# 940-1 1999



THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY PROCESSION AND HOLY EUCHARIST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2023, AT 10:30 P.M.

The Church of the Redeemer: 162 Bloor St. West, Toronto, ON M5S 1M4 office@theredeemer.ca • Tel: (416) 922 4948 • www.theredeemer.ca

## WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER!

We are in the heart of downtown Toronto, and we gather to celebrate on the traditional lands of the Wendat, Haudenosaunee, and Anishinaabe Nations, including the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. Our beautiful building connects us to the rich heritage of our city while also drawing us deeper into the roots of our Anglican tradition. Just as the streetscape around us has evolved over the years, our members have changed to reflect the growing, vibrant and progressive Christian community found at the Redeemer today. We come from a variety of faith traditions (and sometimes no faith tradition at all), and we like it that way. We are students, workers, retired, homeless, not limited by sexual orientation, gender identity or personal history. We are at the very beginning of our life with Jesus, and we are deeply steeped in a life complicated by faith. We open our doors to worship God and to learn about Jesus, and how all of this might just transform our lives.

If you would like to stay up to date with our news and events, please feel free to subscribe to our eNewsletter by going to <u>theredeemer.ca/newsletters</u>.

<u>theredeemer.ca</u> <u>instagram.com/TheRedeemerTO</u> facebook.com/TheRedeemerTO

earthly life.

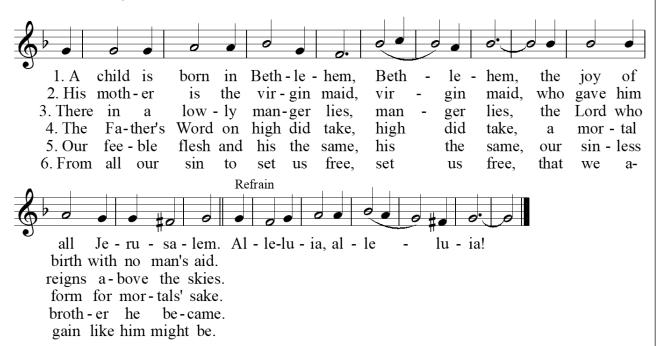
Why Christmas? Why do we gather to sing familiar carols and hear words from scripture? Why do we come forward to receive a morsel of bread and a sip of wine or a blessing? Why this moment? Sometimes we don't know what brings each of us here, now. Sometimes it is a fleeting feeling and others it is something deeply moving. Words like joy, hope, peace help to name those experiences; Words like longing, belonging, seeking to hold those feelings. Why Christmas? Because in this moment, God invites us to draw near. To see the babe born so long ago and born anew for us this night. God invites us to see Love. Love fragile and new and yet Love strong and as old as the ages. Come. Draw near. Love – Jesus – is here. For you. May this Christmas night be a blessing to you.

Presider: Steven Mackison	
Preludes	
Voluntary: Weihnachten <i>(Max Reger)</i> Carol: Greensleeves Carol: The Lamb <i>(John Tavener)</i>	
Introit: "Puer natus in Bethlehem" (Michael Praete	prius) Please rise as the altar party enters
Puer natus in Bethlehem, unde gaudet Hierusalem. Alleluia. Singet, jubiliret, triumpiret unserm Herren dem	A child is born in Bethlehem, whence Jerusalem rejoices. Alleluia. Sing, rejoice, triumph for our Lord the King of Clary.
Konig der Ehren.	King of Glory.
Reges de Saba veniunt, aurum, thus, myrrham offerunt. Alleluia. Singet Hic jacet in praesepio qui regnat sine termino. Alleluia. Singet Mein Herzens Kindlein, mein liebstes Freundlein, O Jesu.	Kings of Sheba came, offering gold, incense and myrrh. Alleluia. Sing Here lies in a manger he who reigns without end. Alleluia. Sing Child of my heart, my dearest little friend, O Jesus.
	<ul> <li>Preludes</li> <li>Voluntary: Weihnachten (Max Reger)</li> <li>Carol: Greensleeves</li> <li>Carol: The Lamb (John Tavener)</li> <li>Introit: "Puer natus in Bethlehem" (Michael Praete</li> <li>Puer natus in Bethlehem, unde gaudet</li> <li>Hierusalem. Alleluia.</li> <li>Singet, jubiliret, triumpiret unserm Herren dem</li> <li>König der Ehren.</li> <li>Reges de Saba veniunt, aurum, thus, myrrham offerunt. Alleluia. Singet</li> <li>Hic jacet in praesepio qui regnat sine termino.</li> <li>Alleluia. Singet</li> <li>Mein Herzens Kindlein, mein liebstes</li> </ul>

#### **The Procession**

*Priest*: Let us go forth in peace. Alleluia. People: In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia.

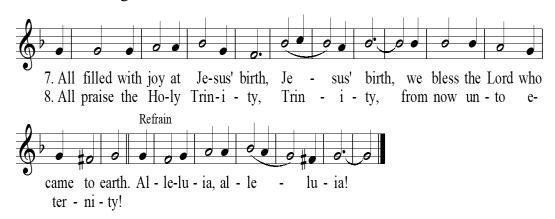
## **Processional Hymn:**



#### Station at the Crèche

Priest: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us. Alleluia! **People:** And we beheld his glory. Alleluia!

Priest: Most merciful and loving God, you have made this night holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of this day, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Text: Latin, 13th cent.; tr. Christopher J. Neuendorf, sts. 1,2,8 alt.; tr. Hamilton M. MacGill( (1807-1880), sts. 3-5; Christian Worship, 2021, sts. 6-7.

Music: PUER NATUS IN BETHLEHEM. 13<sup>th</sup> cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621). Text: sts. 1,2,8 © 2014 Christopher J. Neuendorf, admin. Northwestern Publishing House; sts. 3-5 Public Domain; sts. 6-7 © 2021 Northwestern Publishing House. Music: Public Domain.

A crèche (French for"crib") is the nativityscene that we often see at Christmas, with the manger, Mary, Joseph; the three wise men are in a different part of the church awaiting their arrival on Epiphany.

We pause at the Crèche to symbolize that we are making our own journey to the manger, to witness that God has dwelt among us in the flesh.

Pronounced "CALL-ect". The collect of the day is the prayer we say together that unites us in worship and praise. It focuses on the theme of the day and "collects" the meaning behind the readings and offers them in prayer.

God works wonders. The prophecy of Isaiah points to a future kingdom in which the oppressed are liberated. While the text was originally interpreted to refer to Hezekiah then Josiah, in the Christian tradition, we interpret this text as the coming of the messianic king, Jesus.

## The Collect of the Day

Priest: Eternal God, this holy night is radiant
with the brilliance of your one true light.
As we have known the revelation of that light on earth,
bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

## ✤ Proclamation of the Word

#### First Reading:

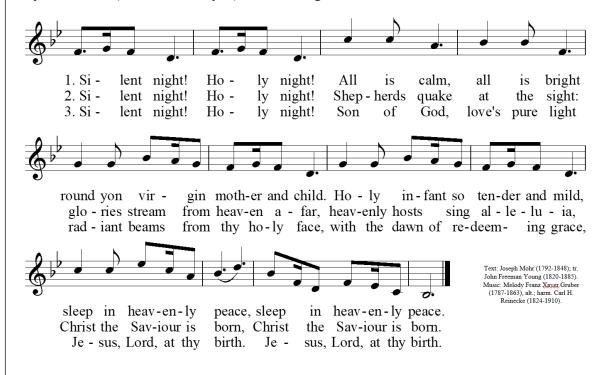
Reader: A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

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 Counsellor, 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.All:Thanks be to God.

Isaiah 9.2-7 A moment of silence is observed

Hymn: #119 (Common Prayer) "Silent Night"



Please be seated

## **Second Reading:**

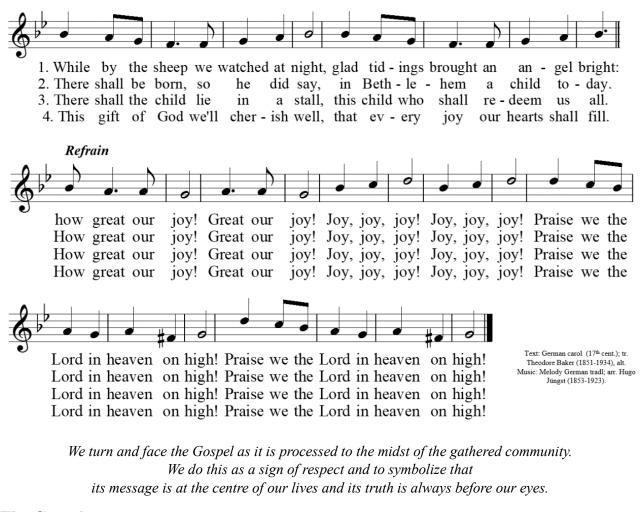
Reader: A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

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 Saviour, 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.All:Thanks be to God.

Titus 2.11-14 A moment of silence is observed

Sequence Hymn: #134 (Common Praise) "While By the Sheep We Watched at Night"



## The Gospel

Priest: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.
Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All: Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Grace is an ever-acting communication of love. The writer of Titus describes Jesus as God's gift of grace to the world. Having received this gift, do we live a grace-based life?

The Sequence Hymn/Song (from the Latin sequentiae, "following") is a hymn/song that is sung after the second reading and before the reading of the Gospel. This is a love story. A story of God's love for creation. A story of a mother's love for her son. A story of our love for God.

Homily is from the Greek word "homilio" which means "conversation." The purpose of the homily (also known as the sermon) is to gather the themes of the readings together and articulate what they meant for those about whom they were written, and what they mean for us, today.

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 Saviour, 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 favours!'

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.

Priest:The Gospel of Christ.All:Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 2.1-20

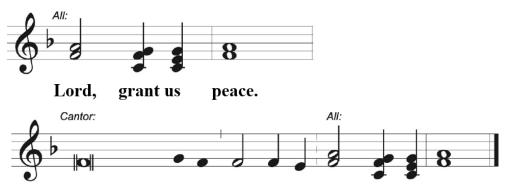
Homily: Paige Souter

## Litany of the Incarnation:

Please rise



In joy and humility let us pray to the Creator of the universe, say-ing



Hear us, O Lord, grant us peace.

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the <u>ang</u>el, hear us, O **Lord, grant us peace.** 

By the mystery of the Word made <u>flesh</u>, hear us, O Lord, grant us peace.

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of <u>God</u>, hear us, O Lord, grant us peace.

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and <u>magi</u>, hear us, O Lord, grant us peace.

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of <u>Naz</u>areth, hear us, O **Lord, grant us peace.** 

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river <u>Jor</u>dan, hear us, O **Lord, grant us peace.** 

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus <u>Christ;</u> hear us, O **Lord, grant us peace.** 

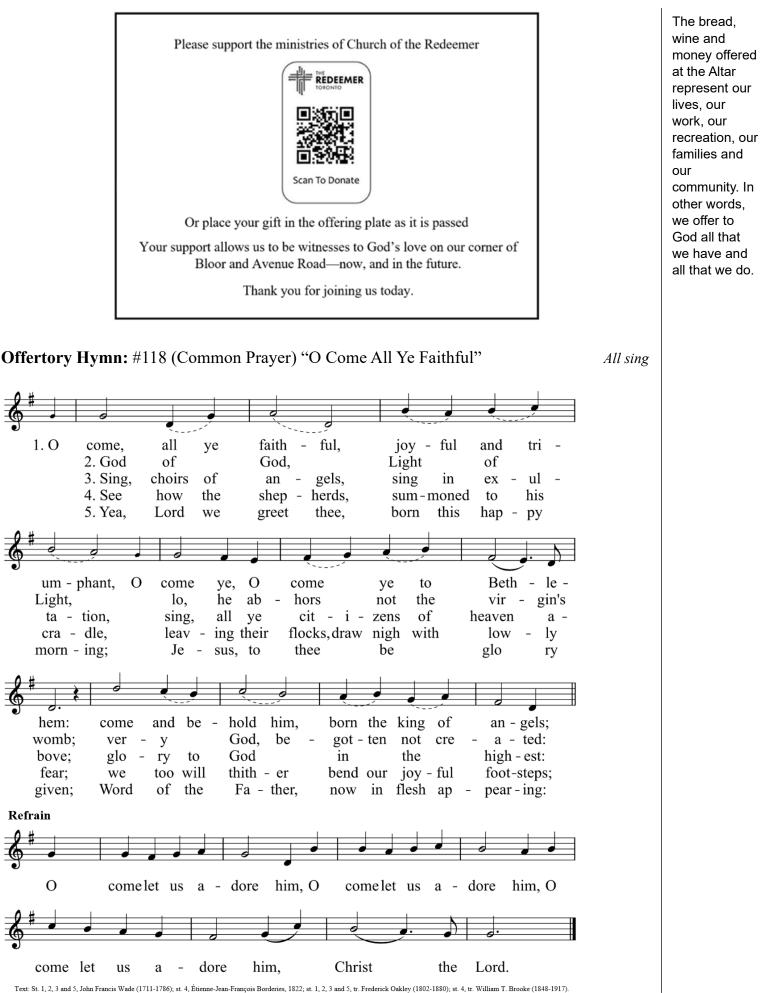
Text: BAS. Music: George Black, used with permission.

## The Peace

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

This form of prayer is called a litany. It begins with our requests. The person leading the prayers asks for God's aid then the community responds with a common refrain, which will be sung throughout Advent. At the end of the Litany there is a long silence so that we may offer the cares and concerns that are on our hearts.

Just as Jesus said "My peace I give you" to his disciples, so we share His peace with each other through a nod, a handshake (if you are comfortable) or by raising our hand in the peace symbol. The sharing of the peace is an ancient Christian tradition and is a gesture that we offer our neighbour to express that we are reconciled with one another and with God.



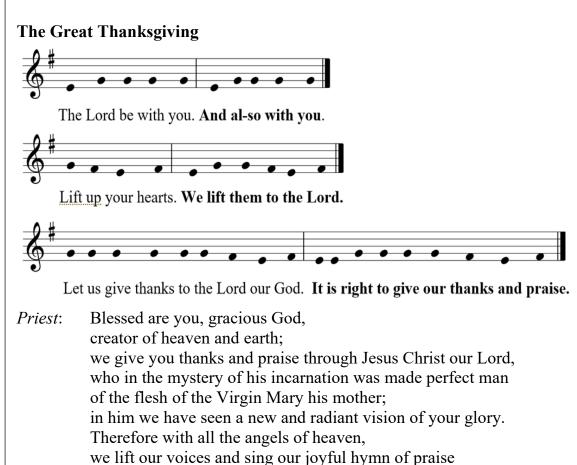
St. 1, 2, 3 and 3, John Francis Wade (1/11-1/80); st. 4, Etenne-Jean-françois Borderfes, 162/2; st. 1, 2, 3 and 3, john Francis Wade (1/11-1/80); st. 4, tr. William 1. Brooke (1848-Music: ADESTE Franciscus Value) attrib. John Francis Wade (1711-1786), alt.

## **₩** The Holy Eucharist

## **Prayer Over the Gifts**

Priest: Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen.

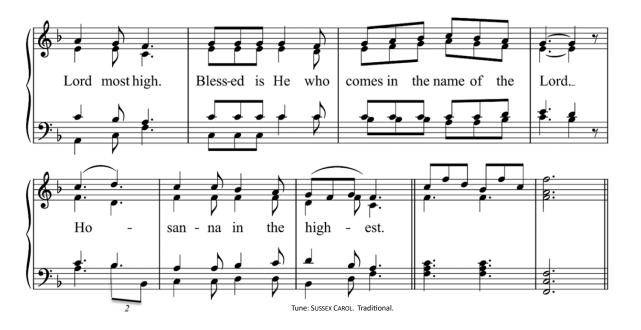
The climax of this story is the celebration of the Eucharist itself, with Jesus and his disciples. We pray using Jesus' own words and following his command to eat and drink in memory of him.



to proclaim the glory of your name:

#### Sanctus: All sing Sectors Sectors Sectors Sectors Sectors Sectors Sectors Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly God of Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, Ho - ly God of Sectors Power and might. Heaven and Earth are full of your glo - ry, glo-ry to You O Sectors Sectors

The Sanctus (from the Latin word "holy") is an ancient hymn that is sung during the Eucharistic Prayer. It is adapted from Isaiah's vision of the greatness of God, and from Matthew, where the people called out "Hosanna!" when Jesus entered Jerusalem.



Priest: We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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 in 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 may for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." The Eucharistic Prayer today is Prayer 3 from the Book of Alternative Services: Anglican Church of Canada

•	We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;
riest:	
	and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.
	In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation;
<i>II:</i>	by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. <b>Amen.</b>
he Lord Prid	est: People:

Prayer is the crux of Christian faith and worship because it was given to us by Jesus himself. Found in both Matthew 6 and Luke 11, it is a prayer of beauty and simplicity, addressing all that is sacred in our relationship with God and with one another. At this moment you are praying these words in communion with more than 2.5 billion Christians around the world.

The Lord's

6.	••••••••••	
Save	e us from the time of trial and de-liv-er us from e-vil.	
For	the king-dom, the pow-er, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for ev-er. A-men.	
The Bre	eaking of the Bread	
Priest:	We break the bread of life,	
All:	and that life is the light of the world. God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.	
Priest: <b>People:</b>	The gifts of God for the People of God. <b>Thanks be to God.</b>	
Christm	nas Antiphon: "Hodie Christus natus est" (Niels La Cour)	
Hod Hod laeta Hod Glor	die Christus natus est:Today Christ is born:die Salvator apparuit:Today the Savior appeared:die in terra canunt Angeli,Today on Earth the Angels sing,antur ArchangeliArchangels rejoice:die exsultant justi, dicentes:Today the righteous rejoice, saying:ria in excelsis Deo.Glory to God in the highest.eluia.Alleluia.	
The Giv	ving and Receiving of Communion	
Priest:	Dear friends, I invite you in this moment, wherever you may be, to receive Christ, in communion with the saints, and the gathering of God's people, unseen and yet present with us now.	
F	For those of us participating at home, it is a strange experience to be invited to Communion – not through the physical bread and wine we can touch and taste – but a Spiritual Communion with the God who comes to meet us wherever we are.	
There a	are no special words or prayers for this, all the Church has ever thought necessary is genuin desire, lively faith, and genuine love. Come honestly before God the way you know how. You may wish to pray quietly this prayer to help you:	
One:	Lord, you stand at the door of my heart and knock. You wait for me and only I can let you in. I believe and trust in you and ask you now to fill me with your presence. Feed me with your body and unite me in your blood, that I may be your blessing to a world in need. Amen.	

Jesus' life lived for an on behalf c others insp us to see o own lives a gift to be shared; an the resurrection affirms the counterintuitive wisdom that is in letting of what we afraid to lo that we are transforme and made new.

## The Communion



*All in the church are invited to come forward to receive communion. If you need a gluten-free wafer, please indicate this to the priest.* 

If you would like to receive a blessing rather than communion, please cross your arms as shown in the picture and the clergy will be pleased to offer you a blessing.

## Communion Carol: "Ave Maria" (Franz Biebl)

Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae, Et concepit de Spiritu sancto.

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, Benedicta tu in mulieribus Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Et verbum caro factum est Et habitavit in nobis.

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, Benedicta tu in mulieribus Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.

Sancta Maria, mater Dei, Ora pro nobis peccatoribus Nunc et in hora mortis nostrae. Amen. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary, and she conceived by the Holy Spirit

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

The Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us.

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

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

## Motet: "Glory to God" (Ralph Vaughan Williams)

Glory to God in the highest! And on earth peace, goodwill toward all! ~*Excerpt from Dona nobis pacem* 

#### **Prayer after Communion**

Priest:Father of all,<br/>tonight you have united earth and heaven<br/>in sending your Son to take our human nature.<br/>May we who have tasted heavenly things<br/>share in the life of his eternal kingdom.<br/>We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Eucharist, also known as Communion, is a sacramental act of worship where we partake of the bread and wine. A sacrament is "an outward and visible sign of an inward and spiritual grace." This means that Jesus is somehow present to us in this ritual act, not by "magic," but through the mystery of God's revealing Godself in a unique way when we partake of the bread and wine. This is a two thousand year old ritual, instituted by Jesus at the Last Supper with his disciples. It is a radically open table to which all people are invited and welcome to participate in.

All sing

This closing prayer is called the "Doxology," which literally means "the right words." We say this prayer to, for, and with, one another to proclaim that worshipping God together has made a difference in our lives.

## The Doxology

Priest:Glory to God,All:whose power working in us<br/>can do infinitely more<br/>than we can ask or imagine.<br/>Glory to God from generation to generation,<br/>in the Church and in Christ Jesus<br/>for ever and ever. Amen.

**Departing Hymn:** #138 (Common Prayer) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" All sing

1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King, high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord; 2. Christ, by 3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! rec - on - ciled." peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin-ners off-spring of vir-gin's womb. late in time be - hold him come, a risen with heal-ing Light and life all he brings, his wings. to in Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies: Veiled in flesh the God - head hail, thein - car - nate see: de -i tv. Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die, 0 "Christ is with thean-gel - ic host pro-claim, born in Beth - le - hem!" pleased as one of us to dwell. Je - sus. our Em - man - u - el! child of born to raise each earth, born to give us sec-ond birth. Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!" Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!" Hark! The her-ald an-gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!"

Text: Charles Wesley (1701-1788), alt. Music: Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy (1809-1847); adapt. William Hayman cummings (1831-1915); altern. Harm. David Willcocks (1919-2015). Altern. Harm. © 1961 Oxford University Press.

## The Dismissal

Priest:Go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia!People:Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

In the dismissal we affirm that we are now strengthened and nurtured to be sent out into the many circumstances of our lives to be agents of God's grace.

#### FURTHER CREDITS FOR THIS BULLETIN

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## **WORSHIP WITH US**

## **CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH US**

Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day) 10:30 AM - Christmas Day Holy Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

**Sunday December 31 (Epiphany of the Lord) 9:00 AM** – Spiritual Communion (on Zoom only)

10:30 AM – Holy Eucharist (in the Church and through YouTube)

8:00 PM – Compline (on Zoom only)