

# CHRISTMAS EVE FESTIVAL EUCHARIST

*Especially for Children and their Families*

ST. PAUL'S ON THE GREEN | DECEMBER 24, 2025 - 3:00PM


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PRELUDE

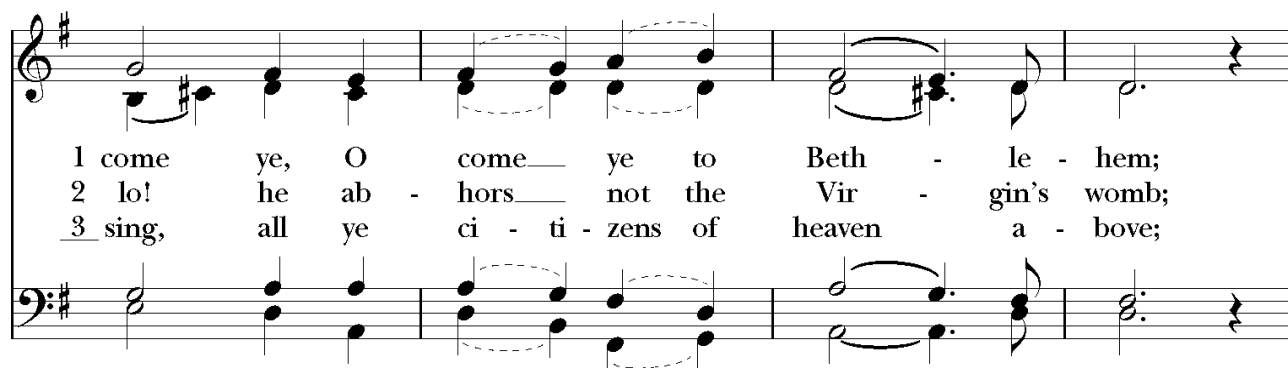
*A Christmas Fantasy - Jonathan Scott*

*Please stand as the bell sounds.*

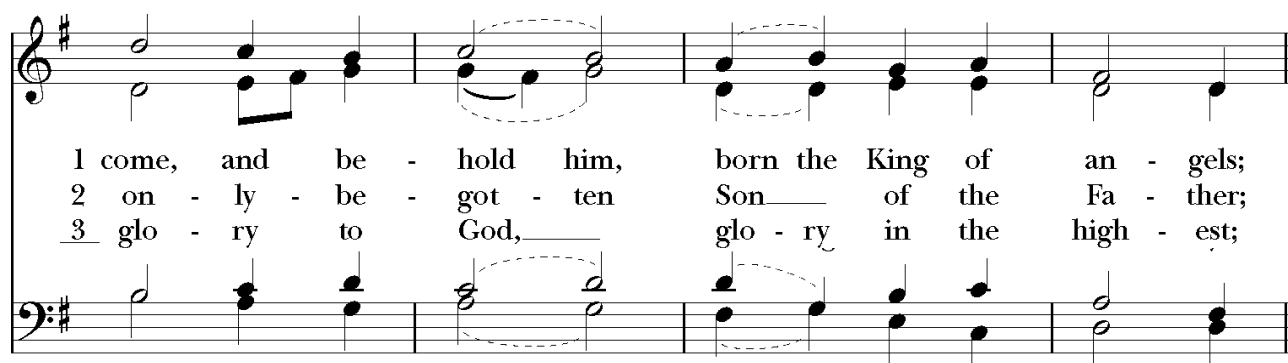




1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,



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;



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;

*Refrain*



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



6 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. Fredrick Oakley (1802-1880) and others


Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*The People say the responses printed in bold.*

Blessed be God, born to us in Christ, the Light of the world.

**Glory to God forever and ever.**



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - 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), alt.  
Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887–1958)

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy moment to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## THE LESSON     *seated*

*Isaiah 9:2,6-7*

The people who 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the People.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their  
2 The shep - herds feared and  
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang  
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

*Repeat Refrain*

hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American spiritual 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901)  
Music: Go Tell It on the Mountain, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935)

*For the telling of the Christmas Gospel: Kids, please bring your parents forward to the carpet to listen to the story.*

*This is the Scripture from which the Gospel storytelling is taken.*

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. 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 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. 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. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of Love and Peace, you are always coming into the world in every moment and in every place. Come to us now and let us receive you into our hearts as the Christ Child was received by those present at his birth.

God of the angels, give us voices to speak the truth and to sing out your love in all we do.

God of the angels,  
**Hear us and help us.**

God of the shepherds, bless our lives with the desire and the courage to follow you, wherever your way leads us.

God of the shepherds,  
**Hear us and help us.**

God of the new parents, Mary and Joseph, bless all families with the joy and wonder of your life-giving Presence, each and every day.

God of Mary and Joseph,  
**Hear us and help us.**

God of the Wise Ones, give your church gifts to share and the will to leave home and find you among the poor of this world.

God of the Wise Ones,  
**Hear us and help us.**

God of the children, give us the wisdom and the strength to stand against violence and to protect the powerless.

God of the children,  
**Hear us and help us.**

*The Celebrant concludes*

God of wonder, you arrive in our lives in ways we do not anticipate and cannot comprehend. May we so marvel at the mystery of your Love come among us, that our hearts are renewed and our lives are transformed as you are daily born within us. In the name of Jesus Christ, whose birth changes everything.

**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of peace with those around you.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS *seated*

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### Supporting the Ministry of St. Paul's

St. Paul's is fully supported by the contributions of its members and friends. Visit the address below or click on the QR code to learn more about the opportunities to give. Please consider making a meaningful year-end gift or make an ongoing sustaining gift to ensure the enduring and vibrant ministry of this place. Thank you for your participation and support!

*[stpaulsnorwalk.org/support](http://stpaulsnorwalk.org/support)*

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**Nativity Carol**

*John Rutter (b. 1945)*

Born in a stable so bare  
Born so long ago  
Born 'neath light of star  
He who loved us so. *Chorus*

*Chorus:*  
Far away, silent he lay  
Born today, your homage pay  
For Christ is born for aye  
Born on Christmas Day

Cradled by mother so fair  
Tender her lullaby  
Over her son so dear  
Angel hosts fill the sky. *Chorus*

Wise men from distant far land  
Shepherds from starry hills  
Worship this babe so rare  
Hearts with his warmth he fills. *Chorus*

Love in that stable was born  
Into our hearts to flow  
Innocent dreaming babe  
Make me thy love to know. *Chorus*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.  
 Music: Antioch, Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Loving God, you gather us at this table with grateful hearts. You fill our lives with good gifts: the world you made, the people we love, and the promise of your presence with us. In love you gave us your Son, Jesus, born among us in lowliness and joy.

And so, with the angels, and with saints of every time and place, we lift our voices and praise your holy name as we sing:

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, Ho - ly,  
10 ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, heav-en and earth are  
19 full, full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high -  
28 est. Ho - san - na in the high - est Bless-ed is he who comes  
37 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
43 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Loving God, we thank you for our brother Jesus – friend of children, companion of the poor, teacher of love and courage. He showed us how to trust you and how to live for one another.

On the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “Take, eat: this is my Body, given for you.” After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with them, saying, “Drink this, all of you: this is my Blood of the promise, poured out for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

God of love, recalling the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, we gather in the light of his living presence. Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, and upon us who gather here. May Christ be born anew in our hearts. May his light shine in our lives and dispel the darkness of the world.

As we stand together at the manger, draw us ever closer to you, until we join with Mary and Joseph, with shepherds and saints, and all your children, rejoicing in the light of your love.

We give you glory through Jesus Christ, in the communion of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

#### THE LORD’S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, so we pray:

**Our Father, in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
And forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

#### THE COMMUNION

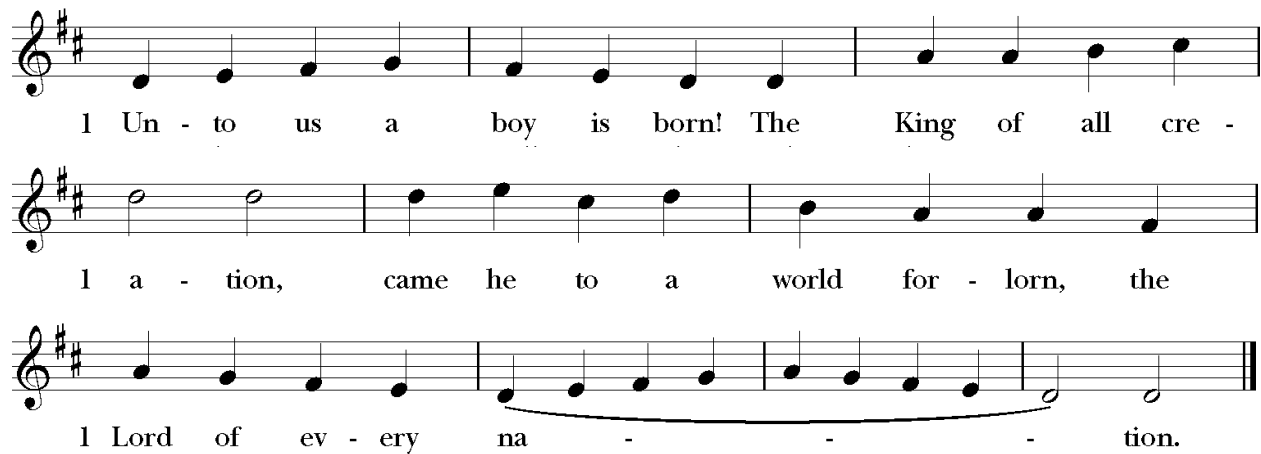
*The Celebrant breaks the bread and invites the People to Communion, saying*

Alleluia! The Word becomes bread for the world.

**Broken that we may be whole. Alleluia!**

*Everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Communion. Please follow the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free bread is available upon request; grape juice is available in the blue-dot cups at the side altars. (For the health of all, we are no longer dipping the bread into the chalice by hand.)*

*All sing together as the distribution of Communion begins.*



Music: *Puer nobis nascitur*, melody from *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; harm. Geoffrey Turton Shaw (1879–1943)

## ANTHEM AT COMMUNION *sung by the Choir*

### Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day

*John Gardner (1917 – 2011)*

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;

#### *Chorus:*

Sing, oh! my love, oh! my love, my love, 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. *Chorus*

In a manger laid, and wrapped I was  
So very poor, this was my chance  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass  
To call my true love to my dance. *Chorus*

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. *Chorus*



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.

Words: Traditional carol

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

## THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *standing*

Let us pray together.

Loving God,  
 you have fed us with the spiritual food  
 of Christ's Body and Blood.  
 As we stand before the manger  
 and worship your Son,  
 fill us with the angels' song,  
 that we may bear your love and goodness to the world;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels,  
the wonder of the shepherds,  
and the peace of Christ  
keep your hearts this Christmas.

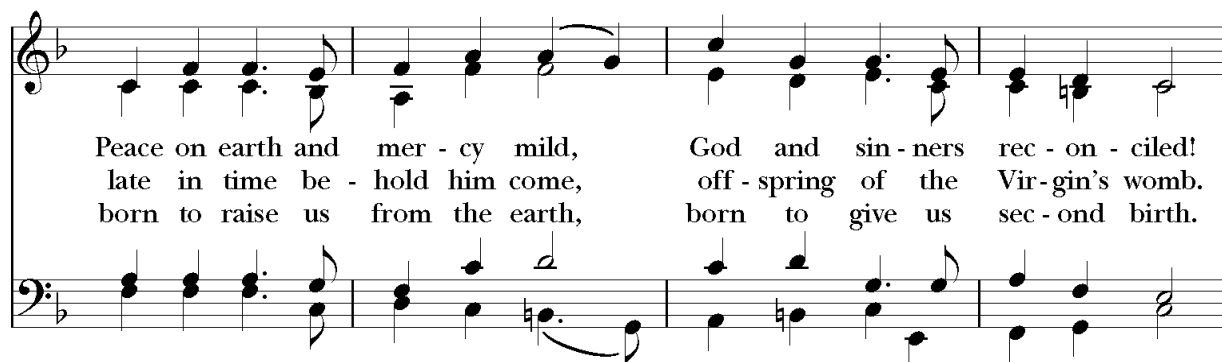
And the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

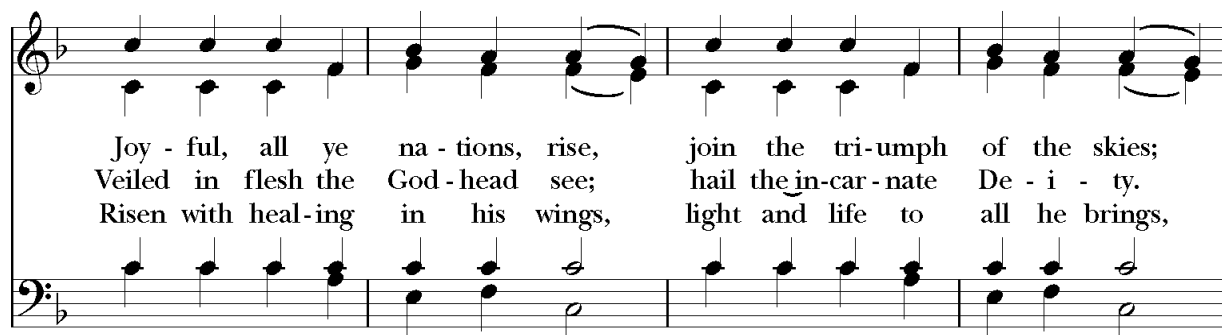
FINAL HYMN *sung in place*



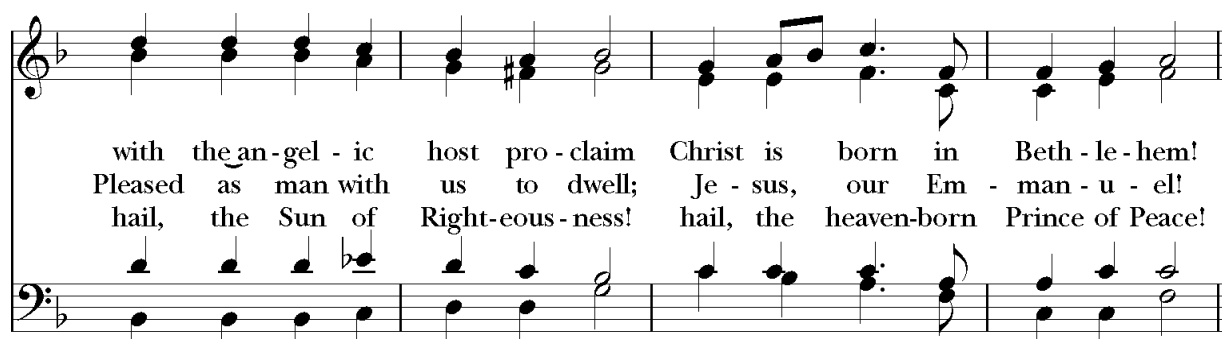
1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831–1915)



## THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace to proclaim good news of great joy to all people!

**Thanks be to God!**

## ORGAN VOLUNTARY

*Christmas “Adeste Fideles”* – Gaston Dethier (1875 – 1958)



# CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

## THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25

11:00am Holy Eucharist with Hymns

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28

9:00 & 11:00am Holy Eucharist with Hymns

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

6:00pm New Year's Eve Service with Burning Bowl

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ST PAUL'S ON THE GREEN – 60 EAST AVE., NORWALK, CT 06851

Contact us at: 203-847-2806 [info@stpaulsnorwalk.org](mailto:info@stpaulsnorwalk.org)

The Rev. Daniel Simons *Rector*

The Rev. Paul Carling *Priest Associate*

Savannah Curro *Seminarian*

Joshua Ehlebracht *Director of Music*

Marsha Dunn *Parish Administrator*

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