

# The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

## December 24th, 2019



*Please take a moment to silence your cellphone. Thank you.*

### Choral Prelude

*Long-Expected Dawn*

*Karen Marolli*

*When our hearts are troubled and in need of light, and the darkness deepens 'midst the thickening night,  
we await your coming as our souls press on toward a long-expected dawn.*

*When our hearts are broken and in need of balm, you send your promise, your hope and calm.  
We await your presence as we travel on toward a long-expected dawn.*

*O Light of Hope! Break forth! Appear and shatter all the darkness here!  
O let your advent herald clear an end to sorrow and to fear!*

*You come from heaven to make straight the way, birthing hope from sorrow, changing night to day.  
Lord, walk among us as we journey on toward a long-expected dawn.*

*The Angel Gabriel*

*19th c Basque Carol arr John Leavitt*

*The angel Gabriel from heaven came, his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame.  
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary, most highly favored lady!" Gloria!*

*"For know, a blessed mother thou shalt be, all generations laud and honor thee, thy son shall be Emmanuel,  
by seers foretold, most highly favored lady!" Gloria!*

*Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head, "To me be as it pleaseth God," she said.  
"My soul shall laud and magnify his holy name." Most highly favored lady! Gloria!*

*Of her Emmanuel the Christ was born, in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn.  
And Christian folk throughout the world will ever say, "Most highly favored lady!" Gloria!*

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

*arr. John Cornish*

*Of the Father's love begotten e'er the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he.  
Of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore.*

*O that birth, forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving bore the Savior of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore.*

*O ye heights of heav'n adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing, powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring, evermore and evermore.*

*Christus natus est (Christ Is Born)*

*Rosephanye Powell*

*In Bethlehem on Christmas morn, Christus natus est. The lowly gem of love was born, Christus natus est.  
Bright in her crown of fiery star, Christus natus est. Judea's town shone from afar, Christus natus est.  
Hosanna! Christus natus est.*

*For bird and beast he did not come, Christus natus est. but for the least of mortal scum. Christus natus est.  
Who lies in ditch? Who begs his bread? Christus natus est. Who has no stitch for back or head? Christus natus est.*

*Hosanna! Christus natus est.*

*Who wakes to weep, lies down to mourn? Who in his sleep withdraws from scorn?  
Ye outraged dust, on field and plain, to feed the lust of madmen slain; Hosanna! Christus natus est.  
The manger still outshines the throne; Christ must and will come to his own.*

**Celebrant/Preacher:** The Very Rev. Paula Vukmanic  
**Deacon:** The Rev. Jude Lyons

Jill Lynch, solo

*Why only this darkened stable embraced the dawn of new life?  
Lowly manger to welcome our savior, this child of night needs our light.*

*Could it be that Creator, Builder has no home in creation?  
In his house will he find no home? Child of night, needs your light.*

*Sleep, sleep as the morning daybreak in song and sun shall arise.  
Eyes of wonder look upward from under the star of night, Child of light.*

*In this winter of aging darkness rays of youth will awaken.  
Warming hearts of unspoken love, Star of night, Child of Light.*

*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.*

Carol of Joy

Dan Forrest

*Green leaves all fallen, withered and dry, brief sunset fading, dim winter sky; lengthening shadows, dark closing in;  
then through the stillness, carols begin.*

*O fallen world, to you is the song! Death holds you fast, and night tarries long.  
Jesus is born, your curse to destroy; sweet to your ears, a carol of joy!*

*Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow; cold, barren hillside shrouded in snow.  
Deep empty valley, veiled by the night. Hear angel music, hopeful and bright.*

*O fearful world, to you is the song! Peace with your God and pardon for wrong.  
Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound, carol of joy a Savior is found!*

*Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes! Thrill to the chorus filling the skies. Look up, sad-hearted! Witness God's love.  
Join in the chorus swelling above!*

*O friendless world, to you is the song! All heaven's joy to you may belong!  
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn; Now unto you a Savior is born.*

Dormi, Jesu

John Rutter

*Sleep, Jesus! My cares beguiling; mother sits beside thee, smiling.  
If thou sleep not, mother mourneth, singing as her wheel she turneth. Sleep Jesus, tenderly!  
Come, soft slumber, balmily. Sleep, Jesus, tenderly!*



# The Holy Eucharist - 9:00 p.m.

*During the prelude, our acolytes will assist you with the lighting of the candle you were given as you arrived. Tip your unlit candle to light it from the acolyte's flame.*

*Please keep lit candles upright at all times and avoid contact with hair or clothing.*

*Prelude: Christmas Pastorale*

*Please STAND, as able, and after the solo, please join in singing,*

The Processional Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

Hymn #102

*Solo—Isaura Aguiar*

*Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed;  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.*

**2 He came down to earth from heaven  
who is God and Lord of all;  
and his shelter was a stable  
and his cradle was a stall:  
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

**4 For he is our lifelong pattern:  
daily when on earth he grew,  
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,  
tears and smiles like us he knew;  
Thus he feels for all our sadness,  
and he shares in all our gladness.**

**5 And our eyes at last shall see him,  
through his own redeeming love;  
for that child who seemed so helpless  
is our Lord in heaven above;  
and he leads his children on  
to the place where he is gone.**

*Please remain standing as able for,*

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.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Leader Today we light all the candles of the Advent wreath. Each candle has a meaning. The first candle is HOPE, the second candle is PEACE, the third candle is JOY, and the fourth candle is LOVE. The center candle is the Christ candle.

*(The candles are lit.)*

Leader "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
*(Isaiah 9:6)*

**People O God of hope, peace, joy, and love. As Mary and Joseph welcomed you into the world, now help us welcome you into our lives. Give us courage to hope; strength to seek peace. Fill our spirits with joy; and our hearts with love. Through Jesus Christ, the Lord of all, the Light of the World. Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings.*

The First Lesson                      Isaiah 9:2-7

1<sup>st</sup> Reader    A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

1<sup>st</sup> Reader    The Word of the Lord.

**People        Thanks be to God.**

*Remaining seated, please join in singing.*

The Response

**In the Bleak Midwinter**

**Hymn #112**

**1 In the bleak mid-winter  
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 mid-winter  
long ago.**

**3 Angels and archangels  
may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim  
thronged the air;  
but his mother only,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved  
with a kiss.**

**2 Our God, heaven cannot hold him,  
nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away  
when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak mid-winter  
a stable-place sufficed  
the Lord God, incarnate,  
Jesus Christ.**

**4 What can I give him,  
poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd  
I would give a lamb,  
if I were a wise man  
I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him -  
give my heart.**

The Second Lesson                      Titus 2:11-14

2<sup>nd</sup> Reader    A Reading from the letter of Paul to Titus.

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.

2<sup>nd</sup> Reader    The Word of the Lord.

**People        Thanks be to God.**

*Please STAND, as able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel,  
and join in singing the first verse of 'Angels We Have Heard On High'.*

Gospel Procession

**Angels We Have Heard On High**  
**Angels we have heard on high**  
**Sweetly singing o'er the plains,**  
**And the mountains in reply**  
**Echoing their joyous strains.**

Hymn #96

**Refrain:**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

The Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-14

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

**People Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, 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 favours!'

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*Please join in singing the third verse of 'Angels We Have Heard on High', as the Gospel Procession returns.*

**Come to Bethlehem and see**  
**Him Whose birth the angels sing;**  
**Come, adore on bended knee,**  
**Christ the Lord, the newborn King.**

**Refrain:**

**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

*Please be seated and extinguish your service candles.  
Keep them nearby as we will light them again after Holy Communion.*

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Paula Vukmanic

*There will be a moment of silence for reflection following the sermon*



*Please STAND as able, and join in saying,*

## The Nicene Creed

*(Updated from The Book of Common Prayer addendum, Enriching our Worship I)*

**All 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became fully human.**

**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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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.**

*Please STAND as able for,*

## Prayers of the People

*The People read the parts in bold.*

Almighty God, in Jesus you have poured upon us the light of your Incarnate Word: let us pray for all who still long for the coming of your light. Let the peace proclaimed by angels on that first Christmas night be realized in every place of conflict, every place of sorrow, and every place of need. Let the heavens rejoice; **and the earth be glad.**

In this holy night shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation. Let the heavens rejoice; **and the earth be glad.**

In this holy night you came to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed of straw as there was no room in the inn. Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry, the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning. Let the heavens rejoice; **and the earth be glad.**

In this holy night may your grace lead us to a true and lasting relationship with you. Let the heavens rejoice; **and the earth be glad.**

In this holy night angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered Sun of Righteousness. Prince of Peace, strengthen all who work for peace and justice. Bless all who serve in the armed and foreign services of our country and their families, especially Drew Deley, Kelly Hall, Mark Kappelmann, TJ Malzahn, Will Piepenbring, Scott Ruston, Michael Strong, Jonathan Zimmerman and Steve. Let the heavens rejoice; **and the earth be glad.**

In this holy night may the consolation of the Prince of Peace bless and comfort all who are suffering or are ill, especially Andrea, Aidan and Lorcin, Barbara, Bob and Jane Africano, Stephanie Bezner, Howard Dale, Ceri Falk, Ann Godfrey, Sally Hill, Marjorie Morris, Karla Nicole, Nathan Reddall, Shelley Reece, Gwynne Shaw, Steve Smith, and all those we name to you now...

*(Please add your own prayers silently or aloud.)*

Let the heavens rejoice;  
**and the earth be glad.**

In this holy night we pray for all who have gone before us. Let your eternal love be fully celebrated with all those we name to you now... *(Please add your own prayers silently or aloud.)*

Let the heavens rejoice;  
**and the earth be glad.**

*Silence*

*Celebrant* O Holy One, heavenly angels spoke to earthly shepherds, and eternity entered time in the child of Bethlehem. Through the telling of the Christmas story, let our lives be caught up in the Eternal in that same child, that we might join shepherds and all the heavenly host in praising the coming of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

**People And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*



Welcome and Announcements

## The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

*Carol of Joy*

*Dan Forrest*

*Green leaves all fallen, withered and dry, brief sunset fading, dim winter sky; lengthening shadows, dark closing in; then through the stillness, carols begin.*

*O fallen world, to you is the song! Death holds you fast, and night tarries long. Jesus is born, your curse to destroy; sweet to your ears, a carol of joy!*

*Pale moon ascending, solemn and slow; cold, barren hillside shrouded in snow.  
Deep empty valley, veiled by the night. Hear angel music, hopeful and bright.*

*O fearful world, to you is the song! Peace with your God and pardon for wrong.  
Tidings for sinners, burdened and bound, carol of joy a Savior is found!*

*Earth wrapped in sorrow, lift up your eyes! Thrill to the chorus filling the skies.  
Look up, sad-hearted! Witness God's love. Join in the chorus swelling above!*

*O friendless world, to you is the song! All heaven's joy to you may belong!  
You who are lonely, laden, forlorn; Now unto you a Savior is born.*

*Please STAND, and join in singing,*

Offertory Hymn

**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

**Hymn #83 vv 1, 3, 6**

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**Refrain:**

**O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest; Refrain**

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; Refrain**

## The Offertory Prayers

**Celebrant** Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation; through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which the earth has given and human hands have made. It will become for us the Bread of Heaven and the Cup of Salvation.

**People** **Blessed be God forever.**

**Celebrant** Receive, O Lord, these gifts presented by your holy people for the work of your holy Church.

**People** **Blessed be God forever.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

*From the Book of Common Prayer*

*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.



It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

*Please join in singing,*

**Sanctus**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

*Forest Green*

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of power and might. Heav'n and earth are full of thy glo-ry, Ho-

san - na in th high - est. Bless - ed 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.

FOREST GREEN Traditional English tune adapt by Ralph Vaughn Williams

*All stand or kneel as the Celebrant continues. The People read the parts listed in bold.*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

**For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.**

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.

**Do this for the remembrance of me."**

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, **do this for the remembrance of me."**

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

**Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.**

In the fullness of time, bring all things under the influence of your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary, the Mother of our Lord, Blessed Francis, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 forever.



Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us say,

**All 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.**

*Please join in singing,*

Fraction Anthem

**Of the Father's Love Begotten**

*DIVINIUM MYSTERIUM*

A musical score for a hymn in 3/4 time, key of B-flat major. The score is written on a single treble clef staff. The lyrics are: "Of the Fath-er's love be - got - ten, e'er the worlds be - gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more." The score includes measure numbers 12, 24, and 36. The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end.

Hymn # 82, The Hymnal 1982

## The Communion of the People

*All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the directions of the ushers. If you do not wish to share in Communion, we encourage you to come forward to receive a blessing. Simply fold your hands across your chest when you come forward. Gluten-free Communion wafers are now carried alongside regular wafers at Holy Communion. If you require one of these, simply ask at the Altar rail.*

*The clergy will carry Communion to anyone in the congregation who is unable to come forward. Please notify an usher if you wish to be served in your seat.*

Communion Music

*Dormi, Jesu*

John Rutter

*Sleep, Jesus! My cares beguiling; mother sits beside thee, smiling.  
If thou sleep not, mother mourneth, singing as her wheel she turneth. Sleep Jesus, tenderly!  
Come, soft slumber, balmily. Sleep, Jesus, tenderly!*

*Child of Light*

Daniel Kantor

Jill Lynch, solo

*Why only this darkened stable embraced the dawn of new life?  
Lowly manger to welcome our savior, this child of night needs our light.*

*Could it be that Creator, Builder has no home in creation?  
In his house will he find no home? Child of night, needs your light.*

*Sleep, sleep as the morning daybreak in song and sun shall arise.  
Eyes of wonder look upward from under the star of night, Child of light.*

*In this winter of aging darkness rays of youth will awaken.  
Warming hearts of unspoken love, Star of night, Child of Light.*

*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.*

*As you return to your pew after receiving Communion,  
please have your service candle ready to be lit again.*

*Please kneel or stand as able*

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

**All God and Father of Jesus, you have sent your Son to be our Savior:  
our light in the midst of darkness, our hope in the face of threats, our peace amid turmoil.  
In this word and sacrament we have seen him and know that your promises are true.  
Send us forth from this assembly to live in hope and peace, until we gather again at his table.  
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*All kneel as able to sing*

Silent Night, Holy Night

Franz Gruber

*Lift up your lit candle in the third verse when we sing, "Son of God..." and keep it held until the end of Silent 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.**

## Christmas Blessing

Celebrant      Gift-giving God of angels and stars, shepherds and magi, promise and hope;  
God, who calls and sends, blesses and guides:  
God of ancient love that is always new;  
God of Christmas, bless us now and always,  
in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*Please STAND, as able, and join in singing.*

## Recessional Hymn

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn #87

1. Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'  
*Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:  
hail, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as man us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

3. Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die.  
Born to raise us from the earth,  
Born to give us second birth.  
*Hark! The herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King!*

## The Sending Forth

Deacon      Let us go forth in Christmas joy and peace to love and serve the Lord.

People      **Thanks be to God!**

*Postlude:*

*"Adeste Fidelis" variations*

*Please extinguish your service candles  
and deposit them in the baskets provided by the ushers at the exit.*



