

# ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



## CHRISTMAS EVE Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2017

4:00 P.M.

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### If you are new or visiting ...

To follow along with the service all you need is this service bulletin.

**Wireless access in the Sanctuary** is accessible by connecting to wireless network STEC – Guest. Your device will open a web browser and St. Thomas's website. Sunday bulletins are posted on the website's Bulletin Archive. We aim to reduce printing by encouraging worshippers to use their smart devices to follow the order of service.

**Restrooms for men and women** are located on the second floor. Go through the red double doors at the front of the church, up the stairs to the left, and to the far end of the hallway. An **all-gender restroom (with baby changing table)** in the Vesting Room, located opposite the red double doors at the front of the church.

**All are invited to receive Holy Communion.** Baptism is not required; church membership is not required. **Gluten-free bread** and **non-alcoholic wine** are available.

To receive **Holy Communion** hold out your hands, and the server will place bread in them. If you wish to receive wine, please sip it from the common cup, using both hands to guide the chalice to your lips.

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ST. THOMAS'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH & DAY SCHOOL  
830 Whitney Avenue, New Haven, CT 06511

Church Phone: (203) 777-7623    [www.stthomasnewhaven.org](http://www.stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Day School Phone: (203) 776-2123    [www.stthomasday.org](http://www.stthomasday.org)

The Rev. Keri Aubert—Priest-in-Charge    [pastor@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:pastor@stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Simon Jacobs—Director of Music and Organist    [music@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:music@stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Julie Kelly—Administrator, Parish and Property    [administrator@stthomasnewhaven.org](mailto:administrator@stthomasnewhaven.org)  
Gina Panza—Head of Day School    [gpanza@stthomasday.org](mailto:gpanza@stthomasday.org)  
Eric Gregory Snow—Day School Chaplain    [chaplain@stthomasday.org](mailto:chaplain@stthomasday.org)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Offertoire sur deux Noëls

Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

*At the ringing of the bell, please stand.*

HYMN

Hymn 83: O come, all ye faithful, *The Hymnal 1982*

[VERSES 1, 2 & 3 ONLY]

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
 \*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
 \*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others;  
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

**Presider:** Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**People:** **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

*The presider says the following while the Advent and Christmas candles are lit*

Glory to you, Giver of all good gifts! We offer you glad thanks and praise for every blessing from your love, and especially for the best gift of yourself in the child Jesus.  
**Amen.**

*The presider says the following when the Baby Jesus is added to the Creche*

Holy One, you have entered our dangerous world as a baby, entrusted to the care of human arms and hearts; you call us to walk your way of vulnerability and tenderness, with firm resolve, by the grace of your indwelling Spirit. Lead us to serve and protect all your beloved children, with thankfulness and courage, in the name of your child Jesus, our Redeemer.  
**Amen.**

**SONG OF PRAISE**

Hymn 87: Hark! the herald angels sing, *The Hymnal 1982*

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,  
 Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.;  
 Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*All are seated.*

## THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

*The congregation is invited to join in the singing of the hymns during the Pageant, except for the verses indicated otherwise. Please remain seated throughout.*

**Narrator:** This is the story of the birth of the Christ Child whose name is Jesus. Many years before Jesus was born, people were waiting, hoping that God would send them a king. A prophet told them to expect a child to be born who would be called the Prince of Peace.

**Isaiah:** Unto us a child is born; to us a son is given; the government shall be on his shoulders. His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**Narrator:** How exciting! God's people hadn't had a king for so, so long. Many wondered if God would ever send someone to help them. I wonder when he's coming? [Pointing.] Look over there! There's Gabriel, a great angel sent by God to the little town of Nazareth. Gabriel came to see Mary who was going to be married to a carpenter named Joseph. Listen to what the Angel Gabriel says.

**Gabriel:** Do not be afraid, Mary: for you have found favor with God. Soon God will give you a baby son and you shall call his name Jesus. He shall be great. God shall give him a kingly throne and he shall rule forever.

**Mary:** I am God's beloved. Let it be as God wills.

**Narrator:** Many months passed, and the baby grew inside Mary. She and Joseph were looking forward with great joy to the birth of this baby. They wondered what he would look like. They wondered what plans God had for his life. Meanwhile, the Roman ruler made a law that everybody should go to their home town to be counted. And even though it was almost time for Mary to have her baby, Joseph and Mary walked all the way to Bethlehem with their little donkey. They were tired after traveling so far. They looked for a room in Bethlehem where they could spend the night. Let's all sing "O Little Town of Bethlehem".

#### HYMN

#### O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM (VERSE 1)

1. 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.

*The Holy Family enters by the center aisle, stopping three times.*

**Mary:** Do you have a room for the night?

**Congregation:** No room!

**Joseph:** Do you have a room for the night?

**Congregation:** No room!

**Mary and Joseph together:** Do you have a room for the night?

**The Last Innkeeper:** We have no room in the inn. You may go and sleep in the stable with the animals.

**Narrator:** And that very night, in a stable in the town of Bethlehem, Mary gave birth to her firstborn son. They named him Jesus. Mary wrapped the baby Jesus in bands of cloth and laid him in the manger. This is the night that Jesus was born, and here he is! Let's all sing "Away in a Manger".

**HYMN**

**AWAY IN A MANGER (VERSES 1 & 2)**

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

**Chief Animal:** Who were the first to cry Nowell? We animals! We are the very first to see the Christ Child. He was born in our stable. He was laid in our manger where we eat our food. Fellow animals, come see the baby!

*Children dressed as animals come to the front.*

**HYMN**

**THE FIRST NOWELL (VERSE 1)**

1. The first Nowell the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
born is the King of Israel.*

**Chief Shepherd:** Nearby there was a field, where shepherds watched over their flocks of sheep during the night. And, the angel of the Lord came, and suddenly the glory of God was shining all around and they were very afraid. Shepherds, come and listen to the angel.

*Children dressed as shepherds come to the front.*

**HYMN**

**WHAT CHILD IS THIS? (VERSE 1)**

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud,  
the babe, the son of Mary.*

**Narrator:** And the angels said to them:

**Angel:** Do not be afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy, for all people. For on this day in the city of David, a Savior has been born for you, Christ the Lord. And this is how you'll know it is true: come look for a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger.

**Narrator:** Suddenly with the angel Gabriel, there were many, many other angels coming from all around. They were praising God and saying: Hallelujah! Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, good will among all. Look at all the beautiful angels coming to praise the new birth. Come angels, come.

*Children dressed as angels come to the front.*

**Narrator:** Let's all sing "Angels We Have Heard on High".

**HYMN                      ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH (VERSES 1 & 2)**

1. 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!

2. 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!

**Narrator:** So they all came to Bethlehem, animals, shepherds, and angels. They were glad and quiet and they worshiped Jesus, the newborn king. Let us all sing "Silent Night."

**HYMN                      SILENT NIGHT, HOLY NIGHT**

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. 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.

*All stand*

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Intercessor*

In the stillness of this holy season of Christmas, let us pray to God, saying, “God of love, hear our prayer.”

Christians around the world are celebrating the birth of your son, Jesus. Unite us in faith, that we may shine with one light, and scatter all darkness. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

You pierced the cosmic silence with the utterance of your Word made flesh. Inspire leaders everywhere with your message of compassion and reconciliation. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

By joining heaven and earth in your son, you affirmed the holiness of our earthly habitation. Encourage all people to bless it, and to keep it a hallowed home for all its occupants. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

The Messiah is born, and promise is born anew. Renew our hope, individually and as a community, and strengthen the bonds we share with others, both within and beyond these walls. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Shepherds heard and conveyed your angel’s good news of great joy. Give us grace to understand and share your gospel of love. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Multitudes of heavenly host proclaimed glory to you and peace on earth. Kindle in our hearts the courage and strength to work for justice and liberation. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Jesus came to us as a baby cradled in a borrowed bed of straw, because there was no room at the inn. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

You sent Jesus to illuminate all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Tend the embers of comfort and healing for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

By making Jesus incarnate in the world, you offered to all people the blessing of holiness. Lend your glory to those who have died, and at the last day gather us all in your eternal life. God of love, **hear our prayer.**

Hear the concerns and gratitude of your people here gathered, offered silently or aloud.



# THE HOLY COMMUNION

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

### A FAMILY-FRIENDLY EUCHARISTIC PRAYER FOR CHRISTMAS

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

#### *Presider*

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

#### SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

S-125, *The Hymnal 1982*

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.

Music: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

*Presider*

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, cared for by our brother Joseph, Jesus came among us as a baby, human as we are, in need of human love. Though humbly born, kings honored him, and emperors feared him.

The Word of God made flesh and full of grace, a child in whom the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, was sent to deliver us from sin, from the power of evil, and from the fear of death. As a man, Jesus surrendered his might upon the cross. As the risen Anointed One, he is enthroned at God's right hand. At the end of days, he will bring mercy and justice to all the earth.

And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again!**

We remember that Jesus took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After supper, Jesus took a cup of wine, blessed it, 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 many for the forgiveness of sin. Do this to remember me."

Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in this bread and wine. Make them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth. 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 in joy we give honor and glory, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

*You are invited to say the Lord's Prayer in the language of your choice.*

**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 Presider breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

FRACTION ANTHEM

875, *Wonder, Love and Praise*

*Cantor or Choir*

Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the  
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

1. Congregation 2. *Cantor or Choir*

break - ing of the bread. Be bread. The  
The dis -

1. 2.

bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia, Is the com -

*Congregation*

mun - ion of the bod - y of Christ. Be  
The dis -

known to us, Lord Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the  
ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus }

*Cantor or Choir*

bread. One bod - y are we, al - le - lu - ia, for though

*Congregation*

man - y we share one bread. Be known to us, Lord  
The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord

Je - sus, } in the break - ing of the bread.  
Je - sus }

Music: Gary James (b. 1957)

*Presider*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*All are invited to receive Holy Communion at God's table in this church. Please proceed to the most conveniently located station to receive communion, and then return to your seat via a side aisle. Gluten-free bread is available at any station. Non-alcoholic wine is available from the server at the center of the altar. To receive a blessing instead of communion, approach the priest with your arms crossed over your chest.*

COMMUNION HYMNS

Hymn 112: In the bleak midwinter, *The Hymnal 1982*

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;  
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
 4 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 se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

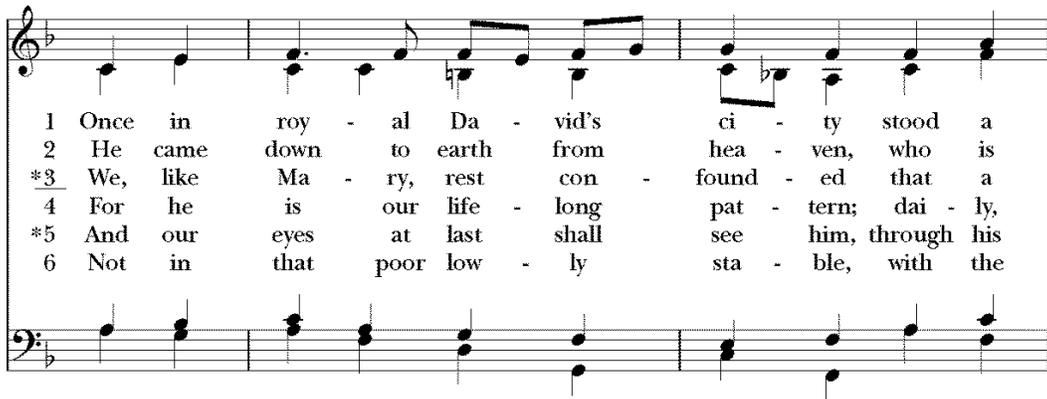
snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,  
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
 if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;

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.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894); Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

Hymn 102: Once in royal David's city, *The Hymnal 1982*

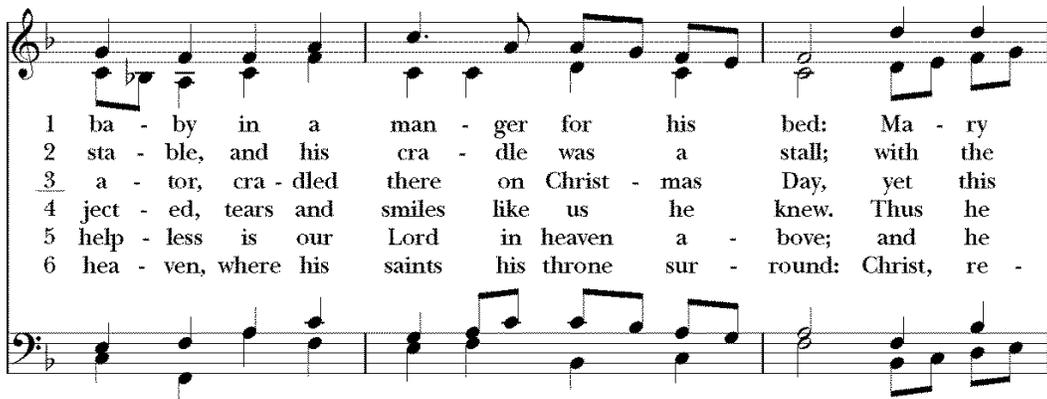
**VERSES 3 & 5 ARE OMITTED**



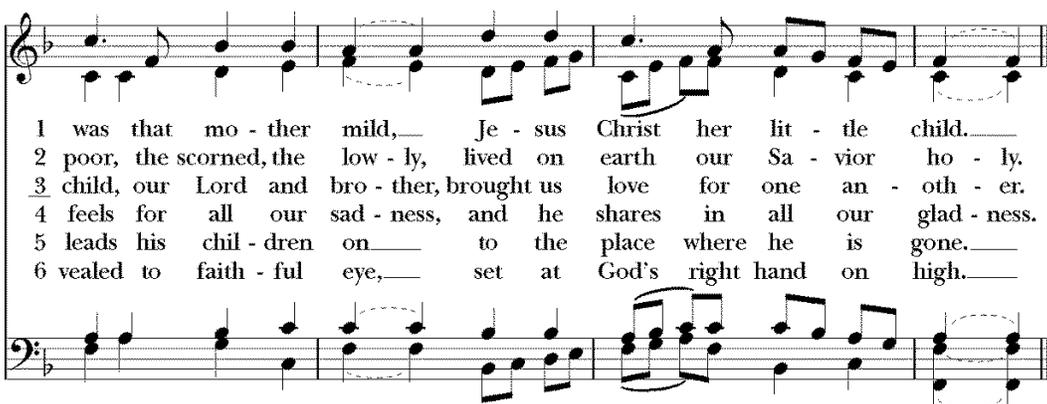
1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is  
 \*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a  
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,  
 \*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his  
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the



1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her  
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a  
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -  
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -  
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so  
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in



1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the  
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this  
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he  
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he  
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -



1 was that mo - ther mild,— Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.—  
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.;  
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.;  
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.;  
 5 leads his chil - dren on— to the place where he is gone.—  
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye,— set at God's right hand on high.—

Words: Sts. 1-2, 4-6, Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; st. 3, James Waring McCrady (b. 1938);  
 Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

*After all have received communion, the people remain seated for a period of silence. Then all stand.*

## **THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

*Presider*

Let us pray.

*Presider and People*

**Mysterious God, we thank you  
for feeding us with yourself;  
and for making yourself known to us  
in the holy child Jesus, the Christ.  
Let us carry within our hearts your Holy Spirit,  
that same Spirit which was in Jesus,  
so that that we may help bring your peace to all the earth  
in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

## **THE BLESSING**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one thing earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.;  
Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

## **DISMISSAL**

Priest: *[A priest dismisses the people.]*

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## **ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

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*The Eucharistic Prayer was written by the Rev. Jennifer Phillips, and adapted by the Rev. Keri Aubert. Used by permission.*