

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 ❖ 4:00 pm



Celebrant/Preacher: The Rev. Jason Shelby

Deacon: The Rev. Celeste Stump

We warmly welcome you if you are here with us for the first time today. We joyfully welcome all people into our community without exception. Whoever you are, and whatever the status of your relationship with God, you will find fellow travelers here.

Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.

The Prelude

*Christmas Pastoral
Sure On This Shining Night*

*Marco Enrico Bossi
Morten Lauridsen*

The Word of God

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Processional Hymn

O Come All Ye Faithful

**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;**

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

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

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

**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?**

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

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

**O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.**

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: ✙ Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant Almighty God,
People **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. Amen.**

Please remain standing as able and join in singing.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ:
Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold
him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Please be seated for the Lessons.

The Annunciation

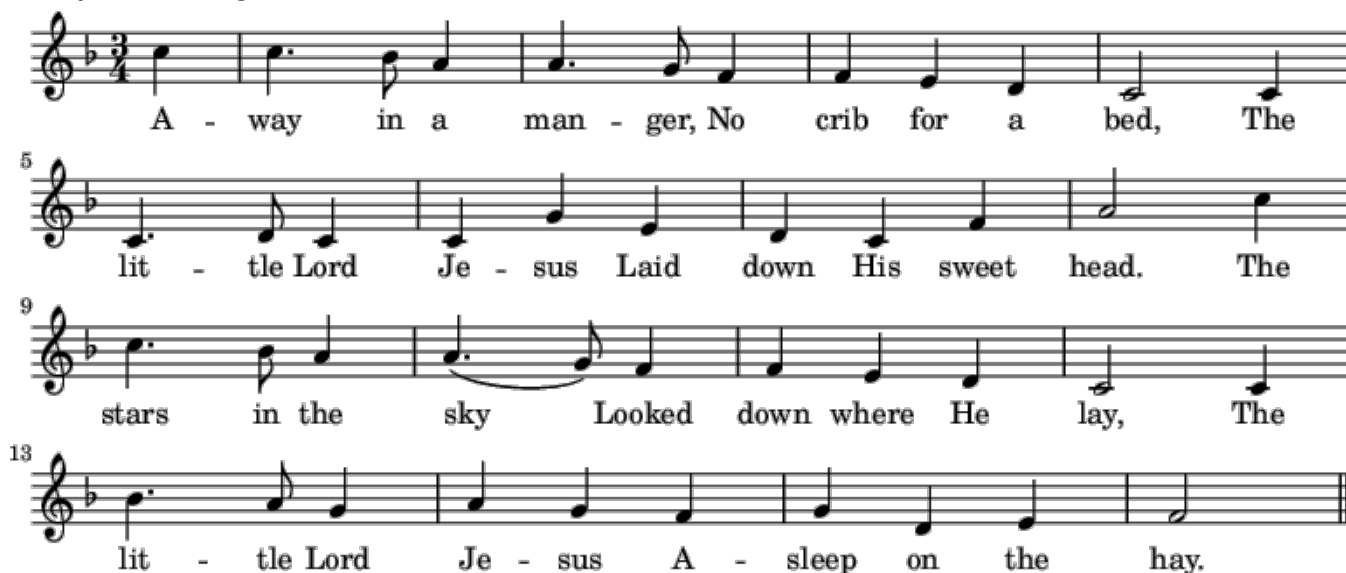
Narrator A reading from The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 1
"In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth...
...and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will have no end."

The Birth of Jesus

Narrator A reading from The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2
"In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire
Roman world...
...She wrapped him in clothes and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for
them in the inn."

Remaining seated, please join in singing,

Away in a Manger



¹ 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.

³ Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

² The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Shepherds and the Heavenly Host

Narrator A reading from The Gospel of Luke, Chapter 2

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night...

...Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace and goodwill to all.'"

Remaining seated, please join in singing,

Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal #96

¹ Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains.

² Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

The reading continues...

“...the shepherds (then) 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....”

**^{3.} Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

**^{4.} See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

The reading continues...

“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 they 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 to them.”

The Three Magi

Narrator A reading from The Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 2

“After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem...

...’but you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will be the shepherd of my people Israel.’”

Remaining seated, please join in singing,

What Child is this?

Hymnal #115

**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?**

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

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

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

The reading continues...

“Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared...

...And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.”

A Savior is Born for Us

Narrator A reading from the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 9

“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...

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!”

Please stand as able and join in singing.

Hark! the herald angels sing

**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!**

**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!**

Please be seated.

Hymnal #87

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

**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!**

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

A Christmas Message

The Rev. Jason Shelby

Please stand as able.

The Peace

Celebrant May the Peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People share with one another signs of Christ's peace.

Please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loves us, bring offerings of praise and thanksgiving to his table.

The Offertory Anthem

Gesu bambino

by Pietro A. Yon

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows
Upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose,
The King of Love and Light.*

*The angels sang, the shepherds sang,
The grateful earth rejoiced;
And at His blessed birth the stars
Their exultation voiced.*

*O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows
To greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas Rose,
Its King of Love and Light.*

*Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name,
The grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth He came
That we with Him might dwell.*

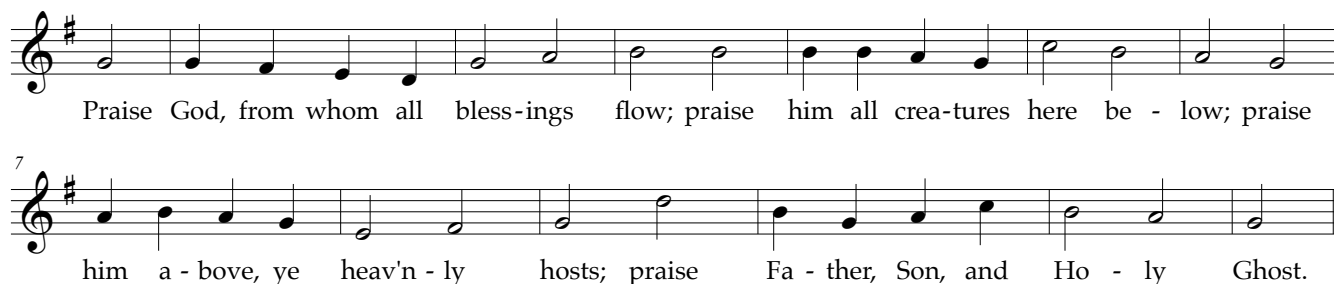
*O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

Jill Lynch, soprano

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Offertory Hymn Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Hymnal #380



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) , para. of Psalm 117. St. 3, Thomas Ken (1637-1711).
Music: "Old 100th," melody from "Pseaumes octante trois de David," 1551, alt.;
harm. after Louis Bougeois (1510?-1561?).

Please remain standing.

The Offertory Prayers

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which the earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation.

People **Blessed be God forever.**

Celebrant Receive, O Lord, these gifts presented by your holy people for the work of your holy Church.

People **Blessed be God forever.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation. You have blessed us with the joy and care of children. May the knowledge of you dawn on them, may the love of you grow in them this Christmas, and may the grace of your Spirit draw them to you.

People **Blessed be God forever.**

Please remain standing.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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:

The Sanctus

Forest Green

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heav'n and earth are
 full of thy glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the one who comes
 in the name of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: "Forest Green," Traditional English folk melody; adapt. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Please kneel or stand as able as the Celebrant 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 Saviour 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." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;**

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 St. Francis 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. *AMEN.*

Celebrant And now, as 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

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

The Invitation

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God, Holy gifts, for Holy people.

The Communion of the People

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to receive, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish Communion to be brought to you. Gluten-free Communion wafers are available. If you require one of these, simply ask.

The Communion Music

Christmas selections

David Knight

Please kneel or stand as able as able.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.
All **God our Father, tonight you have made known to us again the blessing and
power of the coming of Christ; may this Holy Communion confirm our faith
and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and he is born again and forever
in our hearts. To him be all glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*You are invited to light your candle during the singing of Silent Night. When the song is finished, please
carefully extinguish your candle.*

Kneel or sit as able and join in singing.

Silent Night, Holy Night

Hymnal #111

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

The Blessing

Celebrant Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

People **Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.**

Celebrant And, the blessing of God Almighty, ✙ The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit be with you always.

All **Amen.**

Please stand as able and join in singing.

The Closing Hymn

Joy to the world!

G. F. Handel

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.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;

let us our songs employ,

while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat the sounding joy,

repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,

and makes the nations prove

the glories of his righteousness,

and wonders of his love.

The Sending Forth

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Postlude

Toccata on "Adeste Fidelis"

Page Long

Merry
Christmas

From your friends at St. Francis.

Thank you to everyone who helped with this year's nativity play,
especially Jen and Alex Sams, and Shelley Reece.

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