

# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2021

3:30 pm



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

17 Oak Avenue

Metuchen, NJ 08840

[www.stlukesmetuchen.org](http://www.stlukesmetuchen.org)

The Rev. Edmund W. Zelle, Rector

Mr. Ron Baltimore, Music Minister

Christmas Eve  
The Holy Eucharist  
December 24, 2018

Introit "O Holy Night", Giovanni Figuera, solo

Hymn 83 vs. 1, 2, 3, & 6

*Adeste fideles*

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.

**6      Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
           Born this happy morning;  
           Jesus, to thee be glory given.  
           Word of the Father,  
           Now in flesh appearing;**

### The Collect of the Day

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

# Hymn 102 (vs. 1 solo, CeCe Donohue), 2, 4 & 6

*Irby*

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. —

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.

*Unison or harmony*

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*

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.

## Scripture

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 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 amongst those who he favors!**

Hymn 94 vs. 1,2&6

Winchester Old

*Descant*

2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;  
 6 "All glo - ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,  
 2 "Fear not," said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;  
 3 "To you, in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da - vid's line  
 4 "The heav - en - ly Babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played,  
 5 Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth - with ap - peared a shin - ing throug

2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.  
 6 good will hence - forth from heaven to men be - gin and nev - er cease."

1 the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.  
 2 "Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.  
 3 the Sa - vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
 4 all mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid."  
 5 of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high  
 and on the earth be peace;  
 good will henceforth from heaven to men  
 begin and never cease."

## Scripture

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. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart.

## Hymn 101 vs. 1, 2 (vs. 3, solo Emily Grosso) Cradle Song



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,  
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,  
\* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.  
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.  
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,  
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.  
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.  
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

## Scripture

In the time of 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 to shepherd my people Israel.’”

## Hymn 128

*Mowsley*

(vs.2,3,4 Solos Emily Grosso, Katy Donohue, Giovanni Fighera)

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing  
1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,  
1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.

*Refrain*

O star of won - der, star of night,  
 star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,  
 still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

*The stanzas may be sung by three soloists: 1 and 5 by the ensemble; 2-4 by individuals; and the refrain by all.*

## Scripture

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star 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 had 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. And having been

warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Hymn 79 vs 1,2,3,5

O, Little of Bethlehem

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

## The Offertory

### **Anthem**      A Maiden Most Gentle      arr. Andrew Carter

A maiden most gentle and tender we sing: Of Mary the mother of Jesus our King. Ave, Maria, Ave, Maria. How blessed is the birth of her heavenly child, who came to redeem us in Mary so mild. Ave, Maria, Ave, Maria. The Archangel Gabriel foretold by his call The Lord of creation and Saviour of all. Ave, Maria, Ave, Maria. Three Kings came to worship with gifts rich and rare, And marveled in awe at the babe in her care. Ave, Maria, Ave, Maria. Rejoice and be glad at this Christmas we pray; Sing praise to the Saviour, sing endless 'Ave'. Ave, Maria, Ave, Maria. Ave, Maria, Ave, Maria.

## The Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive the Body and Blood of Christ

### **Eucharistic Prayer B**

*The people remain standing.*

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* 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 thou didst send thy beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting

life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant 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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

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 Luke 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.

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

*People and Celebrant*

## **Lord's Prayer**

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

## Agnus Dei S164

F. Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The image shows a musical score for 'Agnus Dei S164' by Franz Schubert. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.', 'Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.', 'Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:', and 'give us your peace, give us your peace.' The score ends with a double bar line.

## Anthem Camel, Kneel Softly

S.H. Paterson

Camel, kneel softly, the babe has been found. You've followed, you've travelled, you've found hallowed ground. You've carried your Master to Bethlehem town. Camel kneel softly tonight, tonight, camel kneel softly tonight.

Camel kneel softly, the star in the sky is twinkling so brightly, it shines in your eye. Your heavenly Father has shown you the way. Camel rest gently today, today, camel rest gently today.

Camel kneel softly in praise of a King. The journey is over the archangels sing, the wise men and shepherds, their presents they bring. Camel kneel softly tonight, tonight.

Camel kneel softly, kneel proudly, rest easily. Camel kneel softly tonight.

### Hymn 111 (Introduced in German by Katy Donohue) *Stille Nacht*

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - dian beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

# Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Let us pray in union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen (From the Prayer Book for the Armed Forces from The Episcopal Church)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## Seasonal Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature

upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.

*Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

*Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

*Amen.*

# Hymn

Mendelssohn

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!

# Dismissal



Celebrant	The Rev. Barbara Crafton
Music Minister	Ron Baltimore
Eucharistic Minister/Crucifer	Carson Tramontin

## Choir

CeCe Donohue, Katy Donohue,  
Giovanni Fighera, Emily Grosso, Roman Grosso,  
Trenier Quander

## Altar Guild

Karen Gough, Diane Lebida,  
Pat Quirk, Ellie Rosen, Mary Sinha,  
Gail Zelle