

# The Church of the Ascension

in the City of New York

FIFTH AVENUE AT TENTH STREET



## CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2021

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

### Ding dong! Merrily on High

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!"

### 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.

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

### French Carol

harm. Charles Wood

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!

### English Traditional Tune

arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive  
him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

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 Immanuel!

## Away in a Manger

## Traditional Normandy Tune

arr. Reginald Jacques

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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 cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.  
Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,  
and take us to heaven to live with you there.

## Ave Maria

## Robert Parsons

Ave Maria, gratia plena,  
Dominus tecum;  
benedicta tu in mulieribus,  
et benedictus fructus ventris tui.  
Amen.

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with thee;  
blessed art thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of thy  
womb. Amen.

## Coventry Carol

## arr. Gregg Smith

Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child,  
Bye bye, lully, lullay.  
Thou little tiny child,  
Bye bye, lully, lullay.  
O sisters too, how may we do  
For to preserve this day  
This poor youngling for whom we  
sing,  
“Bye bye, lully, lullay?”

Herod the king, in his raging,  
Chargèd he hath this day  
His men of might in his own sight  
All young children to slay.  
That woe is me, poor child, for  
thee  
And ever mourn and may  
For thy parting neither say nor  
sing,  
“Bye bye, lully, lullay.”

## Someone's knocking at the snowy door

Jean Sibelius

Someone's knocking at the snowy door.

Someone there is calling

"Open, open, children, I implore!

Winter is falling.

See my basket is full for you,

Lovely gifts, if you let me through.

May I stay this holiday with you?

Children may I enter?"

Come in!

Father Christmas, come in!

"I have a little Christmas tree

From the forest growing,

Light and love to ev'ry family

In each candle glowing.

Be you rich, be you poor today,

Be you young, be you old and gray;

One and all, I bring a holiday!

Shall we be merry?"

Come in!

Father Christmas, come in!

## Here is the Little Door

Herbert Howells

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift!

We need not wander more but enter with our gift;

Our gift of finest gold,

Gold that was never bought nor sold;

Myrrh to be strewn about his bed;

Incense in clouds about his head;

All for the Child who stirs not in his sleep.

But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep.

Bend low about his bed, for each he has a gift;

See how his eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift!

For gold, he gives a keen-edged sword

(Defend with it Thy little Lord!),

For incense, smoke of battle red.

Myrrh for the honoured happy dead;

Gifts for his children terrible and sweet,

Touched by such tiny hands and  
Oh such tiny feet.

*-Frances Chesterton*

### **Sweet Little Jesus Boy**

**Robert MacGimsey**

Sweet little Jesus boy, born in a manger  
Sweet little Holy child, we didn't know who You were  
Long time ago it seems You were born  
Born in a manger Lord, sweet little Jesus boy  
Didn't know you'd come to save us all  
To take our sins away  
Our eyes were blind we did not see  
We didn't know who You were  
You have shown us how  
And we are trying  
Master You have shown us how  
Even as You were dying  
This world treats You mean Lord  
Treats me mean too  
But that's how things are done down here  
We didn't know it was You  
Didn't know You'd come to save us all  
To take our sins away  
Our eyes were blind we did not see  
We didn't know who You were

### **Break forth, O Beauteous Heav'nly Light**

**Johann Sebastian Bach**

Break forth, O beauteous heav'nly light,  
And usher in the morning;  
Ye shepherds, shrink not with affright,  
But hear the angel's warning.  
This child, now weak in infancy,  
Our confidence and joy shall be,  
The pow'r of Satan breaking,  
Our peace eternal making.

# FESTIVAL PROCESSION AND THE HOLY EUCHARIST

**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

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 96**

**Gloria**



## 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.*

## 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	<i>Praise to you, Lord Christ.</i>

<b>Sermon</b>	<b>The Rev. Elizabeth G. Maxwell</b>
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<b>The Nicene Creed</b>	<i>(All stand)</i>
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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        Grant that every member of the Church may  
                  truly and humbly serve you;

*People        That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

Leader        We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop,  
                  Andrew, Allen and Mary our Bishops, 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, Bill our Mayor, Eric our Mayor-elect,

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 Robert, Ed, Janet, Ellen, Joseph, Brielle, Lucas, Holly, Allejandro and Jesus, Nancy, Barbara, Dorothy, Stewart, Patricia, Judith, Harold, Hannah, Jurek, Alice, Michael, Todd, Andrew, Heidi, Lillie, Ed, and Edwin Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.*

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

*Leader We pray for Kitty Brett, Andrew Stengel, Barry Harris, Lenore Mott, and those mentioned in the flower memorials below. 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

## Quem Pastores Laudavere

(sung in Latin)

James Bassi

He whom joyous shepherds praised, When an angel's song was raised, Bidding them be not amazed, Heaven's all glorious King is born. He whom sages, westward faring, Myrrh and gold and incense bearing, Worshipped, bowing low before him, Reigns as King this happy morn. Sing to Christ, the King who reigneth, Yet of Mary manhood gaineth, Born our God; let us adore him: Glory be to God on high. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

## Eucharistic Prayer B

(The people stand while the offerings are presented)

### Sursum corda

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 right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus

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 give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ 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."

## Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant	Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
People	<i>We remember his death,</i>
	<i>We proclaim his resurrection,</i>
	<i>We await his coming in Glory.</i>

*(The priest continues)*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary the God-Bearer, St. Joseph, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

*People*            *AMEN.*

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Celebrant*        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.

## Communion of the People

Celebrant     The gifts of God for the people of God.

*The people come forward single-file up the center aisle, maintaining appropriate physical distance of at least 6 feet. Wait at the designated place for the person ahead of you to be communicated and leave before you approach the priest to receive. After receiving the host, please exit by way of the south aisle around to the center aisle and up to your seat. Once at your seat you may remove your mask long enough to consume the host. For anyone needing ambulatory assistance, the priest will come to you at your seat.*

*During communion, the following hymns may be sung.*

**Hymn 115**

***Greensleeves***

**Hymn 81**

***Es ist ein Ros***

## Post-Communion Prayer

*(The people say together, kneeling or standing.)*

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**

**Our guest Organist & Choirmaster is  
Malcolm J. Merriweather.**

**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

Barbara Matovu  
in loving memory of  
Jacob Matovu

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

The Rev. Elizabeth G. Maxwell  
in thanksgiving for  
Mihret

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

John R. Gibson  
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

John Merryman  
in thanksgiving for  
Ann McGee Merryman

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

David Lehmann  
in thanksgiving for  
John Havercamp, & Tamma  
Lehmann Havercamp, Christopher  
May, & Beth Willingham  
In loving memory of Albert E.  
Lehmann, Mary L. Lehmann,  
Tamma Lovis Lehmann, & Urma T.  
Lowe

Peter Nordeen  
in loving memory of  
Dan Sendzik

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

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

Rima Rabbath  
in thanksgiving for  
Wesley (VOA Usher)

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.

**Office Closed-** The church and parish office will be closed on Monday, Tuesday, & Friday, December 27, 28, & 31. There will be a service on January 1 (The Feast of the Holy Name) at 11:00 a.m.

**New Way to Watch us Remotely!** You can access our services at [ascensionnyc.org/webcasts](https://ascensionnyc.org/webcasts). Go to [Ascensionnyc.org/Prayers](https://Ascensionnyc.org/Prayers) to submit prayers during the service for the Prayers of the People. Evening Prayer services remain broadcast on Zoom.

**Hospitality: Warmest Greetings to one and all!** We're so happy to have returned to in-person worship on Sundays. And while we've obtained a tent and some heaters, which make our outdoor coffee hour quite cozy, we're also hoping to return to a regular schedule of hospitality hosts who will help by making coffee and tea available. Maybe even some cookies on occasion! This ministry of gathering and welcoming is essential to our community, so if you are moved to serve in this way, please contact the parish office so we can plan our schedule going forward. Thank you!

**The Roman Catholic/Episcopal dialogue subgroup** of the Diocesan Ecumenical and Interfaith Commission is hosting a series of discussions on Zoom about "God's Gift of the Eucharist" on January 11, 18, & 25 of 2022. Our own Elizabeth Adams will be hosting along with Fr. Bob Flanagan, a priest in our diocese, and Fr. Brian McWeeney of the Catholic archdiocese of New York.

Please do join in this fascinating and lively discussion of the sacrament that is central to our identity as Christians. The event is free but space is limited. For information, please contact Fr. Brian at [brian.mcweeney@archny.org](mailto:brian.mcweeney@archny.org), or Fr. Robert at [growingasoul@gmail.com](mailto:growingasoul@gmail.com))

**Crochet Creations by Jeannette!** Hello there, Ascensioners! Jeanette Shields is offering crochet hats, scarves, sweaters, dresses, baby's clothing, and other wares. They are colorful, attractive to the eye, warm in the winter, cool in the summer, and some can be quite dramatic! Visit her website at: [jeanettemarietrochet.squarespace.com](http://jeanettemarietrochet.squarespace.com)

**Monday Evening Lectionary Bible Study** -- Join us Monday evenings at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. This is an opportunity to read and discuss the readings for the upcoming Sunday. If you are interested in joining, please contact Sibyl Piccone at [srpiccone@yahoo.com](mailto:srpicone@yahoo.com)

### **Worship With Us:**

- **Sunday Holy Eucharist** (Church) 9:00 a.m.
- **Sunday Holy Eucharist with Music** (Church) 11:00 a.m.  
Coffee & tea in the front garden following the service
- **Watch us online at [Ascensionnyc.org/Webcasts](http://Ascensionnyc.org/Webcasts)**
- **Sunday Meditation & Sacrament** (Church) 6:00 p.m
- **Wednesday Evening Eucharist** (Church) 6:00 p.m.
- **Evening Prayer Every Weekday Evening** via Zoom: [ascensionnyc.org/eveningprayer](http://ascensionnyc.org/eveningprayer). 5:30p.m.
- **Prayer & Meditation** - Every Weekday the Church is open for prayer and meditation every weekday; Monday through Friday, Noon to 3:00 p.m. Open Church will begin with Noonday Prayer, led by Brother Andrew, OSF.

## **Christmas at Ascension**

### **Christmas Eve**

*(Reservations Required: [ascensionnyc.org/christmaseve](http://ascensionnyc.org/christmaseve))*

Family Service, 5:00 p.m.

Prelude Music for Christmas, 9:30 p.m.

& Festival Eucharist, 10:00 p.m.

### **Christmas Day**

Holy Eucharist & Hymns; 11:00 a.m.

### **1st Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 26**

Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.

Lessons and Carols, 11:00 a.m.

### **Holy Name of Jesus, Saturday, January 1**

Holy Eucharist, 11:00 a.m.

### **2nd Sunday after Christmas, January 2**

Holy Eucharist, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist w/ Music (Church) 11:00 a.m.

## **Parish Activities this Week**

### **Friday – December 24 – Christmas Eve**

Church open for prayer & meditation; Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Family Christmas Eve (Church) 5:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Festal Service (Church)

Prelude Music, 9:30 p.m.

Festal Eucharist, 10:00 p.m.

### **Saturday – December 25 – Christmas Day**

Christmas Day Eucharist with Music (Church) 11:00 a.m.

### **Sunday – December 26 – First Sunday of Christmas**

Holy Eucharist (Church) 9:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist w/ Lessons & Carols (Church) 11:00 a.m.

*(Live Stream: [AscensionNYC.org/webcasts](http://AscensionNYC.org/webcasts))*

Coffee & Tea (Front Garden) following the service

Meditation & Sacrament (Church) 6:00 p.m.

**Monday – December 27**

Church and Parish Office Closed.

Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

**Tuesday – December 28**

Church and Parish Office Closed.

Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday – December 29**

Church open for prayer & meditation; Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

Midweek Holy Eucharist (Church) 6:00 p.m.

**Thursday – December 30**

Church open for prayer & meditation; Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

**Friday – December 31**

Church and Parish Office Closed.

Evening Prayer (Zoom) 5:30 p.m.

**Saturday – January 1– Holy Name of Jesus**

Holy Eucharist (Church) 11:00 a.m.

**Sunday – January 2 – Second Sunday of Christmas**

Holy Eucharist (Church) 9:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist w/ Lessons & Carols (Church) 11:00 a.m.

(Live Stream: [AscensionNYC.org/webcasts](https://AscensionNYC.org/webcasts))

Coffee & Tea (Front Garden) following the service

Meditation & Sacrament (Church) 6:00 p.m.

*Anyone entering the church must wear a mask and maintain appropriate physical distance. Please utilize the hand sanitizer stations.*

<b>Rota</b>
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December 24

Altar Guild    Mary Gossy, John Grimes, Tom Rice

Ushers        Charles Schmidt, Janet Fischer, John  
Merryman, Terry Rogers

Lectors       David Cholcher, Janet Fisher  
Intercessor   Peter Clark

Server        James Amodeo  
Thurifer      Daniel Cole  
Crucifer      John Grimes  
Torches       Rusty Moore, Tom Rice

Livestream Host    [Ascensionnyc.org/webcasts](https://Ascensionnyc.org/webcasts)

# The Church of the Ascension

in the City of New York

Fifth Avenue at Tenth Street

Incorporated October 1, 1827

Parish House

[www.ascensionnyc.org](http://www.ascensionnyc.org)

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

(212) 254-8620

[info@ascensionnyc.org](mailto:info@ascensionnyc.org)

## Office Hours:

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

## Regular 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](http://Ascensionnyc.org/Sunday))

Wednesday Eucharist, 6:00 p.m.

Weeknight Evening, 5:30 p.m. ([ascensionnyc.org/eveningprayer](http://ascensionnyc.org/eveningprayer))

<i><b>Clergy &amp; Staff</b></i>	<i><b>Vestry</b></i>
The Rev. Elizabeth G. Maxwell, <i>Rector</i>	Maurice Seaton, <i>Warden</i>
The Rev. Edwin Chinery, <i>Associate Rector</i>	Isabel Spencer, <i>Warden</i>
The Rev. Posey Krakowsky, <i>Priest Associate</i>	Mary Gaillard, <i>Treasurer</i>
Charles E. Schmidt, <i>Chancellor</i>	Elizabeth Adams, <i>Clerk</i>
Dennis Keene, D.M.A., <i>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</i>	Barbara M. Burns
Andrew P. Jones, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	Kyle Church Cheseborough
Kelli Long, <i>Business Manager</i>	Peter Clark
Sajia Choudhury, <i>Parish Bookkeeper</i>	Janet Fisher
Dwight Roberts, <i>Sexton</i>	Vin Knight
William Gordon, <i>Assistant Sexton</i>	Gale Lynch
Luis Ortiz, <i>Assistant Sexton</i>	Rusty Moore
	Tom Rice
	Rachel Sedor
	Madonna Stack-Barker
	John Thompson
	Jill Tildesley



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Paperless Bulletin

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## December 24 - Music for Christmas Eve Festal Eucharist

### Entrance Hymn

#### Hymn 83

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;

O come, all ye faithful

*[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]*

### Gradual Hymn

#### Hymn 96

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.

#### Angels we have heard on high

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.

Adeste fideles

#### Gloria

## Communion Hymns

### Hymn 115

### What child is this, who, laid to rest

### 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]*

### Hymn 81

### Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

### Es ist ein Ros

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming  
from tender stem hath sprung!  
Of Jesse's lineage coming  
as seers of old have sung.  
It came, a blossom bright,  
amid the cold of winter,  
when half spent was the night.

Isaiah 'twas foretold it,  
the Rose I have in mind,  
with Mary we behold it,  
the Virgin Mother kind.

To show God's love aright,  
she bore to us a Savior,  
when half spent was the night.

O Flower, whose fragrance tender  
with sweetness fills the air,  
dispel in glorious splendor  
the darkness everywhere;  
true man, yet very God,  
from sin and death now save us,  
and share our every load.

## Post Communion Hymn

### Hymn 111

### Silent night, holy night

### 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.

**Exit Hymn**  
**Hymn 87**

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!*

**Hark! the herald angels sing**

**Mendelssohn**

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]*