

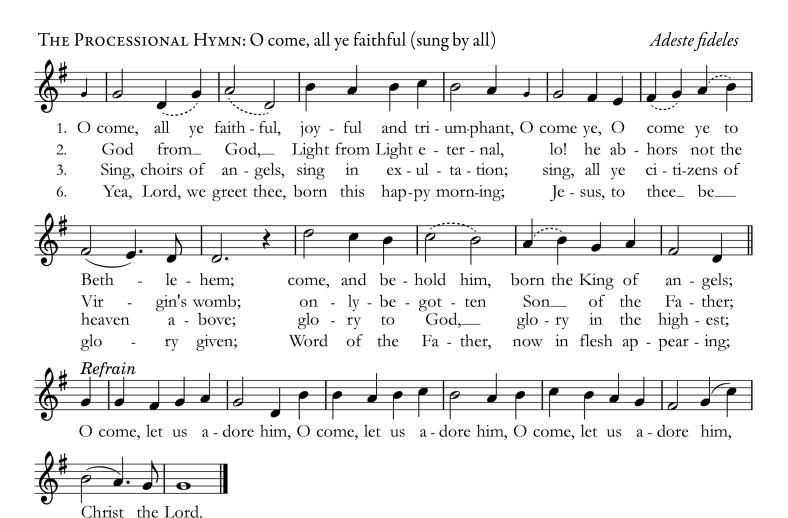
THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve December 24, 2024 at 9 pm Welcome to Church of the Nativity! We are so glad that you have come to join us in celebrating the birth of Christ. Everything you need to participate in tonight's service is in this bulletin. If you are a visitor, we would love for you to fill out a welcome card, which you can find in the pew rack in front of you; you can drop the completed card in the offering plate, or hand it to an usher on your way out. All are welcome to receive communion — it is Christ's table, and at Christ's table all are welcome. If you don't want to receive communion, you are welcome to still come forward and receive a blessing; you can indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

THE PRE-SERVICE MUSIC (Beginning at 8:30 pm)

Highland Cathedral
Four settings of "In dulci jubilo"
Huron Carol
Adeste Fideles ("O come, all ye faithful")
Still, Still, Still
Cantique de Noël (O Holy Night)

Ulrich Roever and Michael Korb J. S. Bach, J. M. Bach, Buxtehude, Liszt Trad. Canadian, arr Timothy Waugh arr Jason Krug Trad. Austrian, arr Jason Krug Adolphe Adam



THE WORD OF GOD

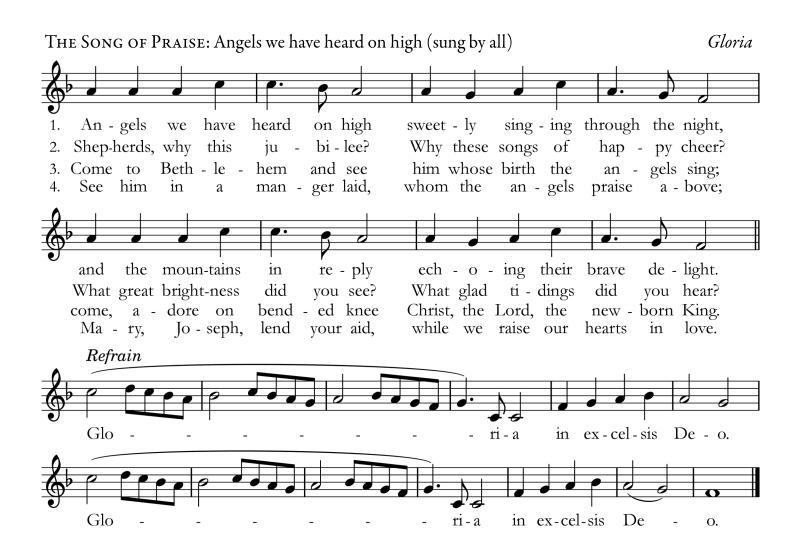
THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant 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.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

Leader We light this candle to remember God's promise of hope. This advent, the prophet Jeremiah reminded us that God will bring justice and righteousness to the world. Hope can mean something we wish for, like a dream or desire. But it can also mean trusting with confidence in the certainty of God's promises.

People Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Leader We light this candle to remember God's gift of peace. The Gospel of Luke reminded us that John the Baptist calls for us to prepare the way for the Lord's peace. Peace can mean the absence of conflict, but it also means being still in our hearts, resting in the assurance of God's presence.

People Come, Lord Jesus, come.

We light this candle to celebrate God's joy in our hearts. We remember that God's messengers remind us not to be afraid: fear is the opposite of joy. Joy can mean happiness, a momentary delight. But it can also mean abiding contentment, rooted in the deep understanding of God's love and the dignity of every human being.

People Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Leader We light this candle to share God's great love with the world. Mary's song in Luke reminds us that God's mercy and love are for all generations. Love can mean affection or a warm feeling, but it is also an active choice—selfless, enduring, and demonstrated in acts of kindness and grace.

People Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Leader Tonight, we light the Christ Candle to celebrate the arrival of Jesus. The Gospel of Luke tells us of angels proclaiming the good news: "To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord." The light of Christ reminds us that Jesus brings hope, peace, joy, and God's love into the world. This light is not just a guide in darkness but also a source of life.

People Come, Lord Jesus, and be our guest this night. Amen.

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2–7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

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

THE GRADUAL: Gaudete! (sung by the choir)

Piæ Cantiones, 1582

Gaudete! Gaudete! Christus est natus ex Maria virgine. Gaudete!

Tempus adest gratiae, hoc quod optabamus; carmina laetitiae devote reddamus.

Deus homo factus est, natura mirante; mundus renovatus est a Christo regnante.

Ezechielis porta clausa pertransitur; unde lux est orta, salus invenitur.

Ergo nostra contio psallat iam in lustro; Benedicat Domino; salus regi nostro. Rejoice! Rejoice! Christ is born of the Virgin Mary.

Rejoice! At this time of grace and longed-for blessing, Love faithfully offers a song of praise.

God is made human in this wonderful birth: The world is cleansed through the rule of Christ.

The gate of heaven now opens which to us was closed, sending forth transforming light through which holiness is found.

Therefore we meet in pure songs of joy; We bless the Lord, King of our Salvation.

The Second Lesson Titus 2:11–14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

THE SEQUENCE HYMN: Hark! the herald angels sing (sung by all)

Mendelssohn



- 1. Hark! the her ald an gels sing, "Glo ry to the new-born King! Peace on earth and
- 2. Christ, by high est heaven a dored; Christ, the ev er last ing Lord; late in time be-
- 3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! Light and life t



mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye na-tions, rise, hold him come, off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the God-head see; all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings, Mild he lays his glo - ry by,



join the tri-umph of the skies; with the an-gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in hail the in car-nate De - i - ty. Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Emborn that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us



man - u - el! Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo-ry to the new-born King!" sec-ond birth.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20 / Sussex Carol

The Alleluia refrain is sung first by the Choir and then by the People. After the appointed verse is sung by the Choir, the People repeat the refrain. After the reading of the Gospel, the refrain is sung once more.



Choir Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

People (sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Choir I proclaim to you the news of great joy: today a Savior is born for us, Christ the Lord.

People (sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People (spoken) 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People (spoken) Praise to you, Lord Christ.

People (sung) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE SERMON

The Rev. Grey Maggiano

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

As we continue along the path of the Savior's birth, we gather in Bethlehem to celebrate his arrival. We lift up our prayers for peace and goodwill, saying, Incarnate God, hear our prayer.

May the universal church, especially the members of this congregation, be like the Angels heralding the birth of Christ, and proclaim the inclusive love and exuberant grace of God to the world. Incarnate God, hear our prayer.

May those who suffer in mind, body, and spirit be like Elizabeth and find healing and joy infusing their bodies and souls in unexpected ways. Incarnate God, hear our prayer.

May we be like the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks, ready to leap into action, as we offer our care and compassion for a hurting creation. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like Zachariah and allow God's hand to cover our mouths when it is best that we not speak, and instead listen and pray. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like Joseph and dream of a just and equitable creation, a dream that sees the presence of the incarnate God in all things, and in our dreams, invites us to be a part of the new creation. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we be like Mary and Joseph, staying connected to our spiritual ancestors, and remembering those we love who have died. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

May we, like the wise men, seek light, follow the star and not be afraid of where the Holy Spirit is calling us in the year ahead. Incarnate God, **hear our prayer.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

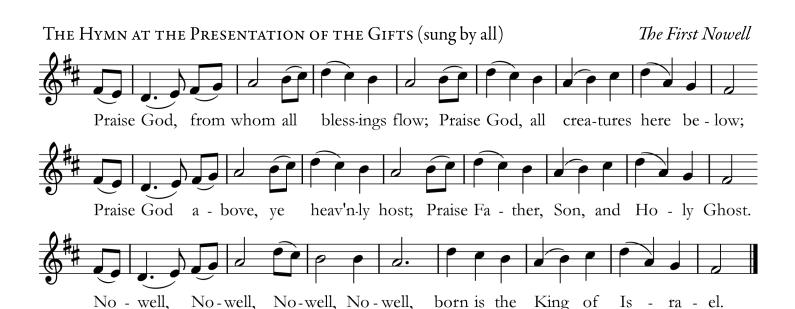
People And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Music During the Offering: In the bleak midwinter

Words: Christina Rossetti Music: Gustav Holst, arr. Robert Lau

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, long ago. Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Angels and archangels may have gathered there, Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; But His mother only, in her maiden bliss, Worshipped the beloved with a kiss. What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.



THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

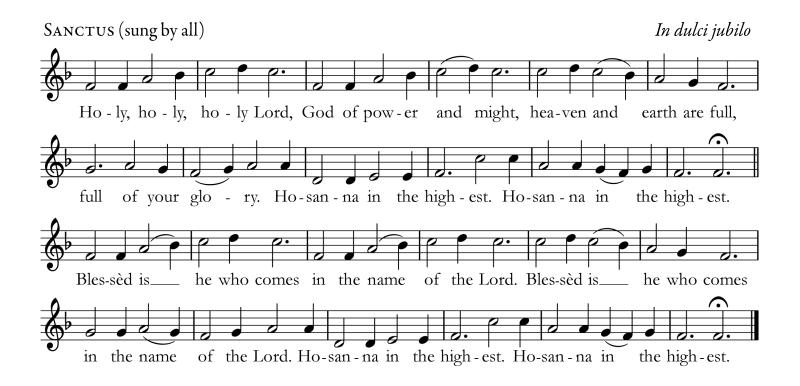
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give our 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.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh you have caused his light to shine in our hearts, to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In him we see our God made visible and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.

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:



Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

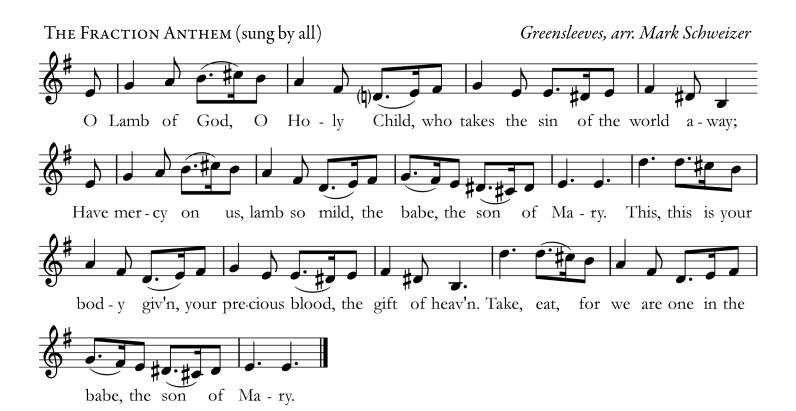
All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER: Traditional Language

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.



Music during the Communion

All my heart this night rejoices (sung by the choir)

Words: Paul Gerhardt, tr. Winkworth Music: Johann Georg Ebeling

All my heart this night rejoices as I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices: "Christ is born!" their choirs are singing, till the air everywhere now with joy is ringing.

Hark! a voice from yonder manger, soft and sweet, doth entreat, "Flee from woe and danger! Children, come! from all doth grieve you, you are freed; all you need I will surely give you."

Come, then, let us hasten yonder! Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder! Love him who with love is yearning! Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning!

Thee, dear Lord, with heed I'll cherish, live to thee, and with thee, dying, shall not perish; But shall dwell with thee for ever, far on high, in the joy that can alter never.

A stable lamp is lighted (sung by the choir)

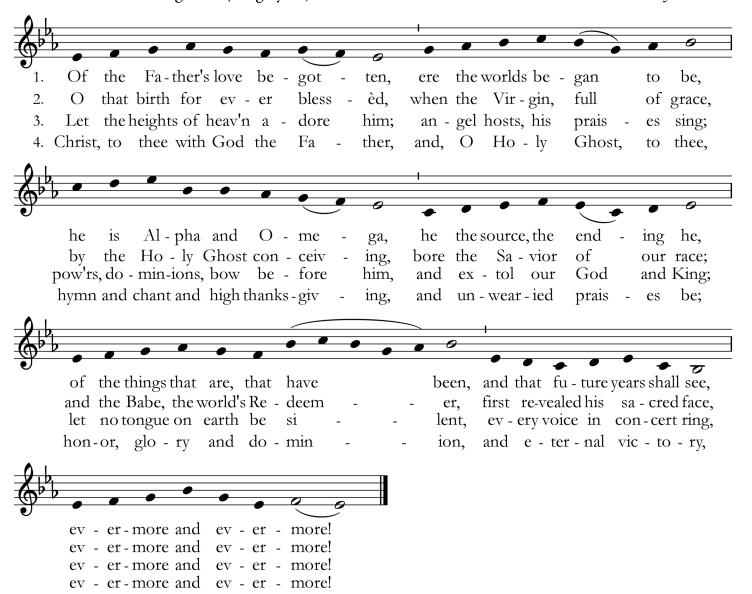
Words: Richard Wilbur Music: David Hurd

A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky; the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine; a barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.

This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by; the palm shall strew its branches, and every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry, though heavy, dull, and dumb, and lie within the road way to pave his kingdom come.

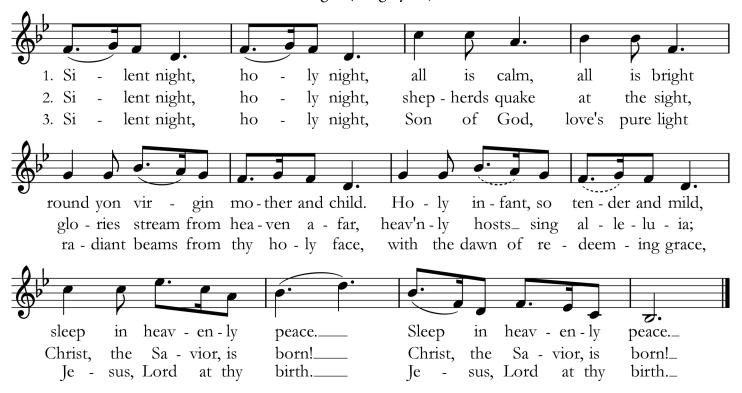
Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die; the sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry, for stony hearts of men: God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high; the stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry, in praises of the Child by whose descent among us the worlds are reconciled.



THE LIGHTING OF THE NATIVITY CANDLES

The altar party will light their candles from the Christ Candle. Two light-bearers will bring the light down the center aisle; the persons sitting on the center aisle will pass the light down their row as we sing Silent Night.



THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 BLESSING

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN: Joy to the world (sung by all)

Antioch



THE DISMISSAL

People Thanks be to God.

THE VOLUNTARY: In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach



Quick Links

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We thank the following for their participation in this evening's service:

CELEBRANT & PREACHER The Rev. Grey Maggiano

LECTORS Joan Parente, Kyle West

LAY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS Helen Armstrong, Alicia Lester-Bodford,

Harlan Hagge

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER Bradley Burgess

MUSICIANS The Nativity Choir

The Nativity Handbell Choir

Harlan Hagge, trumpet Jo-Mari Burgess, soprano Daniel Knapp, bagpipes Megan Douglas, cello

CRUCIFER Marshall Taylor

ALTAR GUILD The Nativity Altar Guild

FLOWERS The Nativity Flower Guild

LIVESTREAM TECHNICIAN Alfred Christensen VESTRY REPRESENTATIVE George Douglas

Church of the Nativity

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CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Grey Maggiano Rector

The Rev. Ryan Parker Priest Associate

Jeremy Clos Lay Associate for Christian Formation

Bradley Burgess Lay Associate for Music,

Communications, and Administration

Monique Holmes Business Manager

Eva Warren Nursery Attendant

Robert Krahel Sexton