



## **Christmas Eve Family Service**

**December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**4:30 p.m.**

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church**

**Henrik Sonntag, Pastor**

**120 N. Easton Road**

**Glenside, PA**

**215-884-3005**

## Preparation for Worship through Carols

*Welcome to all who worship this joyous day!*

*Worship on Christmas Eve provides holy moments of quiet in the midst of an eve of excitement.*

*Together, let us prepare for worship through the joyful singing of carols.*

### CAROL SING PRELUDE:

No. 288

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice  
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*In Dulci Jubilo*



- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
now ye hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
now ye need not fear the grave; Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
He has o - pened heav - en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.  
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

O Little Town of Bethlehem  
O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
For Christ is born of Mar - y, and, gath - ered all a - bove  
How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly the won - drous gift is giv'n!  
O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - d'ring love.  
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heav'n.  
cast out our sin, and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing light.  
O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth,  
No ear may hear his com - ing; but, in this world of sin,  
We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
and prais - es sing to God the king, and peace to all the earth!  
where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
oh, come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Im - man - u - el!

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear  
 It Came upon the Midnight Clear



1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,  
 2 Still through the clo - ven skies they come with peace - ful wings un - furled,  
 3 And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
 4 For lo! The days are has - t'ning on, by proph - ets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
 and still their heav'n - ly mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world.  
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way with pain - ful steps and slow:  
 when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heav'n's all - gra - cious king."  
 A - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - 'ring wing,  
 look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 and ev - er o'er its ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 oh, rest be - side the wea - ry road and hear the an - gels sing!  
 and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

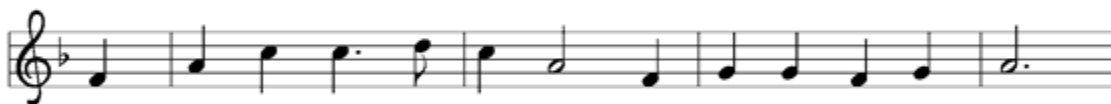
## Go Tell It on the Mountain

*Refrain*

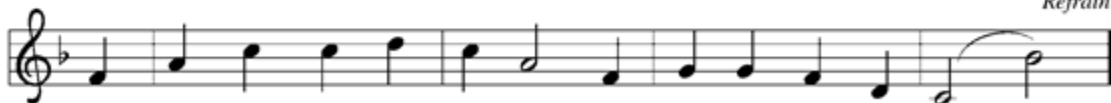
Go tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;



go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo, a - bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born;



be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

*Refrain*

Text: African American spiritual, refrain; John W. Work Jr., 1872–1925. stanzas, alt.

Music: GO TELL IT, African American spiritual

# WELCOME MESSAGE

## PROCESSIONAL CAROL No. 283 O, Come, All Ye Faithful *Adeste Fideles*

### O, Come, All Ye Faithful



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant! O  
2 The high - est, most ho - ly, light of light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
born of a vir - gin, a mor - tal he comes;  
sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav - en a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be . . . glo - ry giv'n!



come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels:  
Son of the Fa - ther now in flesh ap - pear - ing!  
Glo - ry to God . . . in . . . the . . . high - est:  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

#### *Refrain*



*Ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus, ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus,*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



*ve - ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num,*  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2  
Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade

## THE GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**Anthem**

***O Come, Little Children***

Mark Patterson

*O come, little children, O come, one and all  
to Bethlehem's stable, in Bethlehem's stall,  
and see with rejoicing this glorious sight  
our Father in heaven has sent us this night.*

*O see in the manger in hallowed light  
a star throws its beam on this holiest sight.*

*In clean swaddling clothes lies the heavenly child,  
more lovely than angels this baby so mild.*

*O come, little children, O come, one and all  
to Bethlehem's stable in Bethlehem's stall.*

*As Mary and Joseph smile on him with love  
the angels are singing sweet songs from above.  
The angels are singing sweet songs from above.*

St. Paul's Children's Choir

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

## **THE WORD**

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## **THE DECREE**

And in these days a decree goes out to all the world, for these are taxing times. We are all called again to go to Bethlehem, no matter the state of our health or our world. We come, obedient and faithful, for we have heard the message, we have dreamed the dream that God will come to dwell among us. We come, expectant with joy, pregnant with anticipation, for God has done great things for us. We come searching for a sign; bearing our gifts, we come.

We come, called from the silent hillsides of our hearts, startled and frightened by the magnitude of light, we huddle together toward Bethlehem.

We come, one by one, and yet, as one, dancing into the Promise!

[poem by Ann Weems]

**CAROL**

No. 272 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

*Es Ist Ein Ros*

## Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming



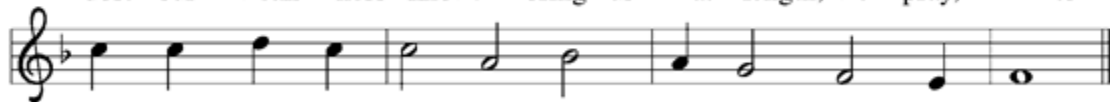
1 Lo, how a rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath  
2 I - sai - ah had fore - told it, the rose I have in  
3 This flow'r, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the  
4 O Sav - ior, child of Mar - y, who felt our hu - man



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as  
mind; with Mar - y we be - hold it, the  
air, dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the  
woe; O Sav - ior, king of glo - ry, who



seers of old have sung, it came, a flow'r so bright, a -  
vir - gin moth - er kind. To show God's love a - right, she  
dark - ness ev - 'ry - where. True man, yet ver - y God, from  
dost our weak - ness know: bring us at length, we pray, to



mid the cold of win - ter, when half - spent was the night.  
bore to us a Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.  
sin and death he saves us and light - ens ev - 'ry load.  
the bright courts of heav - en and in - to end - less day.



## THE LIVING NATIVITY

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to be enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child.

And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

### **Anthem**

### ***The Animals' Peace Carol***

**Steve Heitzeg**

*In the fields in night so deep shepherds watched as sheep did sleep,  
dreaming of oats and hay, oats and hay.*

*Listen! Hear the donkey bray. How were they to know among the midnight glow?  
Then they saw more than straw.*

*In the sky a star appeared with angels singing, oh, so near.*

*Ah...Ah... Never had a star shined so bright, so far.*

*Then they knew what to do. So they journeyed to the place;  
each animal filled with his grace, bringing but themselves and their love.*

*They were filled with songs above.*

*Sacred herbs and all; they had heard the baby call,  
and when they knelt, his love they felt.*

*Peace is born each new day; in each heart it will stay.*

*Peace says yes to me, yes to you,  
yes to many and yes to few.*

*Born in Bethlehem; he will come again.*

*Peace to you.*

St. Paul's Children's Choir

And in that region there were shepherds keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and they were filled with fear. And the angel said to them, "Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."

### **Anthem *In A Little Stable***

**E. W. Schroeter**

*In a little stable far across the sea was a little Baby just like you and me.  
Not a bed or cradle, not a pillow deep, but a lowly manger was His place to sleep.  
Shepherds stood around Him, angels watched with care,*

*for this Babe was JESUS, lying, smiling there.  
Oh, I love this Jesus, who was little then,  
for I know He loves me, little though I am.*

***Away in a Manger***

James R. Murray

St. Paul's Cherub Choir

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among all people."

**Anthem**

***Gloria***

**Anne and William McNair**

*Gloria, gloria, gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Glory be to God on high! Glory be to God!*

*The angels sing of peace on earth for they have seen God's light!*

*The angels sing of Jesus' birth, rejoice with them this night!*

*Gloria, gloria, gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Glory be to God on high! Glory be to God!*

*The angels sing of peace on earth, for they have seen God's light!*

*The angels sing of Jesus' birth, rejoice with them this night!*

*Gloria, gloria, gloria! Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Glory be to God on high! Glory be to God!*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

*Glory be to God on high! Glory be to God!*

St. Paul's Children's Choir

Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem, behold, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he who has been born King of the Jews? For we have seen his star in the East and have come to worship him."

When Herod the King heard this, he was troubled; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes, he inquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem; for so it is written by the prophet." Then Herod summoned the wise men, and he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him bring me word, that I too may come and worship him."

And lo, the star which they had seen in the East went before them, till it came to rest over the place where the child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. On entering the place, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. They, opening their treasures, 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 way.

**CAROL**            **We Three Kings of Orient Are**            *Three Kings of Orient*

Stanza 1            We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder  
star.

**Refrain**            **O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!**

Stanza 2            Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, Gold I bring to crown  
Him again, King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign.  
**Refrain.**

Stanza 3            Frankincense to offer have I; Incense owns a Deity nigh;  
Prayer and praising we are raising, worshipping God Most  
high. **Refrain.**

Stanza 4            Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering  
gloom; Sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying , sealed in the  
stone-cold tomb. **Refrain.**

Stanza 5            Glorious now behold Him arise, King and God and  
Sacrifice; Alleluia, Alleluia sound through the earth and  
skies. **Refrain.**

All who heard were amazed at what was 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.

## Hark! The Herald Angels Sing



1 Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king;  
 2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,  
 3 Hail the heav'n - born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ - teous - ness!



peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled."  
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of a vir - gin's womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.



Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see! Hail, in - car - nate de - i - ty!  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



with an - gel - ic hosts pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 born to raise each child of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Hark! The her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born king!"

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** From *Christmas Day in the Morning* by Pearl S. Buck

## THE PEACE

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

All greet each other with Christ's gesture of peace saying "Peace be with you"

*Please be seated*

## THE MEAL

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### THE OFFERING Jesus, Gift of God text Richard Leach/music Carson Cooman

*Jesus, gift of God, here are gifts for you:  
angels bring their song, heavens bring their star;  
magi, gold, and spice, shepherds, joy and awe.*

*Jesus, alleluia!*

*Jesus, gift of God, here are gifts for you:  
earth gives you its cave, animals their crib;  
Mary gives her strength, Joseph gives his care.*

*Jesus, alleluia!*

*Jesus, gift of God, here are gifts for you:  
We will bring our hearts, bring the weight they bear;  
lay their burdens down, lift your easy yoke.*

*Jesus, alleluia!*

St. Paul's Children's Choir

**THE OFFERTORY** No. 692 We Are An Offering

We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an  
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our  
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,  
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.  
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:  
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

The musical score consists of six staves of music in treble clef. The first five staves contain the main melody with lyrics underneath. The sixth staff concludes the piece with a double bar line. The music features various note values including eighth and sixteenth notes, and rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above the notes) in the first, third, and sixth staves. The key signature has one flat (Bb).

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. 107

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains the lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff contains 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff contains 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff contains 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.' The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

# THE SANCTUS

P. 108

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four staves of music. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of'. The second staff contains 'pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -'. The third staff contains 'san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the'. The fourth staff contains 'name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The melody is simple and repetitive, using quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

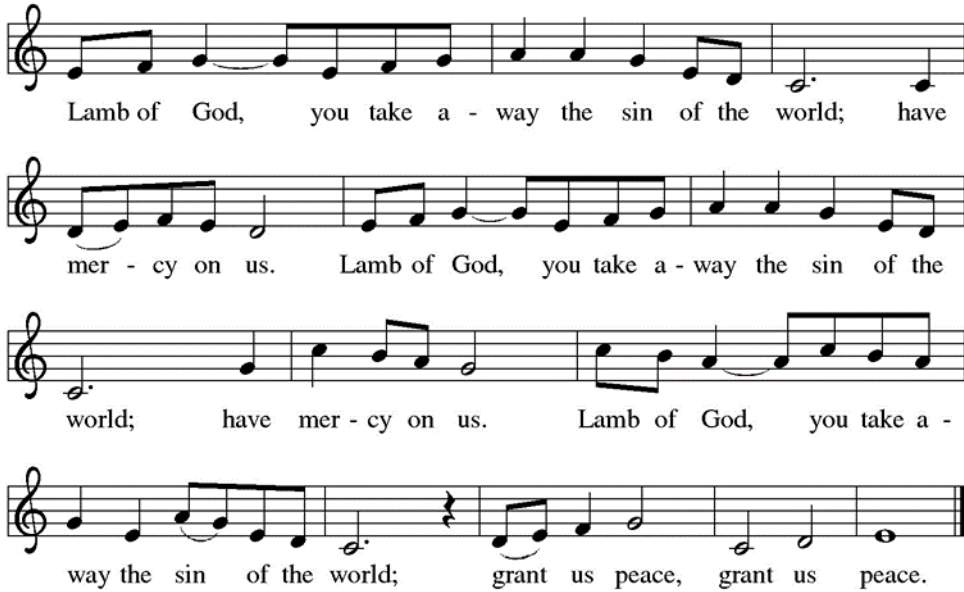
## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER THE COMMUNION

P. 112

### "Lamb of God"

P. 112



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

### THE COMMUNION Music during Communion

*I Wonder As I Wander*

John Jacob Niles

AnnaLisa Mariani, soloist

No. 289

Angels We Have Heard on High

*Gloria*



## Angels We Have Heard on High



- 1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
- 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
- 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



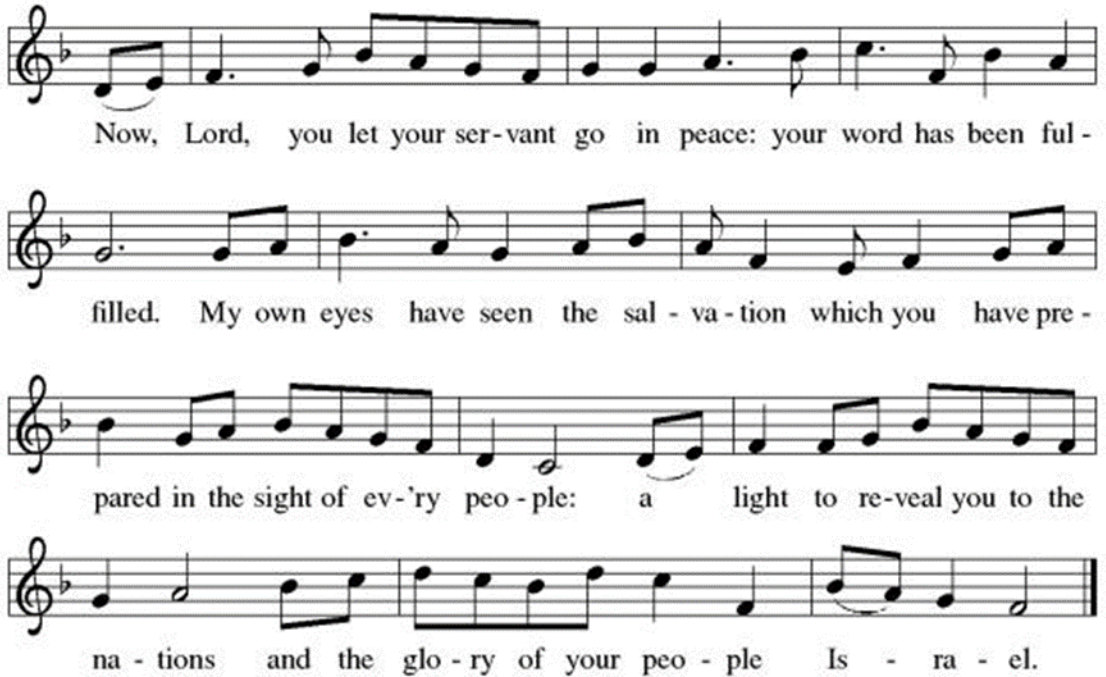
and the moun-tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864  
Music: GLORIA, French carol

### COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -

filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -

pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

The Post-Communion Prayer concludes with **Amen**.

## BLESSING

### THE LIGHTING OF CANDLES

*The ushers will come forward and receive the light from the Pastor. As the light spreads through the congregation, you are requested to tip your non burning candles to receive the light from your neighbor's burning candle. Parents are asked to help their children.*

## **THE CANDLELIGHTING CAROL**

No. 281 Silent Night, Holy Night! Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!

*Stille Nacht*

Stanza 1 in German, then all three stanzas in English

(For your convenience, music is on the back page)

*As the light from the Christ candle is passed from one to another in the pews,  
please exercise extreme caution.  
(Congregation remains seated)*

## **THE DISMISSAL**

*Go in peace and serve the Lord.*

***Thanks be to God.***

**POSTLUDE:** *Chorale Prelude on "Stille Nacht"*

John Leavitt

Susie Pierce Mills, piano

## **2023 NATIVITY FOLK:**

READER: Vicar Ian Clements

MARY, JOSEPH and BABY JESUS: Kayla Morini, Anthony Pileggi, and Sonny

WISEMEN: Leo Picado, Neal O'Rourke, Rob Gerlach

SHEPHERDS: Dominick Garcia, Benny Garcia

ANGELS: Cherub Choir

*S*til - le Nacht, hei - li - ge Nacht! Al - les schläft,  
 1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! All is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night! Son of God,

ein - sam wacht nur das trau - te, hoch - hei - li - ge Paar.  
 all is bright round yon vir - gin moth - er and child.  
 at the sight; glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from your ho - ly face,

Hol - der Kna - be im lok - ki - gen Haar, schlaf in himm - li - scher  
 Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in heav - en - ly  
 heav'n - ly hosts . . . sing, al - le - lu - ia! Christ, the Sav - ior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at your

Ruh, schlaf in himm - li - scher Ruh.  
 peace, sleep in heav - en - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sav - ior, is born!  
 birth, Je - sus, Lord, at your birth.