

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023



Ministers

Rector

Deacon

Senior Warden

Junior Warden

Minister of Music

Cantor

Administrative Assistant

The People of the Parish

The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris

The Rev. Kate Sefton

Jean Farmer

Meg Nalley

Miles McKenzie

Kristina Ibarra

Jun Kim

Welcome! Merry Christmas! We're so glad you've joined us this evening! Children are welcome to make an ornament at any point in the service. All children are welcome to join in the Christmas pageant as either animals or angels and should make their way to the back during the singing of "In the bleak Midwinter" on page 9. You are welcome to accompany any child who would like the support.

Christmas Eve

OPENING HYMN

O Come, all ye Faithful

please stand



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. † Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, †
3. † Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, †



1. come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2. Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
3. Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;



1. Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2. Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
3. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



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



come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

OPENING PRAYER

Presider I bring you good news of great joy:
People **a Savior has been born to you.**
Presider Unto us a child is born,
People **unto us a Son is given.**
Presider And his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

God of hope and expectation, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Your word is born to those who have no place and sung to those who watch in the wild; may his birth unsettle our world with hidden glory and untold peace; through Jesus Christ, the Child of Promise. **Amen.**

GLORIA

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1. Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing,
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored;



“Glo - ry to the new - born King! Peace on earth and
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Late in time be -



mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!”
hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car - nate



of the skies; with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim,
De - i - ty, pleased as man with us to dwell,



“Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!” Hark! The her - ald
Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el. Hark! The her - ald



an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”
an - gels sing, “Glo - ry to the new - born King!”

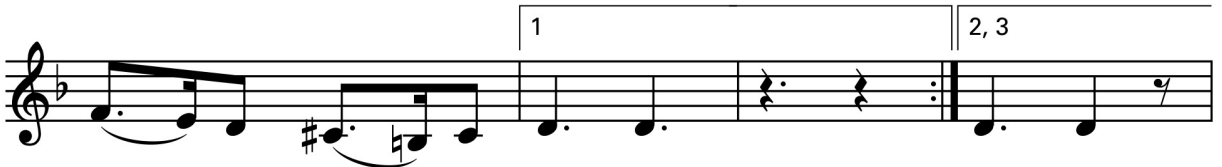
What Child is This



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma - ry's lap is
 2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
 3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas - ant, king, to



1. sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While
 2. feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The
 3. own him; The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let



1. shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 2. si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 3. lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, Whom shep - herds



guard and an - gels sing; Haste, haste to bring him



laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

HOW THE LIGHT COMES - *Jan Richardson*

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.

What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.

That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us.

That it loves
searching out
what is hidden,
what is lost,
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.

That it has a fondness
for the body,
for finding its way
toward flesh,
for tracing the edges
of form,
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.

I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.

That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.

And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.

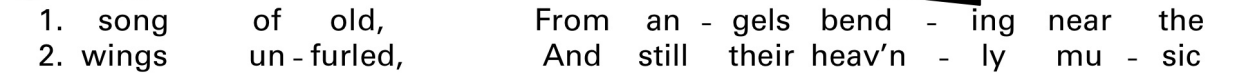
HYMN—It Came Upon a Midnight Clear



1. It came up - on the mid - night clear, That glo - rious
2. Still through the clo - ven skies they come, With peace - ful



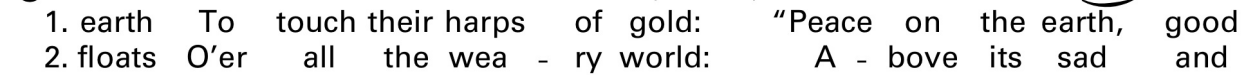
4. For, lo, the days are has - tening on, By proph - et



1. song of old, From an - gels bend - ing near the
2. wings un - furled, And still their heav'n - ly mu - sic



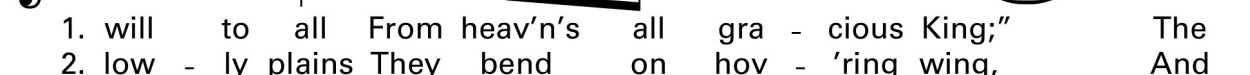
4. bards fore - told, When with the ev - er - cir - cling



1. earth To touch their harps of gold: "Peace on the earth, good
2. floats O'er all the wea - ry world: A - bove its sad and



4. years Comes 'round the age of gold; When peace shall o - ver



1. will to all From heav'n's all gra - cious King;" The
2. low - ly plains They bend on hov - 'ring wing, And



4. all the earth Its an - cient splen - dors fling, And

1. world in sol - emn still - ness lay, To hear the an - gels sing.
2. ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds The bless - ed an - gels sing.

4. all the world give back the song Which now the an - gels sing.



1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2. Our God, heav'n 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?



1. Earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 2. Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign.
 3. Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim throng - ed the air;
 4. If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



1. Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow ___ on ___ snow,
 2. In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed The
 3. But his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 4. If I were a Wise ___ Man, I would do my part; Yet



1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 2. Lord ___ God Al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 3. Wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 4. what I can I give him: give my heart.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT—*any child wishing to join in the pageant should make their way to the back.*

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

**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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

**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.**

AWAY IN A MANGER

**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.**

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

**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!**

**Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

THE FIRST NOWELL

**The first Nowell, the angel did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where 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.**

WE THREE KINGS

**We three kings of Orient are bearing gifts we traverse afar,
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.**

**O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding
Guide us to thy perfect light!**

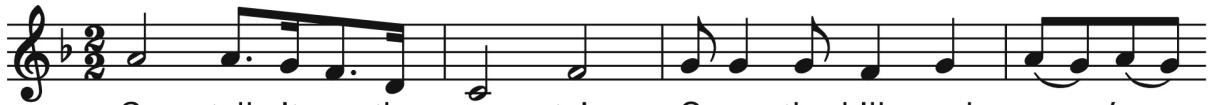
JOY TO THE WORLD

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! The savior reigns;
Let us our songs employ;
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

HYMN

Go Tell it on the Mountain



Go, tell it on the moun - tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry -



where; Go, tell it on the moun - tain That Je - sus Christ is born.



Verses

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,

2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When high a - bove the earth

4. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,



to Refrain

1. Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.

2. Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.

4. And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

CLOSING PRAYER AND BLESSING

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light.

For to us a child is born
to us a Son is given.

His name will be called
Wonderful counsellor, mighty God,
the everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest
and peace to God's people on earth.

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God be upon you this night
and remain with you always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace and joy, proclaiming love incarnate.
Glory, thanks, and praise.

*For our final carol, we will light our candles and sing by candle light. Once your
candle is lit, please pass on the light to those around you.*

CLOSING HYMN

Silent Night

Music on following page

Silent Night



1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm,
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herds quake
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,



all is bright Round yon Vir - gin Moth - er and Child,
at the sight; Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,
love's pure light Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,



Ho - ly In - fant so ten - der and mild, Sleep in heav - en - ly
Heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sav - ior, is
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace,
born!
birth, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

We wish you a merry Christmas!

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Poinsettia Dedications

In Memory of her daughter Sheri Ailen
Bonnie Walter-Cuff

In Memory Patricia Sefton
Mary Lou Sefton

In Memory of Richard Rolander
Loria Rolander

In Memory of Susan Malet
The Nalley Family

In Memory of Kenneth C. Brown
Jennifer Badde-Graves

In Memory of Margaret Watts & Mary Anne Buerge
Rod & Mary McAulay

In Memory of David Kerr, Fatima & José Laborda,
Arnold & Marion Harris, and William McConnell
The Laborda Harris Family

In Honor of Nancy A. Hall
In Memory of Marie B. Phillips
Linda Hall & Bill Phillips

In Memory of her husband Vic and her son Curt
Marilyn Metzgar

In Memory of F. W. Johnstone
Priscilla Johnstone

In Gratitude for the work of the Altar Guild
Linda Geiger