



A Christmastide Service of Lessons and Carols

*St. George's Episcopal Church, Glenn Dale
December 26, 2021*

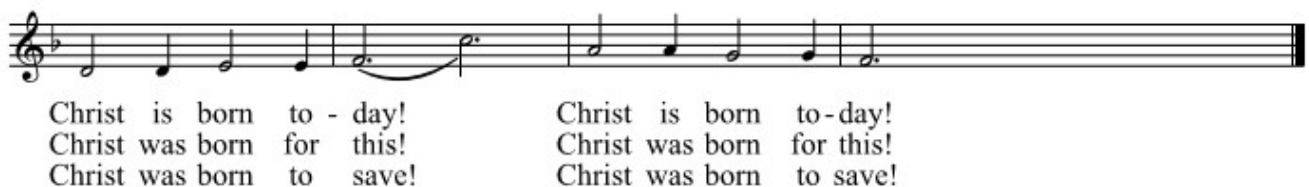
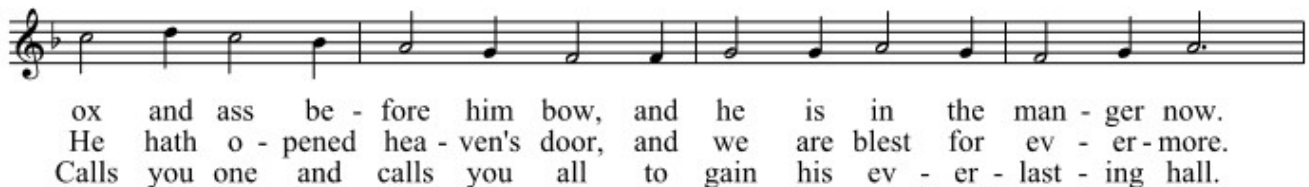
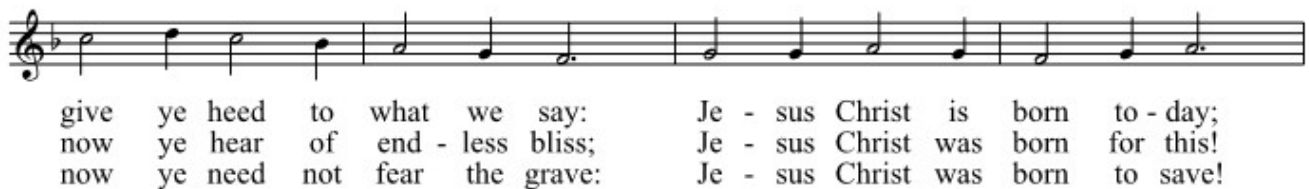
Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to see you this morning, whether in person or virtually. Zoom participants are encouraged to leave your video camera; at certain points during the service participants in the sanctuary will see the gallery view of those taking part in the service via Zoom.

Prelude: 'Twas the Moon of Wintertime, arr. Anthony Giamanco (b. 1958)

Welcome and Introduction

Processional Hymnal 1982 #107 Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866). Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th century
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Celebrant: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

All pray together

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 40:1-11

Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

IN MEMORIAM

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;

Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.
Ring out the old, ring in the new,
happy bells across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.
Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson

Hymn: Hymnal #114 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Words: Jessie Edgar Middleton (1872-1960). Music: *Une jeune pucelle* French folk melody, 16th Century
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'Twas in the moon of win-ter time, when all the birds had fled, that God the Lord of
With-in a lodge of bro-ken bark the ten-der babe was found, a rag-ged robe of
The ear-liest moon of win-ter time is not so round and fair as was the ring of
O chil-dren of the for-rest free, the an-gel song is true; the ho-ly child of



all the earth sent an-gel-choirs in- stead; be- fore their light the
rab-bit skin en- wrapped his beau-ty round; but as the hunt-er
glo-ry on the help-less in-fant there. The chiefs from far be-
earth and heaven is born toi-day for you. Come kneel be- fore the



stars grew dim, and won-dering hunt-ers heard the hymn: Je-sus your King is born,
braves drew nigh, the an-gel-song rang loud and high:
- fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea-ver pelt.
ra-diant boy, who brings you beau-ty, peace and joy.



Je - sus is born, in ex - cel-sis-glo-ri - a

The Second Lesson: Luke 1:57-80

The time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown his great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her. On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "No; he is to be called John." They said to her, "None of your relatives has this name."

Then they began motioning to his father to find out what name he wanted to give him. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." And all of them were amazed. Immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue freed, and he began to speak, praising God. Fear came over all their neighbors, and all these things were talked about throughout the entire hill country of Judea. All who heard them pondered them and said, "What then will this child become?" For, indeed, the hand of the Lord was with him. Then his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke this prophecy:

"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them.
He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his servant David,
as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors,
and has remembered his holy covenant,
the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,
in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.
And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High;
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
to give knowledge of salvation to his people by the forgiveness of their sins.
By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us,
to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace."

The child John grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day he appeared publicly to Israel.

"John"

There were days when I believed
it would happen: I'd speak
and the sand would begin to stir,
to pour, to fill the valley as water
fills a new-struck well. I'd raise
a hand and squint to see it start --
but it never did. I have seen
one miracle, and it wasn't
mine. I have only been
a voice. Though even a voice
can move the world. That's
my first memory: Mary spoke,
and my whole life opened,
though I was not yet born, and Mary
had no power of her own. My cell
is dark. Faint, a dancer's bells
drip in like rain. A blameless death,
one last heralding.

Erin Bow

Hymn: Gather #561 - Canticle of Zachary

Words: *Benedictus*, Luke 1: 68-79. Ruth Duck, (b. 1947) © 1992 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Music: *Forest Green* CMD.

English harmony by Michael Joncas (b. 1951) © 1987 G. I. A. Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Now bless the God of Is - ra - el, Who comes in love and pow'r, Who
Re - mem - ber - ing the cov - e - nanat, God res - cues us from fear, That
In ten - der mer - cy, God will send The day - spring from on high, Our



rais - es from the roy - al house De - liv - 'rance in this hour. Through
we might serve in ho - li - ness And peace from year to year; And
ris - ing sun, the light of life For those who sit and sigh. God



ho - ly pro - phets God has sworn To free us from a - larm, To save us from the
you, my child shall go be - fore To preach, to proph - e - cy, That all may know the
comes ot guid our way to peace, That death shall reign no more. Sing prais - es to the



heav - y hand Of all who wish us harm.
te3n - der love, The grace of God most high.
Ho - ly One! O wor - ship and a - dore!

The Third Lesson: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

Gabriel's Annunciation

For a moment
I hesitated
on the threshold.
For the space
of a breath
I paused,
unwilling to disturb

her last ordinary moment,
knowing that the next step
would cleave her life:
that this day
would slice her story
in two,
dividing all the days before
from all the ones
to come.

The artists would later
depict the scene:
Mary dazzled
by the archangel,
her head bowed
in humble assent,
awed by the messenger
who condescended
to leave paradise
to bestow such an honor
upon a woman, and mortal.

Yet I tell you
it was I who was dazzled,
I who found myself agape
when I came upon her—
reading, at the loom, in the kitchen,
I cannot now recall;
only that the woman before me—
blessed and full of grace
long before I called her so—
shimmered with how completely
she inhabited herself,

inhabited the space around her,

inhabited the moment
that hung between us.
I wanted to save her
from what I had been sent to say.
Yet when the time came,
when I had stammered
the invitation
(history would not record
the sweat on my brow,
the pounding of my heart;
would not note

that I said
Do not be afraid
to myself as much as
to her)
it was she
who saved me—
her first deliverance—
her *Let it be*
not just declaration
to the Divine
but a word of solace,
of soothing,
of benediction

for the angel
in the doorway
who would hesitate
one last time—
just for the space
of a breath
torn from his chest—
before wrenching himself away
from her radiant consent,
her beautiful and
awful yes.

Jan Richardson

Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #110 *The Snow Lay on the Ground*

Words: Source unknown, Music: *Venite adoremus*, melody adapted by Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)
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The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright when Christ our Lord was born on
Twas Ma - ry, daugh - ter pure of ho - ly Anne, that brought in - to this world the
Saint Jo - seph, too, was by to tend the child; to guard him, and pro - tect his
And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne; for he whom Ma - ry bore was



Christ - mas night. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve - ni - te a - do -
God made man. She laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the ass and ox - en
mo - ther mild; the an - gels hov - ered round, and sang this song, Ve - ni - te a - do -
God the Son. O come, then, let us join the heaven - ly host; to praise the Fa - ther,



- re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
shared the roof with them.
- re - mus Do - mi - num.
Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

The Fourth Lesson: Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about."

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

from spiraling ecstatically this

proud nowhere on earth's most prodigious night
blossoms a newborn babe: around him, eyes
-gifted with every keener appetite
than mere unmiracle can quite appease-
humbly in their imagined bodies kneel
(over time space doom dream while floats the whole
perhapsless mystery of paradise)

mind without soul may blast some universe
to might have been, and stop ten thousand stars
but not one heartbeat of this child; nor shall
even prevail a million questionings
against the silence of his mother's smile
-whose only secret all creation sings

ee cummings

Hymn: LEVAS #24 *Rise up Shepherd*

Words and Music: Traditional. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low, It will
If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low, You'll for-

lead to the place where the Christ was born, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low.
- get your flocks, you'll for - get your herds, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low.

Fol - low, fol - low, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low, Fol-low the Star of

Beth-le - hem, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low,

The Fifth Lesson: Luke 2:21 - 35

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

"Mary's Song"

Blue homespun and the bend of my breast
keep warm this small hot naked star
fallen to my arms. (Rest ...
you who have had so far to come.)
Now nearness satisfies
the body of God sweetly. Quiet he lies
whose vigor hurled a universe. He sleeps
whose eyelids have not closed before.
His breath (so slight it seems
no breath at all) once ruffled the dark deeps
to sprout a world. Charmed by doves' voices,
the whisper of straw, he dreams,
hearing no music from his other spheres.
Breath, mouth, ears, eyes
he is curtailed who overflowed all skies,
all years. Older than eternity, now he
is new. Now native to earth as I am, nailed
to my poor planet, caught
that I might be free, blind in my womb
to know my darkness ended,
brought to this birth for me to be new-born,
and for him to see me mended
I must see him torn.

Luci Shaw

Hymn: Hymnal 1982 # 84 Love Came Down at Christmas

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: Gartan from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902
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Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,



love was born at Christ-mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor-ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred signs?
love to God and neigh-bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

The Sixth Lesson: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

On the Mystery of the Incarnation

It's when we face for a moment
the worst our kind can do, and shudder to know
the taint in our own selves, that awe
cracks the mind's shell and enters the heart:
not to a flower, not to a dolphin,
to no innocent form
but to this creature vainly sure
it and no other is god-like, God
(out of compassion for our ugly
failure to evolve) entrusts,
as guest, as brother,
the Word.

Denise Levertov

Hymn: Hymnal 1982 # 82 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410) tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) Music: *Divinum mysterium*, Sanctus trope, 11th Century; adapted *Piae Cantiones*. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Our Cre - a - tor's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to
O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of
Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es

be, Christ is Al - pha and O - me - ga, Christ the source, the end - ing
grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sa - vior of our
sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex - tol our God and

be, of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture
race; and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
King; let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!



The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Announcements and Blessings for Birthdays & Anniversaries

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) and anyone celebrating their birthday or anniversary this week as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offertory Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #105 God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

Words: London carol, 18th Century. Melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca 1850
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God rest you mer - ry, gentle - men, let no - thing you dis - may; re-
From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came and
"Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let no - thing you af - fright; this
Now to the Lord sing prai - ses, all you with - in this place, and



- mem-ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ-mas Day, to save us all from
un - to cer - tain shep-herds brought tid-ings of the same: how that in Beth - le-
day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright, to free all those who
with true love and char i - ty each oth - er now em-brace; this ho - ly tide of



Sa-tan's power when we were gone a - stray. O tid - ings of com-fort and
- hem was born the Son of God by name.
trust in him from Sa-tan's power and might."
Christ - mas doth bring re - deem-ing grace.



joy, com-fort and joy; O tid - ings of com-fort and joy!

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 God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues:

Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega, we give thanks to you! You have called all creation into being, setting the earth on its foundations. You have spread out the heavens like a tent, and set a boundary to the seas, you have filled the world with your creatures and called all things good. The heavenly beings are your messengers night and day, and with them we sing and give glory to you:

Sanctus: Hymnal 1982 # S 125

Setting from *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937) Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

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

1982:S125 2009.12.21

The Celebrant continues:

In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved. Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, guarded by our brother Joseph with fatherly care, Jesus came among us as a baby, humbly born, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath, human as we are, in need of human love. Yet kings bowed down before him bringing gifts, and emperors were troubled by his reign – this Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell. This Word of God made flesh and full of grace was sent to deliver us from our sin, from the power of evil and the fear of death.

As a servant, Jesus emptied himself of might upon the cross, and as the risen Anointed One is enthroned at God's right hand to bring mercy and justice to all the earth at the end of days. And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again!

Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in these creatures of bread and wine, making them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth, as we remember how Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me;" and after supper, took a cup of wine and blessed and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Blessed God, shed your grace brighter than starlight on us that we may bear your good tidings to all and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel – God-With-Us, to whom we give honor and glory in joy, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, in the spirit of Christ, we pray:

**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 Celebrant says

Mindful that not all are present physically to receive the sacrament, we pray with those who receive spiritual Holy Communion this day:

Lord Jesus, in union with your faithful people, we offer to you our praise and thanks. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you come spiritually into our hearts. Strengthen us with your grace, O Lord, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken and silence is kept

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

***People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are invited to receive the Holy Communion.

Whatever you believe or don't believe, you are welcome at this table.

For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.

Communion Hymn 1: Hymnal 1982 #104 - A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

Words: Richard Wilbur (b. 1921) Music: Andujar, David Hurd (b. 1950) Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



A sta - ble lamp is light-ed Whose glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their
(This) child through Da-vid's ci - ty Shall ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its
(Yet) he shall be for-sak-en, And yield-ed up to die; The sky shall groan and
(But,) now as at the end-ing, The low is lift-ed high; The stars shall bend their



voic - es, And ev-ery stone shall cry. And ev-ery stone shall cry, And straw like gold shall
branch-es, And ev-ery stone shall cry. And ev-ery stone shall cry, Though hea - vy, dull, and
dark - en, And ev-ery stone shall cry. And ev-ery stone shall cry, For ston - y hearts of
voi - ces And ev-ery stone shall cry. And ev-ery stone shall cry, In prais - es of the



shine; A barn shall har-bor heav - en, A stall be-come a shrine. This
dumb, And lie with-in the road-way To pave his king-dom come. Yet
men: God's blood up - on the spear-head, God's love re-fused a - gain. But
Child By whose de-scent a-mong us The worlds are rec - on - ciled.

Communion Hymn 2: Hymnal 1982 #98 Unto Us a Boy is Born

Words: Latin carol 15th Century; tr. Percy Dearmer (1867-1936) Music: *Puer nobis nascitur* Melody from *Piae Cantiones*.
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Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre - a - tion, came he to a
Cra - dled in a stall was he with sleep - y cows and ass - es; but the ve - ry
He - rod, then with fear was filled "A prince" he said, "in Jew - ry!" All the lit - tle
Now may Ma - ry's son, who came so long a - go to love us, lead us all with
Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre - a - tion, came he to a



world for-lorn, the Lord of ev - ery na - tion.
beasts could see that he all men sur - pass - es
boys he killed at Beth-lehem in his fu - ry.
hearts a - flame un - to the joys a - bove us.
world for-lorn, the Lord of ev - ery na - tion.

Post- Communion Prayer

Holy and Eternal God, 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 Blessing

Dismissal Hymn: LEVAS #21 *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Words: Luke 2: 8-20 adapted by John W. Work, Jr. (1871-1925) Music: Negro Spiritual; adapted and arranged William Parley Smith (b. 1941). Words used by permission of Mrs. J. W. Work. © 1989 *United Methodist Hymnal*.
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Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;



go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born.



While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night, Be-
The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a-bove the earth, Rang
Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born, And



- hold through-out the heav-ens there shown a ho-ly light.
out the an-gel chor-us that hailed the Sav-ior's birth.
God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the power and the spirit of the Incarnate Word.

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, arr. Glenda Austin