The Church of the Ascension

in the City of New York

FIFTH AVENUE AT TENTH STREET



CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2022

FAMILY SERVICE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS CRÈCHE

Five O'Clock p.m.

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Prelude **Christmas Organ Music**
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Hymn 96 **"Angels We have Heard on High"**

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing through the night,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.
Refrain:
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What glad brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Refrain:

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.
Refrain:

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.
Refrain:

Welcome

Collect for Christmas Eve *(Please stand)*

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.*

(Please be seated)

The Story of the Birth of Jesus
told by Father Edwin Chinery

(We will sing the following carols during the story, remaining seated)

"O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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.

"Once in Royal David's City"

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby, in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

"Away in a Manger"

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

"The First Nowell"

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

"We Three Kings of Orient are"

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!

"Joy to the World"

Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her king
Let every heart prepare him room
And heaven and nature sing – and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and heaven and nature sing!

A Bidding Prayer *(Please stand)*

Leader Jesus, child of Mary: we pray for our families and all those dear to us.

(The congregation may offer their prayers either silently or aloud.)

People *Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*

Leader Jesus, cradled in a manger: we pray for the poor, the homeless, for refugees and anyone in danger.

(The congregation may offer their prayers either silently or aloud.)

People *Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*

Leader Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals: we pray for your whole creation.

(The congregation may offer their prayers either silently or aloud.)

People *Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*

Leader Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings: we pray for peace in your world.

(The congregation may offer their prayers either silently or aloud.)

People *Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.*

Leader Jesus, our Emmanuel: we pray for those in particular need, who are especially on our hearts.

(The congregation may offer their prayers either silently or aloud.)
(The priest concludes)

All-loving God, bless us with your grace; Christ give us the joy of everlasting life; and Holy Spirit, who comforts and guides us, be with us evermore. Amen.

The Peace

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

Offertory Solo **Sweet Little Jesus Boy**
Traditional Spiritual



The Holy Communion

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 God thanks and praise.*

Question: Why is it right to give thanks and praise?
Answer: *God is love and does wonderful things.*

Celebrant: Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,
everything that gives us light,
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

You give us your love that lasts forever
in your Son Jesus Christ,
and in him you bring us close to you.

You made us all,
each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels
and sing your praise:

All: *Holy, holy, holy Lord,*
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We thank you, loving God,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He showed us the way to live
and gave his life for us.
Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

Question: Why do we share this bread and wine?
Answer: *To share the love of Jesus for us.*

Celebrant: On the night before he died,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples,
'This is my body', he said,
'Given for you. Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples,
'This is my blood', he said, 'poured out for you
and for all people, to save them from their sins.
Do this to remember me.'

And so, loving God, as you feed us with these
gifts, send your Holy Spirit,
and make us more and more
to be like Jesus our Savior.

Question: How do we follow Jesus Christ?
Answer: *By loving God, ourselves, and our neighbors.*

Celebrant: Help us to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when all the needs of the world are met
and suffering is ended.

With all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All: *Amen.*

Celebrant And now, in the words that Jesus taught us, let us pray:

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.*

Sharing the Gifts of God

(We're so happy you're with us! 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.)

Post-Communion Prayer *(People may stand or kneel)*

(Said together by all)

Almighty God,
you came among us
as a baby in a manger,
bringing us peace and joy and love:
may your light always brighten our hearts
and always shine in our words and deeds;
as we grow in love
for you and for our neighbors.
Amen.

"**Silent night**" *(All kneel and sing)*

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,
sleep in heavenly peace.

Christmas Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Hymn 87 **"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"**

(All stand and sing together)

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 th'angelic host proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Refrain:
Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored;
Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come,
Offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
Hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh 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:

Dismissal

The congregation is dismissed, and the people respond:

Thanks be to God.

Postlude **The Rejoicing from *Royal Fireworks Music***
George Frideric Handel

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

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.

Our soloist tonight is Lucia Bradford, mezzo-soprano.

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!

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.

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

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