

GRACE AND ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & HOLY EUCHARIST

December 24, 2025

3:30PM

WELCOME TO GRACE AND ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

In this Christmas season we remember that the God who was born into this world two thousand years ago still comes near, to dwell in our hearts, to break into our lives, to live with us in all of our messiness and complexities. This is our God: the God who comes to us, even when we are sure we are out of reach; even when we are sure we are unworthy of God's love.

In response to such great, merciful, limitless love, we bring our finest offering: "ourselves, our souls and bodies." Because God always comes to us, because God is not scared away by our hurts, our situations, or our burdens, we offer our praise and worship surrounded by this holy family, the family God has made for us by the waters of baptism: the Church. In this place, in this holy season, we offer to God our lives in worship: a humble gift to the one who has given us so very much.

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2025 at 3:30PM



*We give thanks to those who generously gave in support of
Advent Decor and Music*



Diana Anderson

In honor of Doug Anderson and Josh Anderson

Jack & Deb Barry

In memory of Murphy Barry

Father Robert

*In honor of The Vestry, Staff, and People of Grace and
St. Stephen's*

Tyler and Robert Black

In honor of Eleanor and Rowen

Gayle Bleckert

In memory of family

John Bois

In memory of my beloved grandmother Alice

Shane & Stormy Burns

In honor of our beloved organist, Joel

Sue Culver

In memory of Basil & Jean Culver

Sue Culver

In memory of Pearl Pickering

Nancy Duell

In memory of Amy Duell and Father Ken Burton

Dierdre & Tom Duff

In honor of Evan, Elena, and Ryan Duff

Joseph Galema

Anna Johnson

In memory of Guinevere & Lewis Johnson

Marianna McJimsey

*In memory of Robert McJimsey and in thanksgiving for
our children, Elizabeth, George, and Katharine*

Dave & Leah Niedringhaus

In memory of our son, Patrick

Robyn Noufer

In memory of Cody Snodgres

Brian & Lauren Pilger

In memory of Barbara "Nana" Hoffman

Mary Roney

Kathye Stribrny

In honor of Kenneth Mac

Tom & Corie Wilcox

In honor of Martha deUlibbani

Fran Zankowski

To the glory of God

Christmas Eve

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT & HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Es ist Ein Ros' entsprungen
Prelude on 'The holly and the ivy'
The First Noel
In Dulci Jubilo, BWV 729

Johannes Brahms
Herbert Sumson
arr. Douglas E. Bush
Johann Sebastian Bach

THE WORD OF GOD

The people stand.

HYMN 83: O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Adeste fideles

1. O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O come ye, O come ye to
2. God from God, Light from Light e-ter-nal, lo, he ab-hors not the
3. Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion, sing, all ye ci-ti-zens of

Beth-le-hem; come, and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels;
Vir-gin's womb; on-ly-be-got-ten Son of the Fa-ther;
heaven a-bove; glo-ry to God, glo-ry in the high-est;

O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him,
O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord.

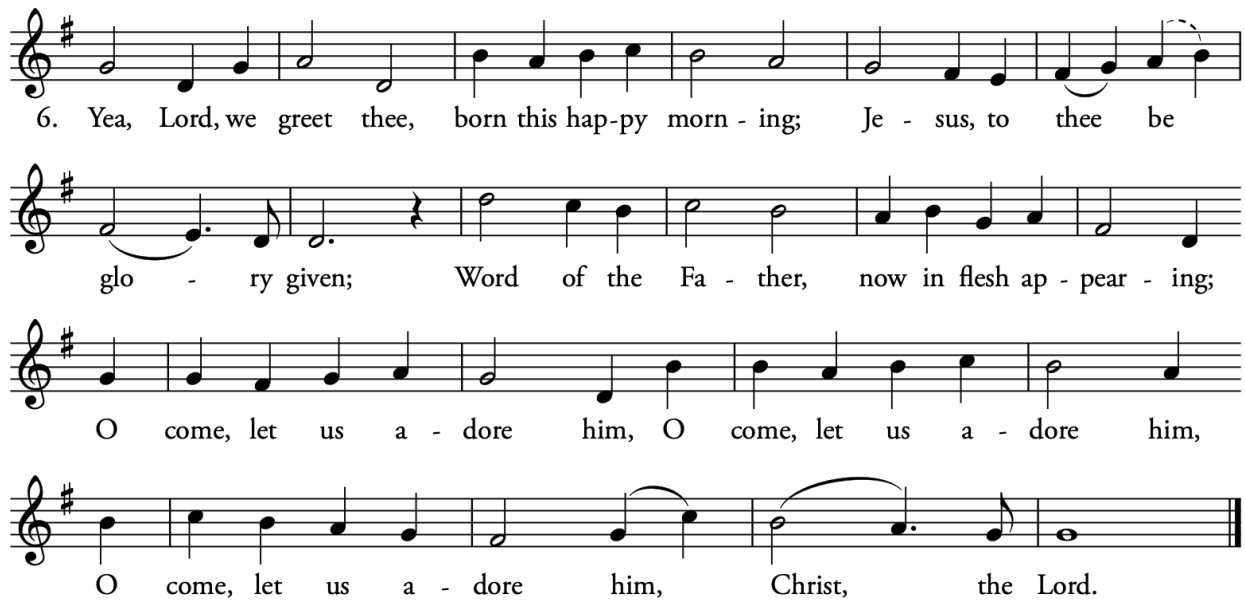
BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

The procession halts at the crèche.

Celebrant Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY GOD, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The hymn continues on the next page.



Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786), tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)
 Music: John Francis Wade (1711-1786), harm. *The English Hymnal*

Celebrant The glory of the Lord has been revealed:
People **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

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.**

THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The people sit and remain seated until the hymn "Joy to the World". The stars will be seated in the front pews with their families.

INTRODUCTION

THE PROPHECIES

Isaiah 9:2-4, 11:1-2, 6, 9:6-7

CAROL: O come, O come, Emmanuel (HYMN 56, vv. 1, 3 & 6)

Veni, veni Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran-som cap-tive Is - ra - el,
3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Si - nai's height
6. O come, thou Day-spring from on high, and cheer us by thy draw - ing nigh;



that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
in an - cient times didst give the law, in cloud, and maj - es - ty, and awe.
dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and death's dark shad-ow put to flight.



Re - joice! Re-joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Words: Latin, ca. 9th century; Music: Plainsong, adapt. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

THE ANNUNCIATION

Luke 1:26-35

CAROL: O little town of Bethlehem (HYMN 79, vv. 1-3)

St. Louis



1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie! A - bove thy deep and
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove, while mor - tals sleep, the
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given! So God im - parts to



dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the
an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love. O morn-ing stars, to - geth - er pro -
hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven. No ear may hear his com - ing, but



ev - er - last-ing Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.
claim the ho - ly birth! and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
in this world of sin, where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.

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

THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL: Away in a manger (HYMN 101)

Mueller

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

Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked
Je - sus no cry - ing he makes. I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
ev - er, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in

down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
down from the sky, and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.
thy ten - der care, and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Words: Traditional carol; Music: James Ramsey Murray (1841-1905)

THE ANGELIC HOST

Luke 2:8-13

CAROL: Angels we have heard on high (HYMN 96, vv. 1 & 2)

Gloria

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night, and the moun - tains
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer? What great bright - ness

in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light. Glo - - -
did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo -

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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

IN THE STABLE

Luke 2:15-16

CAROL: The first Nowell (HYMN 109, vv. 1, 2 & 4)

The First Nowell

1. The first No - well the an - gel did say was to cer - tain poor
2. They look - ed up and saw a star shin - ing in the
4. This star drew nigh to the north - west, o'er Beth - le -
shep-herds in fields as they lay; in fields as they lay, keep-ing their
east be - yond them far, and to the earth it gave great
hem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and
sheep, on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep. No - well, No -
light, and so it con - tin-ued both day and night.
stay right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
well, No - well, No - well, born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Words: English carol, 18th century; Music: harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

THE SHEPHERDS' JOY

Luke 2:17-20

The people stand, and the pageant participants join their families in the pews.

CAROL: Joy to the world! (HYMN 100, vv. 1, 2 & 4)

Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her King;
2. Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our songs em - ploy,
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove
let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and heaven and na - ture sing,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re - peat the sound-ing joy,
the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and won-ders of his love,
and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
and won-ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) | Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

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.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. (EPHESIANS 5:2)

Give here:



OFFERTORY ANTHEM: *On this day earth shall ring* Personent Hodie, arr. Gustav Holst

On this day earth shall ring with the song children sing to the Lord, Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the father gave us. Ideo gloria in excelsis Deo! [Therefore, glory to God in the highest!] His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth Bethlehem saw his birth; ox and ass beside him from the cold would hide him. God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low by his bed, lay their gifts before him, praise him and adore him. On this day angels sing; with their song earth shall ring, praising Christ, heaven's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

Words: Piae Cantiones, 1582; trans. Jane Marion Joseph, c. 1917

PRESENTATION HYMN (HYMN 82, v. 4)

Divinum mysterium

The people stand

Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing, and un - wea - ried prais - es be;
hon - or, glo - ry and do - min - - - ion, and e -
ter - nal vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

Words: Marcus Prudentius (348-410); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866) & Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.
Music: German carol, 14th century; Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING


Book of Common Prayer, 402

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.**

The Celebrant continues... "proclaiming your glory, as we sing:"

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Franz Schubert (S130)



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.

Please remain standing, the Celebrant continues...

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,

THE 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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*The celebration of the Holy Eucharist has been called the “source and summit” of the faith and it is central to our identity, as in this sacred meal we are gathered in beloved community, made present to the Passion of our Lord, and nourished in God’s abundant love in the Body and Blood of Christ, the bread of heaven and the cup of salvation. Therefore, **all are welcome and invited to come forward to participate in the grace and peace of Communion.** There are a few ways that you can do this:*

- *Receive both the bread and wine: Place one palm on top of the other and you will be given a piece of bread, which you consume. Please do not take the bread, but allow the clergy to place it on your palm. When the chalice comes to you, please assist by guiding the chalice to your lips. Please note that there is no self-intincting (dipping) of the bread into the chalice.*
 - *If, due to illness or preference, you are not able to drink from the chalice, place your palms face down before receiving the bread. The clergy will then intinct (dip) the bread into the chalice for you. Turn your palms over to receive.*
 - *If you need to receive a **gluten-free** wafer, please let the clergy person distributing bread know. You will be given wine from a separate chalice for those receiving gluten-free wafers.*
- *Receive only the bread: Cross your arms across your chest after receiving the bread to indicate that you do not wish to receive the chalice.*
- *Receive a prayer of blessing: If you prefer not to receive Communion, or are not Baptized, cross your arms across your chest before receiving the bread. All Baptized Christians (in any tradition or denomination) are welcome to receive Communion. If you are not Baptized and desire to be a part of and receive the Body of Christ, please speak with our clergy.*

Please fill the Altar Rail from right to left (wall to the middle on the right side & middle to wall on the left side), return to your pew via the side aisles. You may kneel or stand to receive. If you need Communion brought to you in the pew, please let an usher know.

As you wait to go forward to receive Communion, or afterward, you might find prayers 66 & 67 on page 834 of the Prayer Book to be helpful. It is our intention that as we share in this Sacrament that we behold what we are and become what we receive.

COMMUNION ANTHEM: Ave Maria

Simon Lindley

Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum; 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 thee; and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN 115: WHAT CHILD IS THIS

Greensleeves



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
3. So bring him in - cence, gold, and myrrh, come, peas - ant king, to own him;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 the King of kings sal - va - tion brings, let 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.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898); Music: English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

COMMUNION HYMN 112: IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

Cranham



1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan, earth stood hard as
2. Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain; heaven and earth shall
3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there, cher - u - bim and
4. What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a



i - ron, wa - ter like a stone; snow had fall - en, snow on snow,
 flee a - way when he comes to reign: in the bleak mid - win - ter a
 ser - a - phim throng - ed the air; but his mo - ther on - ly,
 shep - herd, I would bring a lamb, if I were a wise man,



snow on snow, in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 sta - ble - place suf - ficed the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 in her maid - en bliss, wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 I would do my part; yet what I can I give him give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894); Music: Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

The people stand or kneel.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant Let us pray.

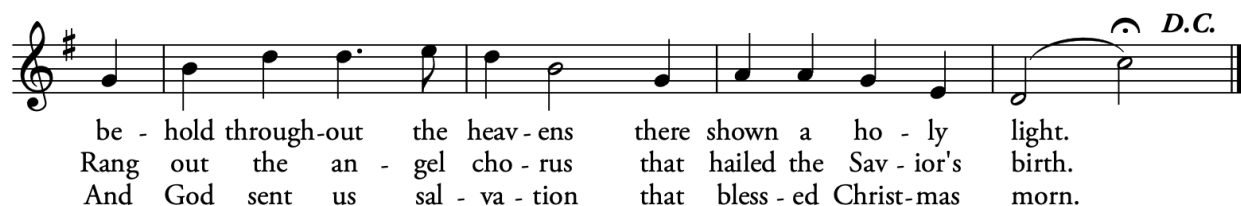
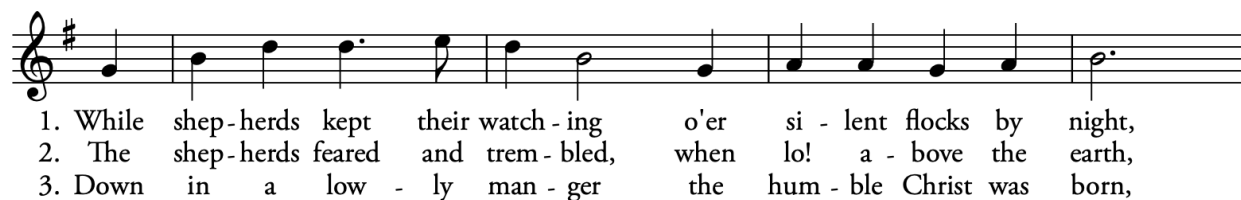
ETERNAL GOD, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness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

THE BLESSING

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

The people stand.

HYMN (LEVAS) 21: GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN



Words and Music: African-American spiritual 19TH cent.; adapt. John W. Work (1901-1967)

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY: *Toccata on "Mendelssohn"*

Craig Phillips

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