

The priest then says:

The Almighty God bless us with his grace;
Christ give us the joys of everlasting life;
And to the fellowship of the citizens above,
may the King of Angels bring us all. *Amen.*

All are seated for the readings and anthems

THE FIRST LESSON: Genesis 3:8-15

Reader: Emma Baily, Youth

Parishioner

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike the heel.”

The word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM:

Adam Lay Ybounden

Boris Ord

Adam lay ybounden, Bounden in a bond;
Four thousand winter thought he not too long.
And all was for an apple, an apple that he took,
As clerkes finden written in their book.
Ne had the apple taken been, the apple taken been,
Ne had never our lady a-been heavené queen.
Blessed be the time that apple taken was,
Therefore we moun singen *Deo Gratias!*

THE SECOND LESSON: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

Reader: Don Layton, Chorister

Christ's birth and kingdom are foretold by Isaiah

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

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.

The word of the LORD.

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM:

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit and always green:
The trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ the apple tree.
His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell,
The glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree.
For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bout:
I missed of all; but now I see 'tin found in Christ the apple tree.
I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest a while:
Under the shadow I will be of Jesus Christ the apple tree.
The fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive;
Which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

THE THIRD LESSON: Isaiah 11: 1-9

Reader: Ron Magill, Parishioner

The peace that Christ will bring is foretold

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his

waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together, and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

The word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: *Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming* Michael Praetorius
Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as men of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half-spent was the night.
Isaiah 'twas fore-told it, the Rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To shew God's love aright, she bore to men a Savior,
When half-spent was the night.

THE FOURTH LESSON: Micah 5:2-5a Reader: Joanne Owen,
Minister of Music Emerita
The prophet Micah foretells the glory of tiny Bethlehem

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth, the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be one of peace.

The word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: *Enatus Est Emmanuel* Michael Praetorius
*Enatus est Emmanuel, Dominus, quem praedixit Gabriel,
Dominus Salvator noster est.
Hic jacet in praesepio, Dominus, puer admirabilis,
Dominus Salvator noster est.
Lauderue Pater, Filius, Dominus, et Sacratu Spiritus,
Dominus Salvator noster est.*

To us is born Emmanuel, Lord, fore-told by Gabriel,
The Lord is our Savior!
Here see Him in a manger lie, Lord, wondrous son,
The Lord is our Savior!
Now praise the Father, Son, Lord, and holy Spirit,
The Lord is our Savior!

All stand for the hymn

HYMN: *O Little Town of Bethlehem* [FOREST GREEN]

Stanzas 1 & 2: All
**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.**
**O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises bring to God the King, and peace to men on earth;
For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.**

Stanza 3: Choir only
**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

Stanza 45: Unison with Choir descant
**O Holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

THE FIFTH LESSON: St. Luke 1:26-38

Reader: William Clisham,
Minister of Music

The angel Gabriel greets the Blessed Virgin Mary

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The Virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the LORD God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now your relative Elizabeth in her old age has conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

The word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM:

Ave Maria

Serge Rachmaninoff

*Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum, bene dita tu in mulieribus
Et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus.
Sancta Maria, mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus
nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.. Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with You. Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.
Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners,
now and in the hour of our death. Amen.

THE SIXTH LESSON: St. Matthew 1:18-23

Reader: David Miller, Jr. Warden

St. Matthew tells of the birth of Jesus

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband, Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the LORD appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

The word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

Richard Shephard

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day, I would my true love did so chance,
To see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance;
Sing O my love, This have I done for my true love.
Then was I born of a Virgin pure; of her I took fleshly substance.
Thus was I knit to man's nature, to call my true love to my dance.
Sing O my love, This have I done for my true love.
In a manger laid and wrapped I was, so very poor; this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox an silly poor ass, to call my true love to my dance.
Sing O my love, This have I done for my true love.
Then afterwards baptized I was; the Holy Ghost on me did glance,
My Father's voice heard from above to call my true love to my dance.
Sing O my love, This have I done for my true love.
Tomorrow shall be my dancing day, I would my true love did so chance,
To see the legend of my play, to call my true love to my dance;
Sing O my love, This have I done for my true love.

THE SEVENTH LESSON: St. Luke 2:4-16 Reader: Sue Harker, Sr. Warden
St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of 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 shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks 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.

The word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: *Dies Sanctificatus* Jacobus Gallus

*Dies sanctificatus illuxit nobis:
Venite gentes, et adorete Dominum,
Quia hodie descendit lux magna in terras / super omnem terram.
Alleluia!*

A day made holy dawns upon us;
O come, all nations, and adore the lord;
For today a great light has descended upon earth / on all the earth.
Alleluia!

All stand for the Hymn.

HYMN: *Angels from the Realms of Glory* [REGENT SQUARE]

**Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar:
Seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.**

**Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born King.**

All are seated for the readings and the anthems

THE EIGHTH LESSON: St. Matthew 2:1-11 Reader: Rev. Sally Maurer, Deacon
The magi are led by the star to Jesus.

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is the shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star

that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star has stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

The word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM: *The Three Kings* Peter Cornelius / Ivor Atkins

Three Kings from Persian lands afar to Jordan follow the pointing star:
And this the quest of the travelers three, where the new-born King of the Jews my be.
Full royal gifts they bear for the King; gold incense, myrrh their offering.
The star shines out with a steadfast ray: the kings to Bethlehem make their way,
And there, in worship they bend the knee, as Mary's child in her lap they see;
Their royal gifts they show to the King; gold, incense, myrrh their offering.
Thou child of man, lo, to Bethlehem the kings are trav'ling,--travel with them!
The star of mercy, the star of grace, shall lead thy heart to its resting place.
Gold, incense myrrh thou canst not bring; offer thy heart to the infant King.
Offer thy heart!

How brightly shines the morning star! With grace and truth from heaven afar
Our Jesse tree now bloweth.
Of Jesse's stem and David's line, for Thee, my Bridegroom, King divine,
My soul with love o'er-floweth.
Thy word, Jesu, inly feeds us, rightly leads us, life bestowing.
Praise, O praise such love o'er-floweth.

All stand for the Hymn.

HYMN: *What Child Is This?* [GREENSLEEVES]

**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, hast to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word I s pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, hast to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, hast to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

All remain standing for the reading of the Ninth Lesson.

THE NINTH LESSON: St. John 1:1-14 Reader: Rev. Fr. Steven E. Carrol, Rector
St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him is life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The word of the LORD.
Thanks be to God!

All remain standing for the Hymn.

HYMN:

O Come, All Ye Faithful

[ADESTE FIDELES]

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;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
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 heav'n above;
Glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flock, draw nigh to gaze;
We too with thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Child, for us sinners, poor and in a manger,
Fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;
Who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

All are seated for the Offering and Anthem

THE COLLECTION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

ANTHEM:

The Wexford Carol

arr. Robert Wetzler

Good people all, this Christmas time, consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done, in sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love the Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn there was blessed Messiah born.
With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went the Babe to find,
And as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love the Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn there was blessed Messiah born.

All stand for the collects

THE COLLECTS:

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him, when he shall come to be our judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Almighty God, you have given us your only-begotten Son to take our human nature upon himself, and to be born of the Virgin Mary. Grant that we, having been made children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through the same Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*.

THE BLESSING

May he who by his incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you now and forever. *Amen*.

THE RECESSIONAL HYMN: *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*
[MENDELSSOHN]

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 th'angelic host proclaim, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come, off-spring of a virgin's womb;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see, hail th'incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with men to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the new-born King

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 man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing Glory to the new-born King

ORGAN POSTLUDE: *In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729* Johann Sebastian Bach

The St. John's Choir

Gail Boyd	Mary Anne Clisham
Kelly Freno	DeeAnn Harris
Jeannie Miller	Ann Neff
Cassandra Moore	Gwen Norton
Virginia Sisco	
	Don Layton
Nate Gable	George Neff
Les Andres	Jerry Pinner

Director:

William F Clisham, Jr., Minister of Music

Guest Organist:

Joanne Owen, Minister of Music Emerita

CHRISTMAS EVE at ST. JOHN'S
THURSDAY
DECEMBER 24

5:00 PM

Blessing of the Crèche & Family Eucharist

10:00 PM

**A Festival Offering of Music for Handbells, Choir, and Organ
preceding the**

10:30 PM

Christmas Eve Festival Holy Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY
FRIDAY
DECEMBER 25
10:00 AM

Quiet (spoken) Holy Eucharist – Rite II

In the Chapel