

Welcome to  
**Saint Mary's Episcopal Church**



"Christ Candle" by John Stuart, [www.stuskieart.com](http://www.stuskieart.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
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## 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.**

## Gradual Hymn

## Star Child, Earth Child

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Carlton Young

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.

Holy God,

*People* **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.

Holy God,

*People* **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.

Holy God,

*People* **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.

Holy God,

*People* **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.

Holy God,

*People* **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.

Holy God,

*People* **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.

Holy God,

*People* **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

### In the Bleak Midwinter (vs. 1, 3, 4)

Hymnal 112

### The Snow Lay on the Ground (vs. 1, 4)

Hymnal 110

*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

*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!

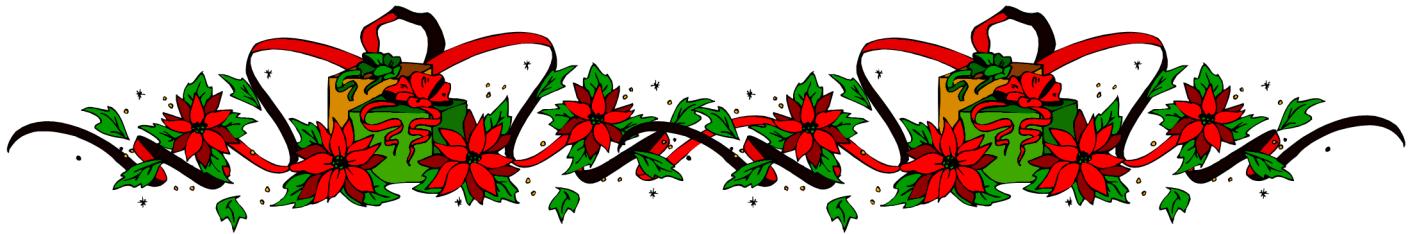
Hymnal 100

## 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

Anayjha & Zareonna Ingram-Jordan  
PROCESSIONAL BELLS

Erika Scheurer  
CRUCIFER, LECTOR, INTERCESSOR, CHALICE BEARER

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

Vivi Wheeler  
GIFT BEARER OF BREAD AND WINE

Vonda Humberg  
MUSIC DIRECTOR

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

Maura Roby  
GREETER

Paulette Briese & Beth Varro  
USHERS

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

Fran Roby  
TECH SUPPORT

Anne Carter  
ZOOM HOST

The Reverend Jane Wells  
DEACON

The Reverend Susan Moss  
TRANSITION PRIEST

## SOURCE MATERIAL

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