



A Christmastide Service of Lessons and Carols St. George's Church Glenn Dale Parish The Episcopal Diocese of Washington December 31, 2023

Welcome! We are glad to see you this morning, as we worship together. We hope you enjoy your experience at St. George's and that you will come again. Our Sunday services are at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Welcome and Introduction

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #107 *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866). Music: *In dulci jubilio* German carol, 14th century. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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.**

The people may be seated for the readings.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence--
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil--
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our God;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

“Mosaic of the Nativity: Serbia, Winter, 1993”

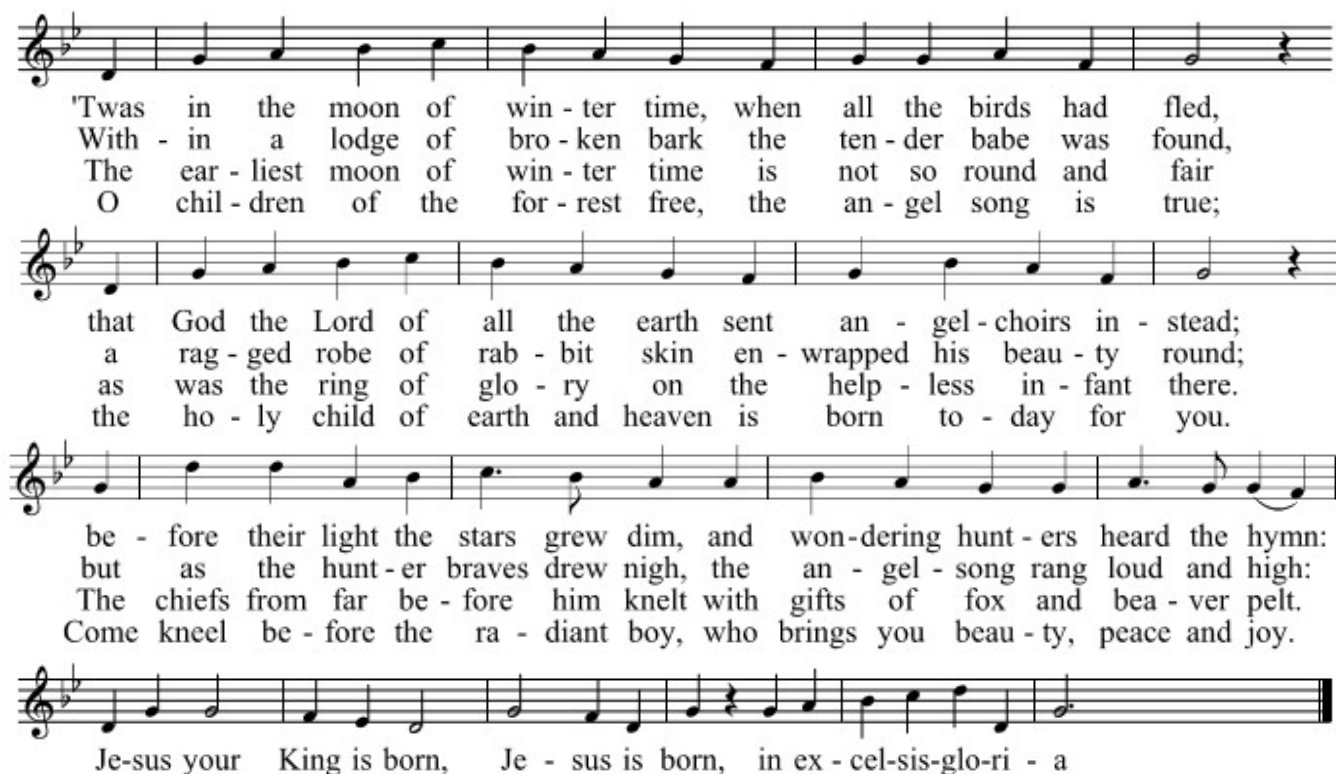
*On the domed ceiling
God is thinking:
I made them my joy,
and everything else I created
I made to bless them.
But see what they do!
I know their hearts
and arguments:
“We’re descended from
Cain. Evil is nothing new,
so what does it matter now*

*if we shell the infirmary
and the well where the fearful
and rash alike must
come for water?”
God thinks Mary into being.
Suspended at the apogee
of the golden dome,
she curls in a brown pod,
and inside her the mind
of Christ, cloaked in blood,
lodges and begins to grow.*

- Jane Kenyon

Hymnal #114 'Twas in the moon of wintertime

Words: Jesse Edgar Middleton (1872-1960). Music: *Une jeune puce*, French folk melody Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



'Twas in the moon of win - ter time, when all the birds had fled,
With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was found,
The ear - liest moon of win - ter time is not so round and fair;
O chil - dren of the for - rest free, the an - gel song is true;

that God the Lord of all the earth sent an - gel - choirs in - stead;
a rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en - wrapped his beau - ty round;
as was the ring of glo - ry on the help - less in - fant there.
the ho - ly child of earth and heaven is born to - day for you.

be - fore their light the stars grew dim, and won - dering hunt - ers heard the hymn:
but as the hunt - er braves drew nigh, the an - gel - song rang loud and high:
The chiefs from far be - fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.
Come kneel be - fore the ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace and joy.

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

The Second Lesson: Luke 1:39-46



In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

"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

Hymnal 1982 #81 *Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming*

Words: Verses 1-2, German 15th century, Tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934), Verse 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859), Tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); Hymnal 1940. Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, from *Alte Catholische Gerisliche Kirchnengesang*, 1599.

Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where,

It came, a blos - som bright a - mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
To show God's love a - right, she bore to us a Sa - vior when half spent was the night.
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

The Third Lesson: Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.



“Remembering that it happened once”

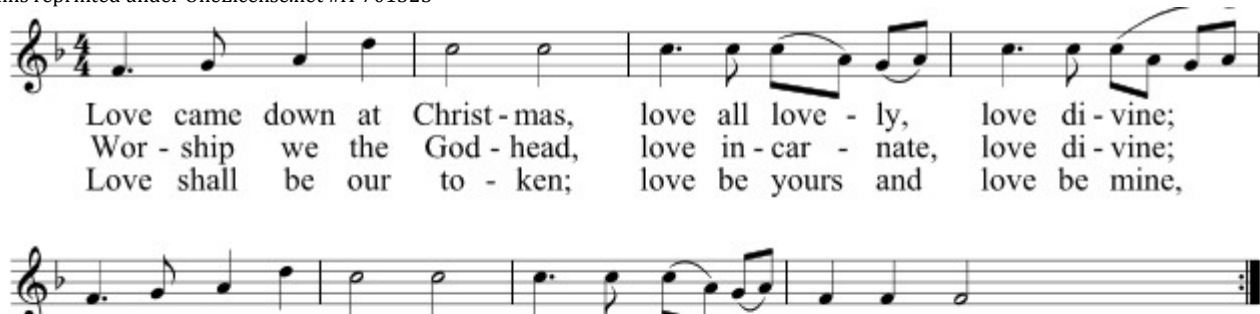
*Remembering that it happened once,
We cannot turn away the thought,
As we go out, cold, to our barns
Toward the long night's end, that we
Ourselves are living in the world
It happened in when it first happened,
That we ourselves, opening a stall
(A latch thrown open countless times
Before), might find them breathing there,
Foreknown: the Child bedded in straw,
The mother kneeling over Him,
The husband standing in belief
He scarcely can believe, in light*

*That lights them from no source we see,
An April morning's light, the air
Around them joyful as a choir.
We stand with one hand on the door,
Looking into another world
That is this world, the pale daylight
Coming just as before, our chores
To do, the cattle all awake,
Our own white frozen breath hanging
In front of us; and we are here
As we have never been before,
Sighted as not before, our place
Holy, although we knew it not.*


Wendell Berry

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 a sa - cred sign?
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

The Fourth Lesson: Luke 2:1-20



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.



from spiralling 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

- e.e. cummings

LEVAS #24 *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

Traditional Spiritual. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



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



It will lead to the place where the Christ was born, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low.
You'll for-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 Speaks"

*O you who bear the pain of the whole earth, I bore you.
O you whose tears gave human tears their worth, I laughed with you.
You, who when your hem is touched, give power, I nourished you.
Who turn the day to night in this dark hour, light comes from you.
O you who hold the world in your embrace, I carried you.
Whose arms encircled the world with your grace, I once held you.
O you who laughed and ate and walked the shore, I played with you.
And I, who with all others, you died for, now I hold you.
May I be faithful to this final test, in this last hour I hold my child, my son;
His body close enfolded to my breast:
The holder held, the bearer borne.
Mourning to joy, darkness to morn.
Open, my arms; your work is done.*

- Madeleine L'Engle

Hymnal 1982 #104 - A Stable Lamp Is Lighted

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



A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose glow shall wake the sky;
This child through Da - vid's ci - ty Shall ride in tri - umph by;
Yet he shall be for - sak - en, And yield - ed up to die;
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.
The palm shall strew its branch - es, And ev - ery stone shall cry.
The sky shall groan and dark - en, And ev - ery stone shall cry.
The stars shall bend their voi - ces And ev - ery stone shall cry.



And ev - ery stone shall cry, And straw like gold shall shine;
And ev - ery stone shall cry, Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb,
And ev - ery stone shall cry, For ston - y hearts of men:
And ev - ery stone shall cry, In prais - es of the Child



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



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.

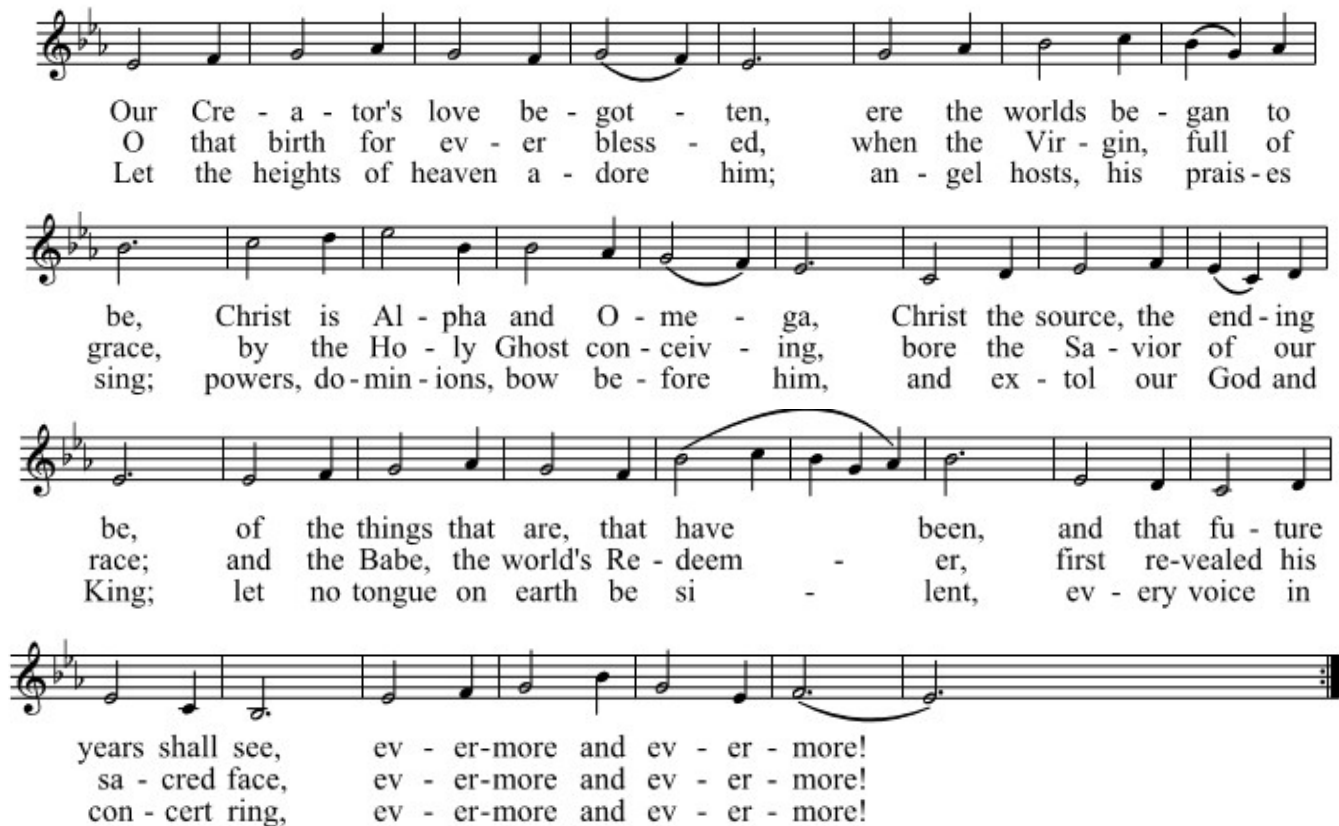
"On the Mystery of the Incarnation"

*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

Hymnal 1982 #82 *Our Creator'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*. Hymns 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.

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.**

The Offertory

Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering holy and acceptable to God.

Although St. George's no longer physically "passes the basket" everyone is invited and encouraged to make a financial offering to express your gratitude to God for the gifts we are given and in support of our mission and ministries. We encourage you to give electronically; you can text stgeodragon to 72356. (Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 72356 for help. Text STOP to 72356 to cancel.) Or just use your web browser to go to www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give. You may also donate via Zelle to donations@stgeorgesglennedale.org. or Cash App to send your donation to \$StGeorgesGlennDale

Offertory 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*. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

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,
The shep - herds feared and trem - bled, when lo! a - bove the earth,
Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

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



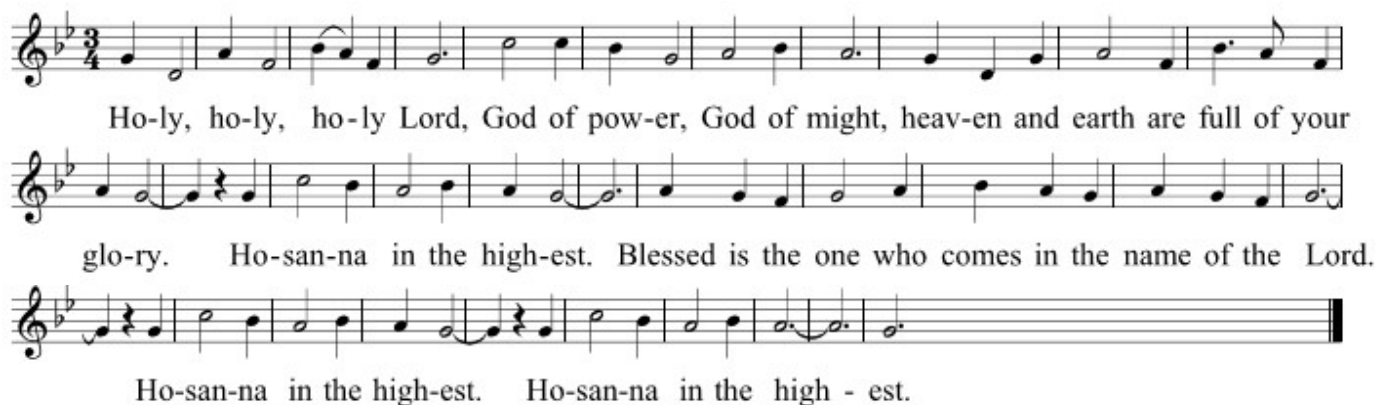
The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

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: Gather #144 *Holy, holy, holy*

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen (b. 1950) © 1964 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might, heav-en and earth are full of your
glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

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.”

We remember that after supper, he 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 forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: The Risen Christ is in our midst, and so with 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 Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken. After a time of silence, all sing together

Fraction Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #S 155 *Christ our Passover*

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942) Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri - ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the feast
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Celebrant: 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.

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.

The Communion

Wherever you are on your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, know that you are welcome at this table. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.

If you would like to receive a blessing rather than the bread and wine, please indicate this to the Celebrant by crossing your arms in front of your chest.

Communion Hymn 1: Hymnal 1982 #112 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Words: Christina Rossetti. Music *Cranham*. Gustav Theodore Holtz. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Our In the bleak mid-win - ter, frost y wind made moan,
God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
An gels and arch - ang - els may have gath - ered there,
What can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a way when he comes to reign:
cher - u - bim and ser a - phim throng - ed the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta ble place suf - ficed
but his mo - ther on ly, in her maid en bliss,
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;



in the bleak mid-win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ
wor shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
yet what I can I give him give my heart.

Communion Hymn 2: Hymnal 1982 #93 *Angels from the realm of glory*

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854). Verse 3: Terry Doyle, TSSF.

Music: *Regent Square*, Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879). Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
Go we now to see with won - der, filled with hope to ban - ish fear;
All cre - a - tion join in prais - ing, God e - ter - nal three in one:



ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
God with you is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
We shall go that we may hon - or Christ our Sa - vior who draws near:
Our Cre - a - tor, Ho - ly Spir - it, Word made flesh to earth has come.



Come and wor-ship, come and wor-ship, wor-ship Christ the new-born King.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray:

People: 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.

Announcements

The Blessing

Celebrant: May the God of the angels who heralded Christ's birth bring joy to your hearts this day and always. **Amen.**

May the God of love, whose only Son was born for you, fill your life with love and peace. **Amen.** May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations, until he brings you into his eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

And may God Almighty, God who created us, Christ Jesus who brings us new life, and the Holy Spirit who guides and sustains us, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #105 *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

Words: London carol, 18th Century. Music: *God Rest You Merry* from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

God rest you mer - ry, gentle - men, let no - thing you dis - may;
From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
"Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let no - thing you af - fright;
Now to the Lord sing prai - ses, all you with - in this place,
re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and with true love and char i - ty each oth - er now em - brace;
to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.
O tid-ings of com-fort and joy, com-fort and joy; O tid-ings of com-fort and joy!

The Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.