The Church of the Ascension

in the City of New York

FIFTH AVENUE AT TENTH STREET



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2022

PRELUDE MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE – 9:30 PM

FESTIVAL PROCESSION – 10:00 PM
AND THE HOLY EUCHARIST
FOR THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

PRELUDE MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

Corde natus ex Parentis **Gregorian Chant**

Corde natus ex parentis
ante mundi exordium,
A et O cognominatus,
ipse fons et clausula.
Omnium quae sunt, fuerunt,
quaeque post futura sunt,
saeculorum saeculis.

Of the Father's love begotten,
ere the world began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he.
Of the things that are, that have been,
and the future years shall be,
evermore and evermore.

O beatus ortus ille,
virgo cum puerpera,
edidit nostrum salutem,
feta Sancto Spiritu,
et puer, redemptor orbis,
os sacramentum protulit
saeculorum saeculis.

O that birth for ever blessed,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the holy Ghost conceiving,
bare the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore.

Christmas **Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)**

Frohlokket, ihr Völker auf Erden, und preiset Gott! Der Heiland ist erscheinen, den der Herr verheissen. Er hat seine Gerechtigkeit der Welt offenbaret. Halleluja.

Rejoice ye peoples on earth, and praise God! The Savior has appeared, as promised by the Lord. He has revealed His righteousness to the world. Hallelujah.

Choral (from *Hodie*) **Ralph Vaughan Williams (1892-1958)**

The blessed Son of God only
In a crib full poor did lie;
With our poor flesh and our poor blood
Was clothed that everlasting good.
Kyrie eleison.

The Lord Christ Jesu, God's son dear,
Was a guest and a stranger here;
Us for to bring from misery,

That we might live eternally.
Kyrie eleison.

All this he did for us freely,
For to declare his great mercy;
All Christendom be merry therefore,
And give him thanks for evermore.
Kyrie eleison.

—Myles Coverdale

Torches **John Joubert (1927-2019)**

Torches, torches, run with torches
All the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping;
Come and sing your song to him!

Ah Roro, Roro, my baby,
Ah, Roro, my love, Roro,
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling,
While we sing you our Roro.

Sing my friends and make you merry,
Joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, he lives, the King of heaven,
Now and evermore. Amen.

Alma redemptoris mater **G. P. Palestrina**
(ca. 1525-1594)

Alma redemptoris mater, quae pervia coeli porta manes, et Stella maris, succurre cadenti surgere qui curat, populo: tu quae genuisti natura mirante, tuum sanctum Genitorem, virgo prius ac posterius, Gabrielis ab ore, sumens illud. Ave, peccatorum miserere.

Gracious mother of the Redeemer, who remains the open gate to heaven and star of the sea, help those who fall and seek to rise. You who, while nature stood amazed, gave birth to him who made you, virgin before and after his human birth, you who received the greeting of Gabriel, have mercy on sinners.

God rest you merry, gentlemen **English Carol**
arr. David Willcocks

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
for Jesus Christ our Savior
was born upon this day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.

Refrain:
O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came,
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same,
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name.
[Refrain]

Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and brotherhood
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
all others doth deface.
[Refrain]

The Star Carol **Alfred S. Burt (1920-1954)**

Long years ago on a deep winter night,
High in the heav'ns a star shone bright,
While in a manger a wee Baby lay,
Sweetly asleep on a bed of hay.

Jesus the Lord was that baby so small,
Laid down to sleep in a humble stall;
Then came the star and it stood overhead,
Shedding its light 'round His little bed.

Dear Baby Jesus, how tiny Thou art,
I'll make a place for Thee in my heart,
And when the stars in the heavens I see,
Ever and always I think of Thee.

The Holly and the Ivy **Traditional English Carol**
arranged by Reginald Jacques

The holly and the ivy, when they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.
The rising of the sun, and the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.

The holly bears a blossom, as white as the lily flower;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, to be our sweet Saviour.

The holly bears a prickle, As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, on Christmas day in the morn.

The holly bears a bark, as bitter as any gall;
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ, for to redeem us all.

Ding dong! Merrily on High **French Carol**
harm. Charles Wood

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sungen.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers;
May you beautifully rime
Your evetime song, ye singers.
Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

In the Bleak Mid-Winter **Gustav Holst**
(1874-1934)

In the bleak mid-winter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid-winter, long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heav'n and earth shall welcome him when he comes to reign:
in the bleak mid-winter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what can I give him—give my heart.

Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

Go, Tell It on the Mountain **American Spiritual**

Refrain:
Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.
(Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus, that hailed our Savior's birth.
(Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and brought us God's salvation that blessed Christmas morn.
(Refrain)

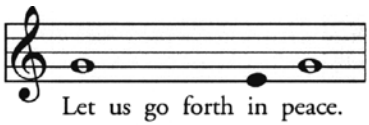
FESTIVAL PROCESSION AND THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Introit *(all stand)* **Hodie, Christus natus est**
Gregorian Chant

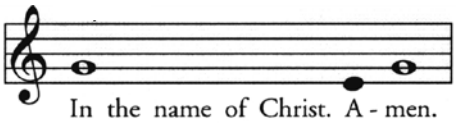
Hodie Christus natus est
hodie Salvator apparuit:
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli:
hodie exsultant justi,
dicentes: Gloria in excelsis
Deo, alleluja.

Today is Christ born; today
the Savior has appeared;
today the Angels sing, the
Archangels rejoice; today the
righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest.
Alleluia!

Deacon



People



Hymn 83 ***Adeste fidelis***

(The hymn will pause when the altar party arrives at the crèche.)

Station at the Crèche

℣ The glory of the Lord has been revealed.
℟ All flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.

People *Amen.*

(The hymn continues as the procession moves around the church to the chancel.)

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

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

People *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Collect for Purity

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.

People Amen.

Gloria in excelsis **Hymnal, S-280**

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect for Christmas Eve

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, 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.
People *Amen.*

(The congregation may be seated)

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

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 Father, 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. (9:2-7)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 79 ***St. Louis***

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. (2:11-14)

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People *Thanks be to God.*

Hymn 96 ***Gloria***

The Gospel **Luke 2:1-20**

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ 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.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon **The Rev. Elizabeth G. Maxwell**

The Nicene Creed *(All stand)*

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People **Form III**

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world.
Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People *That we all may be one.*

Leader We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Andrew, Allen and Mary our Bishops, for Matt, our Bishop Coadjutor-elect, and all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People *That they may be faithful ministers of your* Word and Sacraments.

Leader We pray for Joe our President, Kathy our Governor, and Eric our Mayor, and all who

govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People *That there may be justice and peace on the* earth.

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Leader We pray for Ed, Janet, Ellen, Joseph, Brielle, Lucas, Holly, Allejandro and Jesus, Nancy, Barbara, Dorothy, Stewart, Patricia, Judith, David, Hannah, Jurek, Alice, Michael, Todd, Jessica, Elaine, Brittney, Zebulon, Sonia, Susie, Kate, Andrea and Dan, Barbara, Joe ,Samantha, Katherine, Elizabeth, Peter, David, Julia, Karli, Kamri, Susan, Skylar, and Peter. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

People *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Leader We pray for Mohamed Sharif Choudhury, George Hayman, and Joseph Stafford. Give to the departed eternal rest.

People *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

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

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem **O Holy Night**
Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)

O Holy Night
The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and e'er pining
'Til He appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees O hear the angels voices.
O night divine O night when Christ was born
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming,
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand.
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming,
Here came the wise men from Orient land.
The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
In all our trials born to be our friend.
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger,
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!
Behold your King! Before Him lowly bend!

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,

Let all within us praise His holy name.
Christ is the Lord! O praise His Name forever,
His power and glory evermore proclaim.
O night divine, O night, O night divine.

The Great Thanksgiving **Eucharistic Prayer D**

(The people stand while the offerings are presented)

Sursum corda **Hymnal, S-120**

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 him thanks and praise.*

Celebrant It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing,

Sanctus **Hymnal, S-129**

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.

(The people stand or kneel, and the priest continues)

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead,

proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People:

We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with Mary the God-Bearer and Blessed Joseph, with patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and for ever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Priest — And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All — 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 Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant — Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People — *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Agnus Dei **Hymnal, S-163**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

The Communion of the People

(The celebrant says the following invitation)

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 people come forward as directed by the ushers. All are welcome. The ushers will direct those seated in the outer aisles to go first- down to the back of the church and then up the center aisle, followed by the middle aisle. We offer communion in both kinds; if you choose to drink from the cup, you may help the

chalice bearer by touching the base to guide it to your mouth. If you prefer not to take the cup you may cross your arms in front of you in acknowledgement or simply return to your seat. Intinction is not allowed due to public health concerns.)

Hymn 115 ***Greensleeves***

Hymn 104 ***Andújar***

Post-Communion Prayer

(The people say together, standing or kneeling.)

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father,
send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Hymn 111 *(all kneel)* ***Stille Nacht***

The Christmas Blessing

(The people respond "Amen" to each of four short blessings.)

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Hymn 87 ***Mendelssohn***

Dismissal

(The congregation is dismissed, and the people respond)

Thanks be to God.

Postlude **March (from *Athalie*)**
Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

WELCOME to the Church of the Ascension. We're glad to have you worship with us, and hope that you have experienced the peace and presence of Christ in this place. If you'd like to learn more about our parish, please fill out the card in your pew and give it to an usher or put it in the offering plate.

Christmas Schedule

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24

- ✯ Family Service, 5:00 p.m.
- ✯ Prelude Music for Christmas, 9:30 p.m.
- ✯ Festival Eucharist, 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day, Dec. 25

- ✯ Holy Eucharist & Hymns; 11:00 a.m.
  Since Christmas falls on a Sunday, there are no other services on that day.

1st Sunday after Christmas, Jan. 1

- ✯ Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.
- ✯ Lessons and Carols, 11:00 a.m.
- ✯ Meditation & Sacrament, 6:00 p.m.

Livestreams of Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and 1st Sunday after Christmas (11:00 a.m.) services can be accessed at Ascensionny.org/webcasts

The Christmas flowers are offered in joy at the Incarnation of Our Lord Jesus Christ by:



Stephanie Bruder
in loving memory of
Vivienne Wolf Bruder

George Carr
in loving memory of
Annabel Peterson Carr, Mary Sue Carr, Walter Peterson Carr, Zack Carr III, Zack Carr, Jr., Henry Dantzler, J. D. Patton, Zula Mae Patton, Jenny M. Tates
in thanksgiving for
Helen Gibson Burks

John Grimes
in loving memory of
Mary Evelyn Carter, Ava L. Gardner, John A. & Inez G. Grimes, Melzer A. & Elizabeth R. Morgan,

Andrew Jones
in thanksgiving for
Geraldine Bryan, Jordan Scoggins
in loving memory of
Stephen Jones

David Lehmann
in thanksgiving for
Ken May
In loving Memory of
John L. Havercamp, Tamma L. Havercamp, Chris & Sarah May, Beth H. Willingham

Helen Makarowsky
in thanksgiving for
Zhenya & Tamara Makarowsky
in loving memory of
Alexander, Remo, Nona, & Vladimir Makarowsky

Barbara Matovu
in loving memory of
Jacob Matovu

The Rev. Elizabeth G. Maxwell
in thanksgiving for
Mihret

Kenneth May
in loving memory of
Evelyn Birch, Charles Clarkson, Carol Gregory, Ethel Heser, Christopher Linstrom, Dorothy May, Robert May, Salvatore May

John Merryman
in thanksgiving for
Ann McGee Merryman

Kimberly & Jason Miller
in loving memory of
Bernadine Kopko, Dolores & Richard Stichter

Peter Nordeen
in loving memory of
Dan Sendzik

Sibyl Piccone
in loving memory of
Josephine & Paul Piccone, Helen & Kerry Ryan

Rima Rabbath
in thanksgiving for
Wesley (VOA Usher)

Tom Rice
in loving memory of
Elisabeth Reiter, John & Jane Rice Anna Reiter

Shep Skiff
in loving memory of
Jeff Geffine, Elizabeth Shepard Jones

Madonna Stack-Barker
in loving memory of
William Barker

Announcements

Have you made your pledge for 2023? Thanks to all who have pledged to support Ascension in the coming year. If you have not yet pledged, please prayerfully consider doing so. You can pledge online at **ascensionnyc.org/stewardship**. We need everyone's participation, and depend on your commitments for our budget planning. Thank you for your generosity and care for our church!

To pay your pledge online, please go to **ascensionnyc.org/give** to find out how easy and secure it is to give. You can also download the Abundant app for iOS or Android. When donating, please choose whichever purpose you intend for your contribution.

Help Us Repair & Restore our Tower Brownstone - Ascension is making urgently needed repairs and restoration on the historic masonry & copings of our tower brownstone. We have received a generous matching grant from the Manton Foundation for this important work. Now we need your help make our space secure for the next generation!

Every dollar you give will be matched up to $200,000. You can pledge to this campaign online at **ascensionnyc.org/matchinggrant**, or contact the parish office at 212-254-8620. Payments can be made by check payable to the Church of the Ascension (remember to put "Tower Brownstone" in the memo line) or online through Abundant (Ascensionnyc.org/Give – select "Manton Matching Grant" from the drop-down menu). If you have any questions about this campaign or the tower, please speak to Mother Liz or one of the Wardens. Thank you for your generosity!

Spirit Driven Stitching: Quilts by Posey Krakowsky: On View through December 31. The Rev. Posey Krakowsky, Priest Associate at Ascension, is also an artist, theologian, and writer. A lifelong fiber artist, Posey's specialty is quilting, but she also knits, weaves, paints, sews, and works with beads. Posey's quilting pieces are multi-layered and rich and take months to complete. Several of her Quilts are on display at the Heavenly Rest Undercroft Gallery (1085 5th Ave, New York, NY). Of her work Posey says, "We are Spirit-driven beings on an earthly, incarnate journey. God walks beside us every step. The ways we use our hands inform our hearts, our minds, and our souls: leading them deeper and deeper into Love."

Help for Asylum Seekers Needed- Our friends at Judson Church (239 Thompson St.) have created a respite and mutual aid center for asylum seekers who have been bussed to New York from Texas. They are open every Monday from 10 am to 7 pm. You can help by volunteering time (Spanish speakers and those with medical, legal or social work training especially welcome), or by donating supplies. They need new (or like new) winter coats (men's, women's, & children's), underwear (boxers preferably), and backpacks.

To learn more about volunteering, please contact the Rev. Micah Bucey at micah@judson.org. Donated supplies can be brought to Ascension, marked "mutual aid for migrants" and we will see that they get to Judson. Thank you!

Mask Policy –With the rise of respiratory illnesses, we do strongly encourage everyone to be masked when indoors and to be sensitive to the concerns of others. Clergy, servers, and choir will remain masked during services.

Rota for December 24, 2022

Altar Guild	John Grimes
Ushers	
Lectors	Rich Mitchel, Stanley Weinberg
Intercessor	David Cholcher
Server	Tom Rice
Thurifer	John Grimes
Crucifer	James Amodeo
Torches	Janet Fisher, Rusty Moore
Chalice Bearers	Stanley Weinberg, Janet Fisher

Rota for December 25, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Altar Guild	Candace Lombardi
Ushers	Terry Rogers, TBA, TBA
Lectors	James Amodeo, Rusty Moore
Intercessor	Kyle Cheseborough
Server	Candace Lombardi
Torches	Rusty Moore, David Lehmann

Parish Activities

Saturday – December 24 – Christmas Eve
Family Service (Church) 5:00 p.m.
Prelude Music for Christmas (Church) 9:30 p.m.
Festival Eucharist (Church) 10:00 p.m.
Food pantry is available the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. For assistance or to volunteer, please contact Amy Shaw at amyqshaw@gmail.com.

Sunday – December 25
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
Holy Eucharist & Hymns (Church) 11:00 a.m.
Since Christmas falls on a Sunday, there are no other services on that day.

Monday – December 26
Church and Parish Office closed. There are no services or meetings.
Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday – December 27
Church and Parish Office closed. There are no services or meetings.
Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday – December 28
Church open for prayer & meditation; Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.
Holy Eucharist (Church) 6:00 p.m.

Thursday – December 29
Church open for prayer & meditation; Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

Friday – December 30
Church open for prayer & meditation; Noon to 3:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

Saturday – December 31
Food pantry is available the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. For assistance or to volunteer, please contact Amy Shaw at amyqshaw@gmail.com.

Sunday – January 1 – The Holy Name of Our Lord
Holy Eucharist (Church) 9:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist w/ Music; (Church & Live Stream) 11:00 a.m.
In person and online (Ascensionnyc.org/Sunday)
Join us for Coffee Hour following the Service
Meditation & Sacrament (Church) 6:00 p.m.

The Church of the Ascension

in the City of New York

Fifth Avenue at Tenth Street

Incorporated October 1, 1827

Parish House 12 West 11th Street, New York, New York 10011

www.ascensionnyc.org (212) 254-8620 info@ascensionnyc.org

Office Hours:

Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Weekly Worship Schedule

Sunday Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.
Sunday Eucharist w/ Music, 11:00 a.m.
Sunday Online Church, 11:00 a.m. (Ascensionnyc.org/Sunday)
Sunday Meditation & Sacrament, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday Eucharist, 6:00 p.m.
Weeknight Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m. (ascensionnyc.org/eveningprayer)

Clergy & Staff	***Vestry***
The Rev. Elizabeth G. Maxwell, *Rector*	David Cholcher, *Warden*
The Rev. Edwin Chinery, *Associate Rector*	Isabel Spencer, *Warden*
The Rev. Posey Krakowsky, *Priest Associate*	Mary Gaillard, *Treasurer*
Charles E. Schmidt, *Chancellor*	Mary Gossy: *Clerk*
Dennis Keene, D.M.A., *Organist & Choirmaster*	Elizabeth Adams
Andrew P. Jones, *Parish Administrator*	Kyle Church Cheseborough
Kelli Long, *Business Manager*	Peter Clark
Sajia Choudhury, *Parish Bookkeeper*	John Grimes
Dwight Roberts, *Sexton*	Steve Hubbard
William Gordon, *Assistant Sexton*	Vin Knight
Rashean Thompkins, *Assistant Sexton*	Gale Lynch
	Tom Rice
	Rachel Sedor
	Madonna Stack-Barker
	John Thompson
	Jill Tildesley

@ascensionnyc

Paperless Bulletin

Hymn 83 ***Adeste fidelis***

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;
Refrain *O come, let us adore him,*
Christ the Lord.

God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of God the Father;
Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;
Refrain

See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;
Refrain

Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
Refrain

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;
Refrain

O come, all ye faithful, #83 from The Hymnal 1982 — 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.

Hymn 79 ***St. Louis***

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.

No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessèd Child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

O little town of Bethlehem, #79 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

Hymn 96 ***Gloria***

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Angels we have heard on high, #96 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

Hymn 115 ***Greensleeves***

What child is this, who, laid to rest,
on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
Refrain

This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
Refrain

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.
Refrain

What child is this, who, laid to rest, #115 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871.

Hymn 111 *(all kneel)* ***Stille Nacht***

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, #111 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

Hymn 87 ***Mendelssohn***

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Refrain

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing, #87 from The Hymnal 1982 — Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915).