

Saint James' Episcopal Church
Order of Worship
The Celebration of the Nativity
of Our Lord Jesus Christ
December 24, 2025



Saint James' Episcopal Church
37051 Cabrillo Terrace
Fremont, California
510-797-1492
www.saintj.com

Welcome to St. James' Episcopal Church

We are an an inclusive, diverse, multi-cultural, and queer-affirming faith community that welcomes all seekers, believers, and people of goodwill. Our primary sacrament of initiation into the Church is the sacrament of Holy Baptism, and all baptisms in the name of the Holy Trinity are recognized. If you are not yet baptized and wish to explore this sacrament, please speak to a clergy person.

If you are visiting us, please introduce yourself at the door. We invite you to fill out a visitor's card and either place it in the offertory plate or hand it to an usher.

The Christmas flowers and greenery are given for the Glory of God and by...

Ruth Poole, in memory of Bob Poole & Paul McCreary.

Katie Cunningham, in memory of Jim Cunningham.

*Meg and John Amouroux, in thanksgiving for the love to and from their families and friends, and in memory of their fathers,
Bud Amouroux & George Barger.*

*Brian and Evelyn Cochran, in memory Tom Cochran &
Alison Coffman.*

*Bob and Lauren Doherty, in memory of Beatrice Mettasick,
& Lawrence Windham.*

Barbara Johnsen, in memory of Philip Johnsen.

Bob Bynum, in memory of Gretchen Leupke Bynum.

*Sylvia Ma, in thanksgiving for Eileen & Chris Ma,
and in memory of Emily & Arnold Hsieh.*

Barbara Milligan, in memory of John Milligan.

*Burtin and Elizabeth Hart, in thanksgiving for Aidan & Isla, and in
memory of Robert E. Hart & Fent H. Ferris..*

*Nancy Castaneda, in thanksgiving for her beautiful daughter, Laura,
and in memory of her parents, Ted & Dorothy Balderston.*

*Matt and Will Hurley-Feliciano, in thanksgiving for their families
& all families..*

*Jasmine Reynolds, in thanksgiving for friends & family, and
in memory of her father, Clinton.*

Charisma Pangilinan, in memory of her mother, Caridad.

*Janice Brandt, in memory of Sally & Les Brandt,
and Whitney & Jean Hodgkins.*

*Margaret Broun, in memory of Marnie Hartmann, Bob Bell,
and Bill Dalgliesh.*

*Don and Marilyn Rose, in thanksgiving for the abundant love
and support from St. James'.*

Ingrid Jacobson, in memory of Denise Jacobson.

Vivienne Paratore, in memory of David Ramsay.

John Kimber, in memory of Elizabeth Kimber Nurser & Joan Kimber.

Al and Mary Casas, in thanksgiving for their growing family.

Bob and Kitty Reed, in thanksgiving for their family.

*Darcia and Gregg Feeney, in memory of Elmer & Vicki Austin and
Jim & Pat Feeney.*

Patty and Robert Lacy, in memory of Regina Dennie.

Victor and Missy Bontempo, in memory of Nick Bontempo.

Ann Soltz, in memory of Margaret Rainey.

Timothy and Miranda Caley, in memory of Tina & Michael.

Tony and Alberto Verdin, in memory of Robin Lakey.

Nancy and Brad Catania, in memory of Alice, Le, Barbara & Fred.

*Kristine Berg, in thanksgiving for Karl Schmidt & Stephany Berg, and
in memory of JoAnn Schmidt.*

*Reena Davis, in thanksgiving for all her blessings and
in memory of Stella Davis.*

*Jay and Toni Shellen, in thanksgiving for their family
Sally Morgan in memory of all the victims of gun violence,
we will never forget.*

please stand

The Word of God

Entrance: O Come All Ye Faithful

H83

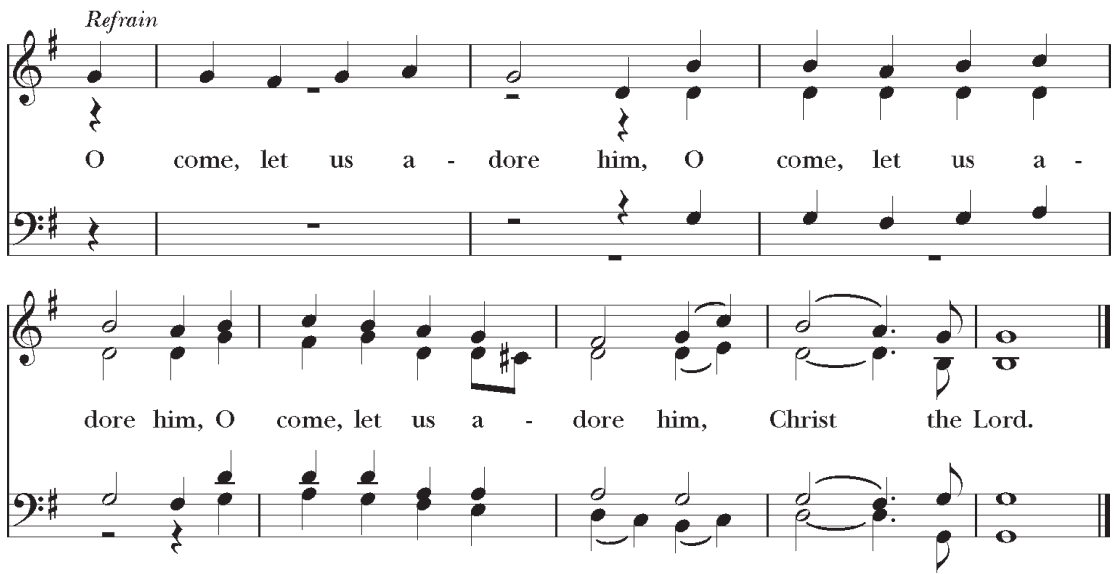
1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

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

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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

Refrain

Presider
People

Blessed be the one, holy and living God.
Glory to God for ever and ever.

The Collect for Purity

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. Amen.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

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

O God of grace and truth, whose word brings light to birth in the heart of a darkening world which seeks a love it cannot name: may flesh be blessed and born anew by a truth which leaves the heavens and walks the waiting earth; through Jesus Christ, the Word Incarnate. *Amen.*

please be seated

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2-7

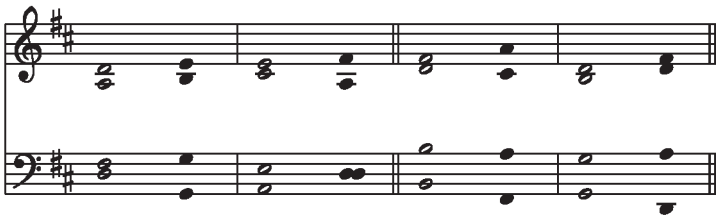
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their 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.

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

Psalm 96

Please join in chanting this evening's psalm

Jerome Webster Meachen
(b. 1930)



© 1956, Jerome Webster Meachen.

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new / song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole / earth.
- ² Sing to the Lord and bless his / Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to / day.
- ³ Declare his glory among the / nations *
and his wonders among all / peoples.
- ⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be / praised; *
he is more to be feared than all / gods.
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but / idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the / heavens.
- ⁶ Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his / presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his / sanctuary!
- ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the / peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and / power.
- ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his / Name; *
bring offerings and come into his / courts.
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of / holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble be- / fore him.
- ¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is / King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with / equity."

A reading from the letter of Paul to Titus

Titus 2:11-14

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

Sequence: Angels we have heard on high

96

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

10 in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



The Reading of the Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Deacon 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.

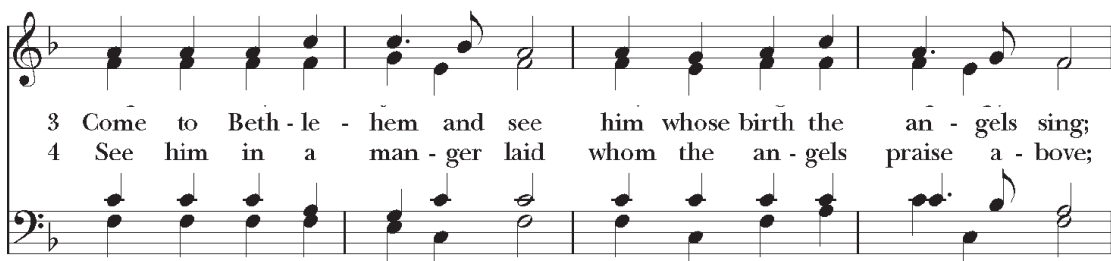
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of 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.

after the reading of the Gospel

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



3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813–1882), alt.; Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958) Copyright: Words: By permission of Fleming H. Revell Company.

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

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

Dear family in Christ, in the peace of God all the gifts we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's Word made flesh this night. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: Lord hear our prayer.

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, to the despairing, and the mourning.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

That the rejoicing of this night might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith.

Let us pray to the Lord.

Lord hear our prayer.

the celebrant concludes with a collect:

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your word in our flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas word, so that all might come to the peace your promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever. **Amen**

The Passing of the Peace

The “passing of the peace,” based on ancient rites of the early church, allows the community to gracefully greet one another by saying “the peace of Christ be with you”, or simply “peace be with you”; the response is typically “and also with you.”

Offertory Anthem: “Gloria”

Antonio Vivaldi

During the offertory anthem, the Altar is prepared for Communion while the ushers pass the offering plates. Offerings, prayer requests, and visitor information may be placed in the plate. As you are able, please stand as the offerings are brought to the table and the Doxology is sung.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise God, all creatures here below;

Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Doxology

All who desire to may receive Holy Communion.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Great Thanksgiving musical notation consists of four staves. The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you." The second staff is for the People, with the lyrics "And al - so with you." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "We lift them to the Lord." The notation includes a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes, and the staves are labeled "Celebrant" and "People" at the beginning of each line.

Celebrant
The Lord be with you.

People
And al - so 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.

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:

S125

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Presider and People

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

The Presider 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 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 God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to sing:

The Lord's Prayer

S119

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Title: The Holy Eucharist, The Lord's Prayer (Traditional); Music: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winifred Douglas (1867-1944)

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

We are offering both bread and wine. We use baked bread in place of communion wafers. Gluten free wafers are available; please notify the clergy prior to the service. For the wine, we will be receiving from the common cup. In other words, we will all drink from the same chalice. We are not offering intinction (dipping the host/bread). If you prefer to have the bread only, simply cross your arms in front of the chalice as a sign to the eucharistic minister that you prefer to not receive the wine. They will then offer you the words, "The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation" as a sign of blessing.

Anthem: "O Holy Night"

Adolphe Adam

soprano: Kristine Berg, harpist: Verlene Schermer

What Child Is This?

H115

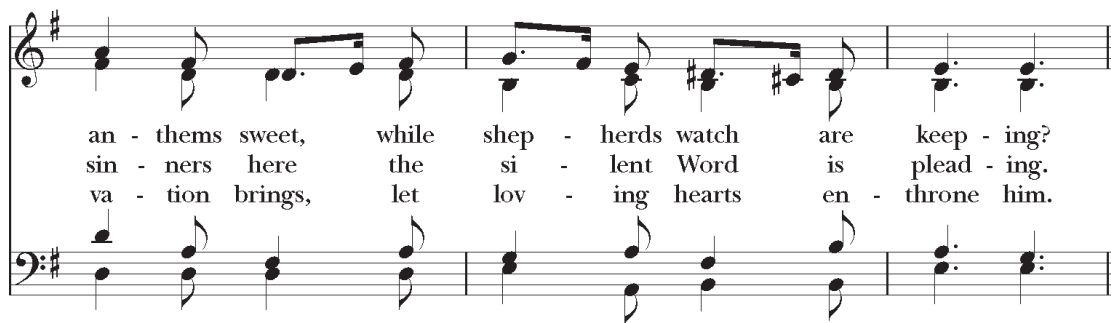
Unison or harmony



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
2 Why lies he in, such mean es - tate where
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here, the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

(cont'd on next page)

guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to

bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

The first system of the musical score for 'Silent Night'. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the staves.

After everyone has received and consumed Holy Communion, the Christmas candles are lit, and all join in singing "Silent Night" as the church is darkened.

Silent Night

H111

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

The second system of the musical score for 'Silent Night'. It consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in G major (one sharp). The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the staves.

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. born! birth. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with the spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent Jesus 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.*

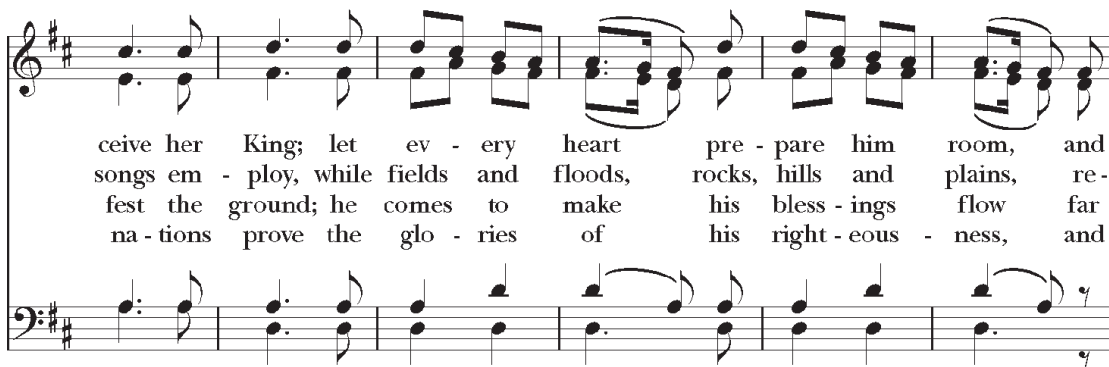
May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

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

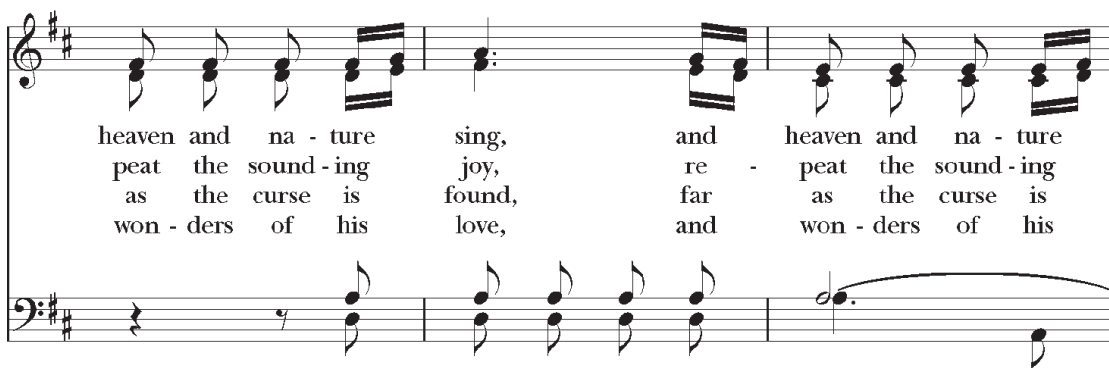
And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and



heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, joy, found, love, and re - peat, far as, and heaven, re - peat, far as, heaven, re - peat, far as, and na - ture sing. joy. found. love. the sound - ing curse is of his

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685–1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792–1872)

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord, Alleluia, Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude



With gratitude for all who participated in this evening's service:

Jennifer Ravera, Music Director

Verlene Schermer, harp

Kristine Berg, soprano

Christopher Rieder, bass

The St. James' Choir

Eucharistic Ministers: Matt Hurley, John Wagas

Lectors: Lisa Alday, Will Feliciano

Ushers: Bob Bynum, Charisma Pangalanan

Live-streaming: Mike Scrutton

*Altar Guild: Lisa Alday, Mary Casas, Nancy Castaneda, Katie Cunningham,
Lauren Doherty, Paula McKinney, Vivienne Paratore, Ruth Poole, Laura Winter*

Presider: The Reverend Ingrid Jacobson, Assoc. Rector

Preacher: The Reverend Lori Walton, Rector