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

People Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

Lay Leader In 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.

People Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

Lay Leader In 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.

People Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

Lay Leader In 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.

People Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

Lay Leader In this holy night, the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.

People Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

Lay Leader In this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

People Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

Lay Leader In this holy night, strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.

People Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

Lay Leader In this holy night, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.

People Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

Lay Leader In this holy night, Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

People Holy God,
Hear our prayer.

Lay Leader Now let us pray for the special needs and concerns of St. Mary's, either silently or out loud.

The people add their own petitions.

Lay Leader We thank you O God for the many blessings of this life:

The people add their own thanksgivings either silently or out loud.

Celebrant O God, may the Light and Hope of this night reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayers, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Please share a greeting of God's peace.

Celebrant Let us walk in love as Christ loved us.

Please be seated.

Offertory Anthem

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Elias O' Brien, violin; Vonda Humburg, organ

Please stand as you are able.

Eucharistic Prayer 2

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.

But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so on this Christmas Eve, we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

(Tune: *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*)

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory and praise for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Celebrant For those worshiping with us virtually tonight, let us now say together the prayer for Spiritual Communion:

Celebrant & People Gracious God, You stand at the door of our hearts and knock. You wait for us and we only can let you in. We believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill us with your presence. Nourish us with your body and unite us in you bold, that we may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.

Celebrant As Christ has taught us, we now pray,
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.

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God. This is Christ's table. All are welcome.

Please be seated.

Wherever you find yourself on the Journey of Faith, you are welcome to receive communion.

To receive a blessing only, cross your arms over your chest as you stand or kneel.

Communion Hymns	What Child Is This	Hymnal 115
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In the Bleak Midwinter (vs. 1, 3, 4)	Hymnal 112
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The Snow Lay on the Ground (vs. 1, 4)	Hymnal 110
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Please stand as you are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **O God, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem: may the light of faith illumine our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.**

Hymn	Silent Night	Hymnal 111
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Worshippers' tapers are lit as a sign of God's presence among us.

The Christmas Blessing

Celebrant The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious to you; The Lord lift up his countenance upon you And give
you peace, in the name of the Creator, the Christ and The Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

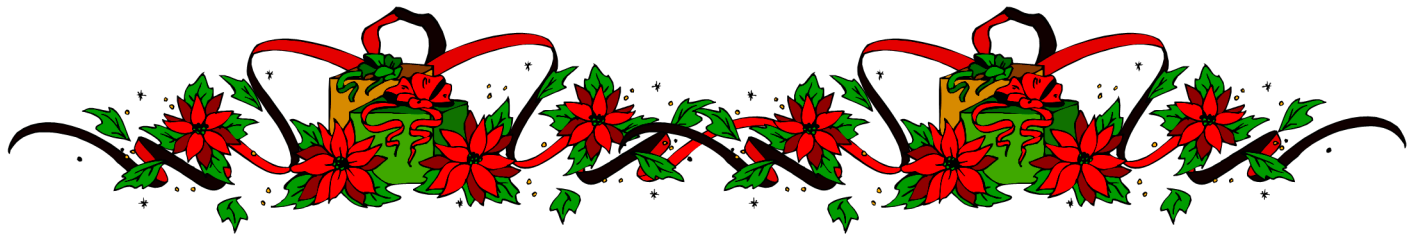
Recessional Hymn	Joy to the world!	Hymnal 100
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The Alleluia Dismissal

Deacon *The Deacon says the words of dismissal.*

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

Postlude



CHRISTMAS 2021 MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS FOR ALTAR FLOWERS AND GREENS

Christmas memorials and thanksgivings are given to the Glory of God and

- in loving memory of the Alewine, Anderson and Chase Families; and in thanksgiving for my children and grandchildren. Given by Terry Alewine.
- in loving memory of my mom, Mary Andrews. Given by Steve Andrews.
- in loving memory of Barbara & Donald Briese, Donald & Delphine Steinmetz and Lillian Steinmetz; and in thanksgiving for the Saint Mary's community and our children & grandchildren. Given by Paulette & Bruce Briese.
- in loving memory of all those "on another shore"; and in thanksgiving for all our devoted and patient family and friends, for modern medicine and for miracles amazing and everyday! Given by George & Anne Green.
- in loving memory of Anne's mother, Jeanne Spencer Richardson. Given by Anne & Craig Hanson.
- in loving memory of my parents Phyllis & Bob James, my grandparents Christeen & Fred James, Lima Baker, my aunt & uncle June & Bob Johnston, and Dorothy Stewart. Given by Cindy James.
- with immense gratitude for Mike, Zack and Juno, and for my Saint Mary's family for sticking together and finding God through thick and thin! Given by Nina Johnson.
- in loving memory of my husband, Dick Mayer, and my twin grandchildren, Michael & Victoria; and in thanksgiving for family: Mike, Melanie, Dan, Kiki, and my grandchildren, Sam, Natalie, Nicole & Rachel. Given by LaVonne Mayer.
- in loving memory of Johan Stephen Beimdiek and Christopher Stephen Beimdiek. Given by Kitty McFarland.
- in thanksgiving for all who have worked so hard this year to keep Saint Mary's running! Given by Brian and Julia Nerbonne.

MINISTERS IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Cathy McNaughton
CHRIST CANDLE PRAYER

Maura Roby
GREETER

Anayjha & Zareonna Ingram-Jordan
PROCESSIONAL BELLS

Paulette Briese & Beth Varro
USHERS

Erika Scheurer
CRUCIFER, LECTOR, INTERCESSOR, CHALICE BEARER

Kitty McFarland, Steve Andrews,
Ginny DeLuca, George & Anne Green,
Cindy James, Sharon Reece,
Julie Thomas, Pam Wheeler
ALTAR GUILD

The Children of Saint Mary's
with MiaLisa Millares
CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Fran Roby
TECH SUPPORT

Vivi Wheeler
GIFT BEARER OF BREAD AND WINE

Anne Carter
ZOOM HOST

Vonda Humberg
MUSIC DIRECTOR

The Reverend Jane Wells
DEACON

Dixie Gedstad, guitar; Chuck Watt, trombone;
Elias O'Brien, violin; Julia Nerbonne, violin
INSTRUMENTALISTS

The Reverend Susan Moss
TRANSITION PRIEST

SOURCE MATERIAL

A New Zealand Prayer Book

© The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia

The Church of England

Enriching Our Worship

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