



For Unto Us  
A Child Is Born  
Isaiah 9:6

*St. James' Episcopal Church*

*Christmas Eve Worship*

*December 24, 2021*

*9:30pm*



# *Christmas at St. James'*

*2021*

## *Music Prelude*

*Selections from "Messiah"*

*George Frederic Handel*

*Sinfonia*

*For Behold, Darkness Shall Cover the Earth*

*O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion*

*Pastoral Symphony*

*He Shall Feed His Flock/ Come unto Him*

*And Suddenly There Was with the Angel*

*Glory To God*

*Christmas Concerto for Strings*

*Arcangelo Corelli*

**Welcome**

**Hymn**

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*  
(vs. 1,2,3,6)

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;  
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
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 the Father;  
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.

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.

*Clergy*  
*People*

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

**Hymn of Praise**

*Angels We Have Heard on High*  
(vs. 1, 2, 4)

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, 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, 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, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

## Collect of the Day

*Clergy*           The Lord be with you.  
*People*           **And also with you.**  
*Clergy*           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. **Amen.**

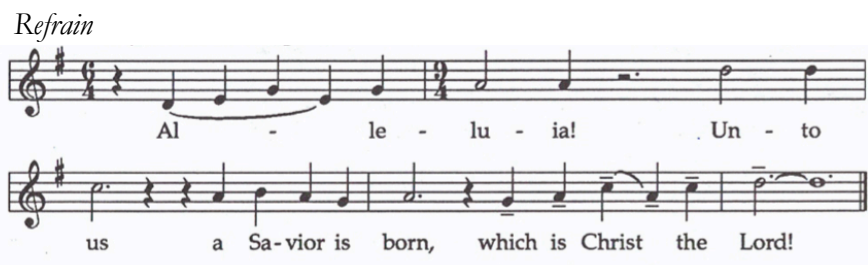
## First Reading

**Titus 2:11-14**

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.**

## Psalm 96



Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day  
to day. *Refrain*

Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods. *Refrain*

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but  
idols;  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary! *Refrain*

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts. *Refrain*

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.

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." *Refrain*

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes,  
when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with his truth. *Refrain*

Sequence Hymn

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
(vs. 1,2,3,5)

Hymn 78

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 wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
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 Emmanuel!

Holy Gospel

**Luke 2:1-20**

*Clergy*           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.

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

## 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 life of the world to come. Amen.

## Prayers of the People

Sisters and Brothers, on this most holy night, when the word of God is made flesh among us, let us pray for ourselves, for those in need of our prayers, and for God's people everywhere. At the close of each petition, you are invited to respond "Hear our Prayer."

Almighty and everliving God, bless your holy Church, the community of believers throughout the world, that it may faithfully proclaim the Good News of salvation to the ends of the earth.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation, especially where it is wounded. Renew the whole earth with your love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of conflict and war may be replaced by the light of your peace and love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of the nations and peoples of the world that they may put aside their own ambitions, and strive for justice, promoting the dignity and freedom of all people.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who labor this night on behalf of others: doctors, nurses, and aides; police officers, firefighters, and those in the armed forces; For all those whose work prevents them from sharing this evening with those they love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

On this most holy night, we commend to your loving care all those in need: the victims of war, violence, injustice and oppression, the poor, refugees, the homeless, the unemployed, the hungry, and those who are alone.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We offer our prayers for those suffering in body, mind, or spirit, for those we now name, either aloud or in our hearts [*pause*] and for those whose needs are known to you alone.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all those whom we love but see no more, commending them to your merciful care, especially those we now name [*pause*]. Grant that we, like them, may come to that place where we may dwell in the glorious light of your eternal Word.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

*Clergy*

God of silence and darkness, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word made flesh, the gift of your Son. Accept, we pray, our words of praise and petition; let us, and all your people be strong echoes of the Christmas word which you have spoken, that all might come to know the peace which you have given us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, this night and forever. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sin**

*Clergy*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*All*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

## **Absolution**

*Clergy*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Clergy*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

And also with you.

## **Announcements**

## Holy Communion

Offertory

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

Howard Helvey

Doxology

*To God the Father*

Puer Nobis

To God the Father, heavenly Light,  
to Christ, revealed in earthly night,  
to God the Holy Ghost  
we raise our equal and unceasing praise.

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Priest* 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:

### Sanctus

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,

**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 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.**

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

**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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

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

### **Music at Communion**

*Greensleaves*

*What Child Is This?*

Hymn 115

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

Hymn 112

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright  
 round yon virgin mother and child  
 holy infant, so tender and mild,  
 sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
 glories stream from heaven afar,  
 heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
 Christ, the savior is born, 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. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

### Postcommunion Prayer (All)

**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 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

By way of Bethlehem lead us, O Lord, to newness of life;  
 By the innocence of the Christ Child renew our simple trust;  
 By the tenderness of Mary deliver us from cruelty and hardness of heart;  
 By the patience of Joseph save us from all rash judgment and ill-tempered action;  
 By the shepherds' watch open our eyes to the signs of your coming;  
 By the shining of a star guide our feet into the way of peace;  
 And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you both now and forever. **Amen.**

### Closing Hymn

*Joy to the World! The Lord is Come*  
 (vs. 1,2,4)

Hymn 100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
 let earth receive her King;  
 let every heart prepare him room,  
 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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,  
 and makes the nations prove  
 the glories of his righteousness,  
 and wonders of his love.

**Dismissal**

*Clergy* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*Congregation remains in place until choir recesses*

**Postlude**

*Joy to the World*

Dennis Janzer

*Special thanks for the music ministry:*

*Emma Scheneman (Cello)*

*Alison Feretti (Violin)*

*Carrie Chantler (Alto)*

*Susanne Rynkiewicz (Soprano)*

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Rector  
Deacon  
Organist/Choirmaster  
Director of Contemporary Music & Technology  
Media Engineer  
Media Engineer  
Lector  
Prayers of the People  
Crucifer  
Ushers

The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper  
The Rev. Dr. Charles N. Stewart  
Kip Coerper  
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