

Advent & Christmas 2023

*The First Witnesses
of Christ*



1st Sunday of Christmas

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Simeon & Anna

December 31 | 9 am

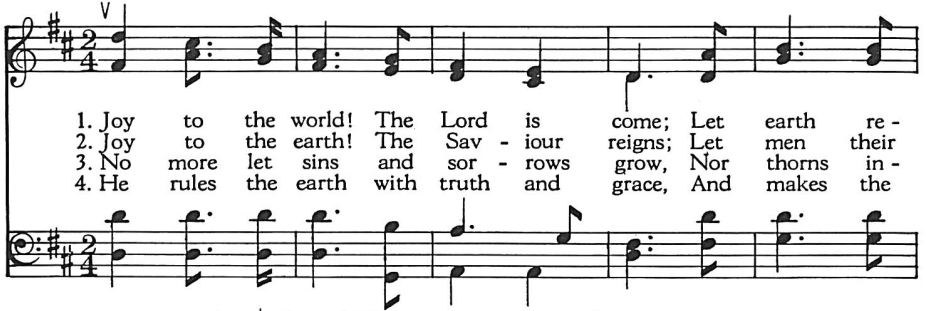
Holy Communion

All hymns & song lyrics are included in the bulletin.

Congregational responses are indicated in **bold**.

Joy to the World

Verses 1-4



1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come; Let earth re-
2. Joy to the earth! The Sav- iour reigns; Let men their
3. No more let sins and sor- rows grow, Nor thorns in-
4. He rules the earth with truth and grace, And makes the



ceive her King; Let ev- ery heart pre- pare Him room,
songs em- ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
fest the ground. He comes to make His bless- ings flow
na- tions prove The glo- ries of His right- eous- ness,



And heaven and na- ture sing, And heaven and na- ture
Re- peat the sound- ing joy, Re- peat the sound- ing
Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
And won- ders of His love, And won- ders of His

And heaven and na- ture sing, And



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.

heaven and na- ture sing,

The Acclamation for Christmastide

For unto us a child is born,
Unto us a son is given.

The Collect for Purity

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

Amen.

The Collect for the 1st Sunday of Christmas

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, kindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

[Please be seated.]

The Lesson..... Leviticus 12: 6-8

Pew Bible pg. 90

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Canticle2

Arise, shine, for your light has come, *
and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.
For behold, darkness covers the land; *
deep gloom enshrouds the peoples.
But over you the Lord will rise, *
and his glory will appear upon you.
Nations will stream to your light, *
and kings to the brightness of your dawning.

Isaiah 60, BCP pg. 80

[Please stand.]

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel Reading..... Luke 2: 22-38

Pew Bible pg. 857

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

[Please be seated.]

The Sermon..... The Rev. Ben Hughes

[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 Prayers of the People

If you would like us to name someone aloud in prayer in the service next week, please notify the office during the week.

The Confession and Absolution of Sin

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name.
*Amen.***

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to 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 Peace

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

Announcements

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

The Sursum Corda

The Lord be with you
and also 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 him thanks and praise.

It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

[On occasion the minister may add a proper preface.]

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:

The Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord, God Almighty
Who was and is, and is to come,
Lift up His name with the sound of singing,
Lift up His name in all the earth.
Lift up your voice and give Him glory,
For He is worthy to be praised.
Holy. Holy.

[Please be seated.]

The Prayer of Consecration

All praise and glory is yours, O God our heavenly Father, for in your tender mercy, you gave your only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there, by his one offering of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and he instituted, and in his Holy Gospel commanded us to continue, a perpetual memory of his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For on the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke 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, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 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 you, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice. We humbly pray that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ, be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

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.

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 Prayer of Humble Access

**We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your abundant and great mercies.**

**We are not worthy so much as to gather up
the crumbs under your table;
but you are the same Lord
whose property is always to have mercy.**

**Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ,
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body,
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen.***

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.

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 heav - en.
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 on earth.
Where meek souls will re - ceive Him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.
O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!



God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

Verses 1-4



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

Refrain



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Verses 1-3

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain O-ver the hills and ev - ery - where;

Fine

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 low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,

D.C.

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.

The Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

On occasion the minister may invite the congregation to join in the Post Communion Prayer below.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

**We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal Kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out to do
the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever.
*Amen.***

The peace of God which passes all understanding keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**On occasion members of this congregation like to add "alleluia, alleluia" to the dismissal.*



Under Jesus Christ, Our Savior and Lord:
The Rt. Rev. Alex Cameron, Bishop of Pittsburgh

Staff

The Rev. Alex Shuttleworth, *Rector*
Robert Fire, *Music Minister*
Tami Fire, *Children's & Pastoral Care Minister*
Josh Gerdes, *Children's Minister*
The Rev. Ben Hughes, *Assistant Minister*
Jenna Hughes, *Asst. Youth Minister*
Lam Gray, *Interim Asst. Youth Minister*
The Rev. Elizabeth H. Rodewald, *Deacon*
Niki De Luca, *Finance Manager*
Bridget Michael, *Operations Manager*

Vestry

Catherine Parham, *Senior Warden*
Matt Beresik, *Junior Warden*
Richard Cagley
Alyssa Campbell
Jane Flaherty
Zack Gray, *Treasurer*
Joe Nawrocki
Anne Malone, *Secretary*



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