

Sunday, December 24, 2023 5:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS EVE
FAMILY EUCHARIST

St. Laurence extends a warm welcome to all who have joined us this night. If you are unfamiliar with the rituals and customs of the Anglican Church simply relax and let the rest of the congregation carry you in worship.

(Congregational participation in **BOLD**)

Greeting:

HYMN # 123 Once in Royal David's City
(Blue Book)

Officiant: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and renew our hope.
All: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.
Officiant: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and grant us peace.
All: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.
Officiant: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and bring us true joy.
All: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.
Officiant: Light of Light, shine in our hearts and fill us with love.
All: Joy to the world, Emmanuel has come.

Candle Lighting

Prayer

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: In this time and place, we gather on the Traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy, the Tsuut'ina, the Stoney Nakoda Nations and the Metis Nation (Region 3) In this time and place we gather in the name of the living God. In this time and place we gather with the community of faith around the globe and across the ages. In this time and place we are not alone, but one in Christ. In this time and place Hallowed, expectant, one people in God.

All: In this time and place heaven and earth are one. In the name of the Holy and Blessed One, Creator, Redeemer and Holy Spirit. Amen.

A Story about the First Christmas

All is quiet in the little town

Hymn # 120 O Little Town of Bethlehem
vs 1 *(Blue Book*)

Mary gently wraps the baby Jesus in a blanket and lays him in the manger that Joseph has filled with straw.

HYMN # 126 Away in a Manger
vs. 1 (Blue Book)

The Shepherds slowly come closer, overwhelmed with mystery, to see the baby Jesus and offer him their love.

Hymn # 139 The First Nowell
vs 1 and refrain

They are following the brightest star they had ever seen to find the King of Kings.

Hymn: We Three Kings
vs 1 and refrain

We three kings of orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain
Moor and mountain
Following yonder star

O star of wonder, star of night
Star with royal beauty bright
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light

Enter into the heart of Christmas, as we sing, for this is a time of great joy.

Hymn # 154 Joy to the World
vs. 1, 2 & 4 (Blue Book)

Blessing of the Crèche

The Peace

OFFERTORY HYMN # 118 O Come, All Ye Faithful
vs, 1& 3 and refrain (Blue Book)

Remain standing as you are able

Prayer over the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

May God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Holy One.
Let us give thanks to our loving God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is indeed right…
Therefore, we gladly join our voices to the song of Creation.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and light,
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. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: And now, lest we believe . . .
For the home of God is among mortals and for this we give thanks, now and ever more.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

O Birther! Father-Mother of the Cosmos, focus your light within us – make it useful. Create your reign of unity now Your one desire then acts with ours, as in all light, so in all forms. Grant what we need each day in bread and insight. Loose the cords of mistakes binding us, as we release the strands we hold of others' guilt. Don't let surface things delude us, but free us from what holds us back. From you is born all ruling will, the power and the life to do, the song that beautifies all, from age to age it renews. Truly – power to these statements – may they be the ground from which all my actions grow: Amen. (New Translation from the Aramaic)

The Breaking of the Bread:
Priest: We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
All: God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to
light and life.
The Communion:
Priest: The gifts of God for you the people of God.
All: Thanks be to God.

We invite you to remain seated. Our Greeters will indicate
when it is time to move forward for communion.

Music during Communion

#146 - T'was in the Moon of Wintertime *(Blue book)*

#137 - What Child is This? *(Blue book)*

 # 119– Silent Night *(Blue book)*

Prayer after communion

Priest: Together, let us pray
All: Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew, and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.

HYMN #138 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Blessing for Christmas

ST LAURENCE
AN INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY

RECTOR THE REV. DR. JANE ROWLAND
HONORARY ASSISTANT THE REV.MJ LEEWIS-KIRK
MUSIC DIRECTOR DONNA RUPARELL
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT KELLY KAWOHL



St. Laurence is an Anglican congregation that feels called to create an intentional community seeking to practice a renewed Christian spirituality in order to deepen members' experience of God and share this path with others as a response to the growing hunger for meaning and hope in the surrounding community and society.

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