# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD: CHRISTMAS EVE December 24, 2023 Holy Eucharist at 4:30 p.m.



# SAINT JºHN'S CHURCH

## LAFAYETTE SQUARE • WASHINGTON, DC

St. John's is a church for people of all races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, and viewpoints grounded in love. Whoever you are, we welcome you. Welcome to St. John's Church, Lafayette Square. All are invited to participate in the service as able. Congregational responses appear in **bold**. Nursery care is available on the second floor of the Parish House.

Please remember to turn off your cell phone.

Prayer cards are provided at the entrance of the church. You are invited to write your prayers and place them in the collection plate. Your prayers will be blessed and will be prayed for by a priest during the week.

May the blessings and joys of Christmas be with you now and throughout the coming year.

The music for this service is dedicated to the glory of God, and is made possible in part by gifts from

Adelle Simmons

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Wendy J. Fibison in memory of Samuel Watson III and in thanksgiving for Peter T. Watkins

# PRELUDE MUSIC

VOLUNTARY	The Wexford Carol	Trent Johnson (b. 1963)		
<b>CAROL</b> Sung by the choir.	Sans Day Carol	arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)		
Now the holly bears a berry a and Mary bore Jesus, all wraj				
<i>v</i>	And Mary bore Jesus Christ our Savior for to be, and the first tree in the greenwood, it was the holly.			
Now the holly bears a berry a and Mary bore Jesus, who di	6 6			
Now the holly bears a berry a and Mary bore Jesus, who di				
Now the holly bears a berry, then trust we our Savior, whe				
—Traditional Cornish				
HYMN 105 Sung by all from t	he hymnal.	God rest you merry, gentlemen		
HARP	Whence is that goodly fragrance flowing	Traditional French arr. James Bingham (b. 1945)		
<b>CAROL</b> Sung by the choir.	Sussex Carol a	urr. David Willcocks (1919–2015)		
e	stians sing, to hear the news the angels bring: eat mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.			
•	rth be so sad since our Redeemer made us glac free, all for to gain our liberty?	1?		
A	grace, then life and health come in its place. y sing, all for to see the newborn King.			
	ight which made the angels sing this night: nen, now and for evermore. Amen!			
—Traditional English				
<b>HYMN 99</b> Sung by all from the	e bymnal.	Go tell it on the mountain		
HARP	Huron Carol	Traditional Canadian arr. Harriet Adie (b. 1980)		

**CAROL** Sung by the choir.

I saw three ships

I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day. I saw three ships come sailing in on Christmas Day in the morning.

And what was in those ships all three on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day? And what was in those ships all three on Christmas Day in the morning?

Our Savior Christ and his lady on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day. Our Savior Christ and his lady on Christmas Day in the morning.

Pray, whither sailed those ships all three on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day? Pray, whither sailed those ships all three on Christmas Day in the morning?

Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day. Oh, they sailed into Bethlehem on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the angels in heaven shall sing on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day. And all the angels in heaven shall sing on Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the souls on earth shall sing on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day. And all the souls on earth shall sing on Christmas Day in the morning.

Then let us all rejoice amain on Christmas Day, on Christmas Day. Then let us all rejoice amain on Christmas Day in the morning.

—Traditional English carol

HYMN 110 Sung by all from the hymnal.

The snow lay on the ground

VOLUNTARY

Canonic Variations on *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her* Johann Sebastian Bach (From heaven above to earth I come), BWV 769 (1685–1750)

# **CHORAL EUCHARIST**

#### **HYMN 83**

O come, all ye faithful

Sung by all. Please stand as you are able as the procession enters.





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

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.

# THE WORD OF GOD

Please remain standing as you are able.

*Priest* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

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

PriestThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

Priest 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.** 

# WELCOME

The Rev. Robert W. Fisher

Please be seated for the duration of the pageant, including the hymns.

#### **THE ANNUNCIATION**



Words: Basque carol; para. Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *Gabriel's Message*, Basque carol; harm. Edgar Pettman (1865-1943). Copyright © 1961 B. Feldman and Co Ltd., trading as H. Freeman & Co. Reproduced by permission of EMI Music Publishing Ltd. 138-140 Charing Cross Road, London WC2H OLD, England.

## THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST



Words: Charles Coffin (1676-1749); tr. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944), after John Chandler (1806-1876); alt. Music: *Winchester New*, melody from *Musicalishes Hand-Buch*, 1690; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889), alt.

8

#### JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM



Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

#### **THE SHEPHERDS**



Words: English Carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1841-1901); alt. refrain harm. and desc. Healey Willan (1880-1968). Alternative setting with descant, Copyright © 1926, by Oxford University Press,

#### **THE ANGELS**



Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958).

#### **THE ADORATION**



Words: Traditional carol. Music: *Cradle Song*, melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958).

#### **WONDER AND MAJESTY**



12



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

# THE PEACE

Please stand as you are able.

Priest and CastMay the peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please be seated.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

You may make an offering by placing your donation in the plate, or use this QR code to pay electronically. A donation via this code can go only to offerings and not to pledges or any other specific funds.



# **OFFERTORY ANTHEM**

Candlelight Carol

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Sung by the choir.

How do you capture the wind on the water? How do you count all the stars in the sky? How can you measure the love of a mother? Or how can you write down a baby's first cry? Candlelight, angel light, firelight, and star-glow shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing, "The Christ child is born."

Shepherds and wisemen will kneel and adore him, seraphim 'round him their vigil will keep. Nations proclaim him their Lord and their saviour, but Mary will hold him and sing him to sleep. Candlelight, angel light, firelight, and star-glow shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing, "The Christ child is born."

Find him in Bethlehem laid in a manger, Christ our redeemer, asleep in the hay, Godhead incarnate and hope of salvation, a child with his mother that first Christmas Day. Candlelight, angel light, firelight, and star-glow shine on his cradle 'til breaking of dawn. Gloria, gloria in excelsis Deo! Angels are singing, "The Christ child is born."

—John Rutter



Good Christian friends, rejoice





Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: In dulci jubilo, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Please remain standing as you are able.

Priest	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
	Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give God thanks and praise.

#### The priest continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 stand or kneel as you are able. The priest continues

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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People 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, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. John 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.

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

- *Priest* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to 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.



#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*Priest* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All persons, including children, are welcome to receive Holy Communion with us. Wait for an usher to call your pew to come forward. You will first be handed a wafer by a priest (gluten-free wafers are available by request) and then offered wine by a lay server. You may either sip the wine or dip your wafer into the wine. Receiving the bread alone is a valid way to share in the Eucharist. Parents may decide if their children receive the bread and/or wine. All may instead signal their desire to be blessed by the priest by crossing their arms over their chest.

# **COMMUNION ANTHEM**

In the bleak midwinter

Harold Darke (1888–1976)

Sung by the choir.

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.

Our God, 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 incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day, a breast full of milk and a manger full of hay: Enough for him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

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.

-Christina Rosetti (1830–1894)

#### **HYMN 81**

Sung by all from the hymnal, seated.

#### **HYMN 115**

Sung by all from the hymnal, seated.

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

What child is this, who, laid to rest

#### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

Please tip your candle into the flame to receive the light. After receiving the light, please hold your candle upright.



HYMN 111 Sung by all, seated or kneeling as you are able.

Silent night, holy night

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

## THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Please stand or kneel as you are able.

Priest Let us pray.

All Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

#### **THE BLESSING**

*Priest* Life is short. And we do not have too much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us. So be swift to love. Make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.** 

After the blessing, please cup your hand behind the flame and extinguish your candle.

## **HYMN 100**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come

Sung by all, standing as you are able.





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

# THE DISMISSAL

*Priest* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.*People* Thanks be to God.

## VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo, BWV 729

J.S. Bach (1685–1750)

At the conclusion of the service, please place your candle in the basket near the exit.

Readings: From the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music images reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701275.

## SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THE PRODUCTION OF THIS EVENING'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Director	Katherine Raab
Wardrobe Coordinator	Susan Cardwell
Volunteer Helpers	Debby Hailey
-	Felicia Owunwanne
	Hilary Thesmar

# CAST

Narrators	Gloria Burkhardt
	Zoe Fisher
	Cooper Thesmar
Mary	Lily Venzke
Joseph	Walker Crochet
Baby Jesus	Jo Ornstein
Baby John	Peter Holder
Elizabeth	Isabel Dennis
Donkey	Vincent Gaziano
Gabriel	Olivia Hughes
Star of Bethlehem	Molly Raab
Lead Shepherd	Ugochukwu Owunwanne

#### **SHEPHERDS**

Andrew Noonan	Nick Schoeneman
John Noonan	William Stolar
Lauren Raab	Jack Yeomans

#### **FRIENDLY BEASTS**

Samuel Akes-Cardwell	Charlie Rawlings
John "Jack" Kozlowski	Gus Rawlings
Isaac Ornstein	Kristian Robischon

#### ANGELS

Bianca Gaziano Georgia Rawlings Claire Gaziano Natalie Stolar Emma Hughes

#### **ASSISTING AT THIS SERVICE**

Anya Kleymenova, Crucifer

Zoe Fisher and Gus Tierney, Acolytes

Autumn Brown, Debby Hailey, and Diane Spaulding, Chalice Bearers

Robyne Johnston and Alfred Thesmar, Assistant Head Ushers

Linda Chen, RJ Lyerly, and Richard Young, Ushers

Sarah Agnes, Pat Dalby, Susan Feaster, Anne Harrington, Sarah Harrington, Joanne Hutton, Lara Kanitra, Katherine Kyle, Elizabeth Lewis, Sherill Mason, *Flower Guild* 

Ryan Wagner, Livestream Operator

#### **PARISH CHOIR**

\* Indicates staff singer

Annette Anfinrud, Elissa Edwards,\* Whitley Herndon, Kerry Holahan,\* Christina Wilson, and Tory Wood,\* *Sopranos* 

Alison Adkins, Barbara Burkhardt, Cay Buser, Nicole Feaster, Wendy J. Fibison, Sara Josey, Lisa Koehler,\* LaFleur Paysour, Charlotte Stewart,\* Louisa Waycott,\* and Margo Wiegenstein, *Altos* 

Philip Anfinrud, Craig Burkhardt, David Evans,\* Thomas Kingsley, Andrew Sauvageau,\* and William Watson,\* *Tenors* 

Jeff Bozman, Justin Dean,\* Matthew Ford, Christopher Jones,\* Bill Josey, and Nathan Lofton,\* *Basses* 

Gréta Ásgiersson, Harp

Please help us be good stewards of the environment. If you do not wish to take this bulletin home after the service, you may leave it at the end of the pew as you depart or place it in a blue recycling bin.

#### **ARE YOU NEW TO ST. JOHN'S?**

Please let us know who you are and how we can best serve you by filling out a "Welcome" card and leaving it in the offering plate or with an usher or greeter. + Free valet parking is available on Sundays from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Look for the valet sign at the corner of Black Lives Matter Plaza (16th Street) and H Street, NW. + Follow us on Instagram at @stjohnschurchlafayettesquare. See photos from St. John's musical performances, special events, meetings, Sunday services, and more. Relive the moment or experience it for the first time through the touch of a button on your smartphone.