

Advent & Christmas 2023

*The First Witnesses
of Christ*



Christmas Eve Traditional Service

December 24 | 6 pm

Traditional Christmas Eve Service with Holy Communion

Congregational responses are indicated in **bold**.

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful..... pg. 2, vs. 1, 4, 5

The Acclamation for Advent

Surely the Lord cometh soon.

Amen. Come Lord Jesus!

Revelation 22:20

The Collect for Purity

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

The Collect for Christmas Eve

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Ghost he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting.

Amen.

[Please be seated.]

The Lesson..... Isaiah 9: 1-7

Pew Bible pg. 573

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Verses 1, 4, 5

V

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 2. See how the shep - herds, Sum - moned to His cra - dle,
 3. Lo, *star - led chief - tains, Wise men, Christ a - dor - ing,
 4. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 5. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing;

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 Leav - ing their flocks draw nigh with low - ly fear.
 Oh, sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven a - bove:
 O Je - sus, to Thee be all glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold Him Born the King of an - gels.
 We, too, will thith - er Bend our joy - ful foot - steps.
 We to the Christ - child Bring our hearts' de - vo - tion.
 "Glo - ry to God In the high - est!"
 Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap - pear - ing.

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.

2

The Psalm..... 98: 1-3

- 1 O sing unto the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his own right hand and with his holy arm, *
he has won for himself the victory.
- 3 The Lord declared his salvation; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

[Please stand.]

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory be to thee, Lord Christ.

The Gospel Reading..... Luke 2: 1-21

Pew Bible pg. 857

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to thee, Lord Christ.

[Please be seated.]

The Homily The Rev. Alex Shuttleworth

[Please stand.]

The Nicene Creed

Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, visible and invisible.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. *Amen.***

[Please sit or kneel.]

The Confession and Absolution of Sin

Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbors and intend to lead the new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God.

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men:

We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.

We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable.

Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

[Please stand.]

The Comfortable Words

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11:28*

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

The Offertory

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine; thine is the Kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as Head above all. All things come of thee, O Lord,

And of thine own have we given thee.

The Lord be with you

and with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born for us; who, by the Holy Ghost, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name, evermore praising thee, and saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

[Please be seated.]

The Prayer of Consecration

All glory be to thee, Almighty God our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his Holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink, ye all, of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

And here we offer and present to thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

**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 Fraction

Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Ministration of Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized believers are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Parents of baptized children are welcome to decide whether you would like your children to receive Holy Communion or a blessing.

*To receive a blessing instead of communion,
simply keep your hands by your side or folded.*

If you require a gluten-free or alcohol-free cup, please ask the minister.



Communion Carols

*Communion Carols are printed
on the following pages.
Please sing along!*

*Please take a candle on your way back from receiving
communion. Greeters will help the person nearest
the aisle to light their candle
during the third carol.*



*Please tip your unlit candle to the lit candle of your neighbor
until everyone's candles are lit.*

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Verses 1-4



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. 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 - dering love.
So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of His heaven.
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 ti - dings 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 men on 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 Em - man - u - el. A - MEN.



Angels from the Realms of Glory

Verses 1-4

V

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
2. Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions
4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, Watch - ing long in

all the earth; Ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with man is now re - sid - ing,
beam a - far; Seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, Sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: Come and wor - ship,
Yon - der shines the in - fant Light: Come and wor - ship,
Ye have seen His na - tal star: Come and wor - ship,
In His tem - ple shall ap - pear: Come and wor - ship,

Come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King!
Come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King!
Come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King!
Come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King! A - men.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Verses 1-4

^v
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;
4. See with - in a man - ger laid Je - sus, Lord of heaven and earth!

And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
Say what may the ti - dings be, Which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, With us sing our Sav - iour's birth.

REFRAIN

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

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

Candlelight Carol: Silent Night

Verses 1-3

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,

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 Thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly In - fant, so ten - der and mild, Sleep in
Heaven - ly hosts sing, "Al - le - lu - ia, Christ, the
With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus,

heav - en - ly peace, Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Sav - iour, is born! Christ, the Sav - iour, is born!"
Lord, at Thy birth, Je - sus, Lord, at Thy birth.

The Blessing

Christ the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you, scatter the darkness from before your path, and make you ready to meet him when he comes in glory, and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always.

Amen.

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Please extinguish candles before exiting the Sanctuary.



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