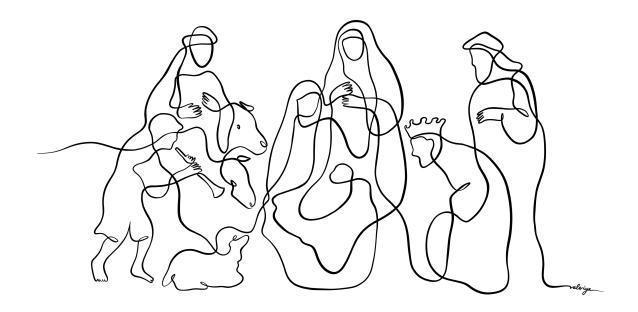
CHURCH OF THE GOOD SAMARITAN

GROW IN FAITH. LIVE IN HOPE. SHARE GOD'S LOVE.



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
DECEMBER 24, 2023
CHORAL PRELUDE — 8:30 P.M.
FESTIVE EUCHARIST – 9:00 P.M.

A CHORAL PRELUDE OF MUSIC OF THE SEASON (9:30)

STRING QUARTET

The First Noel

-arr. Michael Tyree (b. 1998)

HYMN "The First Nowell" Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.



--Words: English Carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.

STRING QUARTET

I Saw Three Ships

-arr. Michael Tyree

ANTHEM Sung by the Choir.

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, thou long expected Jesus,
Born to set thy people free,
O let us find our rest in thee.
Hope of all the earth thou art,
Joy of every longing heart.
Born a child and yet a king,
Born thy people to deliver,
Now thy gracious kingdom bring,
And reign in us for ever.
O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.
Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee. Rejoice!

-Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788),

and 9th c. Latin hymn, tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866).

Music: J.S. Bach (1685–1750),

ed.and arr. Tom Fettke, 2005

STRING QUARTET

Good King Wenceslas

-arr. Michael Tyree

ANTHEM Sung by the Choir.

Come, Thou Redeemer of the Earth

Come, Thou Redeemer of the earth, And manifest Thy virgin birth: Let every age adoring fall; Such birth befits the God of all.

Begotten of no human will, But of the Spirit, Thou art still The Word of God in flesh arrayed, The promised Fruit to man displayed. Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, And darkness breathe a newer light, Where endless faith shall shine serene, And twilight never intervene.

All praise, eternal Son, to Thee; Whose Advent sets thy people free, With whom the Father we adore, And Holy Ghost forevermore.

-Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788),

and 9th c. Latin hymn, tr. John Mason Neale (1818–1866).

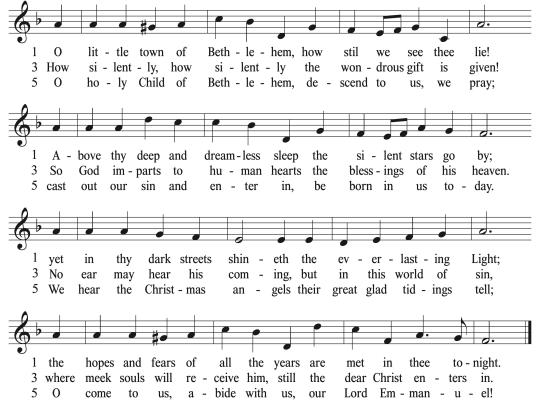
Music: J.S. Bach (1685–1750),

ed.and arr. Tom Fettke, 2005

STRING QUARTET

Carol of the Bells —arr. Michael Tyree

HYMN 79 "O little town of Bethlehem" Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.



—Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893) Music: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

ANTHEM Sung by the Choir.

Veni Jesu, Amor Mi

Veni, Jesu, amor mi. Come, Jesus, my love.

+ + + + + + +

-Words: Anonymous

Music: Attr. Luigi Cherubini (1760–1842), arr. Richard Proulx (1937–2010)

STRING QUARTET

In the Bleak Midwinter

-arr. Michael Tyree

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

The Liturgy of the Word

HYMN "O come, all ye faithful" Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.



—Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others Music: Adeste fideles, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION Remain standing.

Celebrant: Unto us a child is born; People: Unto us a son is given.

Celebrant: And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People: Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace!

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest heaven!

People: On earth, peace and goodwill to all!

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS "Angels we have heard on high" Everyone sings.



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

COLLECT OF THE DAY *Remain standing.*

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and

reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

FIRST LESSON Seated.

A reading from the Book of Isaiah (9:2–7).

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. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "It came upon the midnight clear" Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.



—Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt. Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

SECOND LESSON Seated.

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus (2:11–14).

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN "Hark! the herald angels sing" Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.



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

GOSPEL Luke 2:1–20 Remain standing.

Gospeler: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1–20).

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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!"

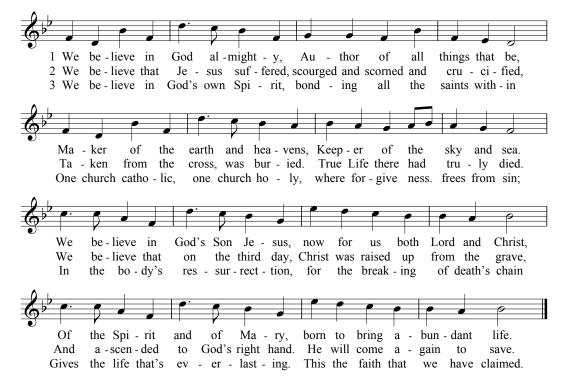
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they 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.

Gospeler: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

CREED Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.



 —Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955–1993), alt. @ 1991 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission.
 Music: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Smart (1813–1879), adapted.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Remain standing.

Leader: Beloved in Christ, in the peace of God, all the gifts we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's Word made flesh this night. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad.

That the peace proclaimed by the angels in the shepherd's field might be realized on every field of war and every street of violence, let the heavens rejoice,

People: And let the earth be glad.

Leader: That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry and our willingness to nourish the growth of

our souls, let the heavens rejoice,

People: And let the earth be glad.

Leader: That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned,

the despairing and the mourning, let the heavens rejoice,

People: And let the earth be glad.

Leader: That the rejoicing of this day might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and

worship, let the heavens rejoice,

People: And let the earth be glad.

Leader: That the peace and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are

living with disease and illness, let the heavens rejoice,

People: And let the earth be glad.

Leader: That we may join with the angels in a chorus of gratitude and thanksgiving for our

many blessings, and especially for the gift of our Lord who is born this night, let the

heavens rejoice,

People: And let the earth be glad.

Leader: That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have

gone before us in faith, let the heavens rejoice,

People: And let the earth be glad.

Silence is kept for a space.

Priest: God of light and hope, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your

Christmas Word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever. *Amen.*.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All kneel. Silence is kept.

All: 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.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus

Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep

you in eternal life.

People: Amen.

PEACE Standing.

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Greet one another in the name of the Lord.

GREETINGS Seated.

The Holy Communion

OFFERTORY

All that we are and all that we have comes from God. Let us offer our best to God in thanksgiving, remembering that God loves a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)

ANTHEM Sung by the Choir.

Still, Still, Still

Still, still, one can hear the falling snow. For all is hushed, the world is sleeping, Holy star its vigil keeping.
Still, still, one can hear the falling snow.

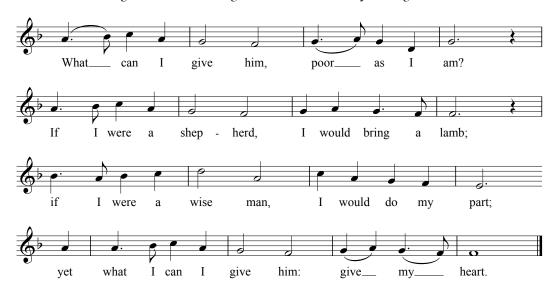
Sleep, sleep, sleep, t'tis the eve of our Savior's birth. The night is peaceful all around you. Close your eyes, let sleep surround you. Sleep, sleep, sleep, t'tis the eve of our Savior's birth.

Dream, dream of the joyous day to come. While guardian angels without number Watch you as you sweetly slumber, Dream, dream, dream of the joyous day to come.

-Words: Alan Bergman, Marliyn Keith

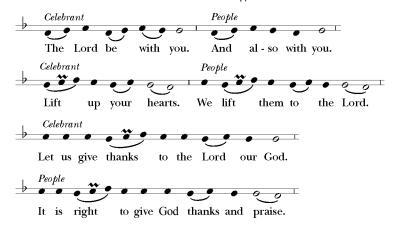
Music: Austrian carol, arr. Norman Luboff (1917–1987)

HYMN "What can I give him?" Standing—all who are able; everyone sings.



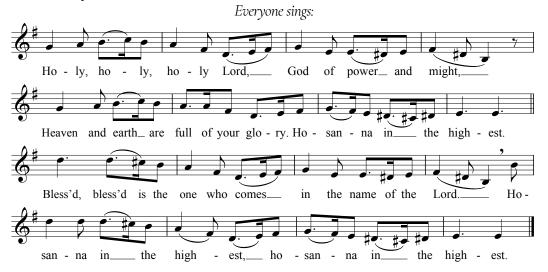
—Words: Christina Rosetti (1830–1894) Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874–1934)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Remain standing.



Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:



—Setting: *Greensleeves*, traditional English melody, dapt. Fredrick Brabson, 2016; rev. 2000. Copyright ⊚ 2016 by Fredrick Brabson. All rights reserved. Used by permission

The people stand or kneel.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

> On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: 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 for the remembrance of me."

Therefore according to his command, O Father:

All:

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

> We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

> > (continued)

Celebrant: 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.



—Setting: Greensleeves, traditional English melody, dapt. Fredrick Brabson, 2016; rev. 2000. Copyright @ 2016 by Fredrick Brabson. All rights reserved. Used by permission

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

All: 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.

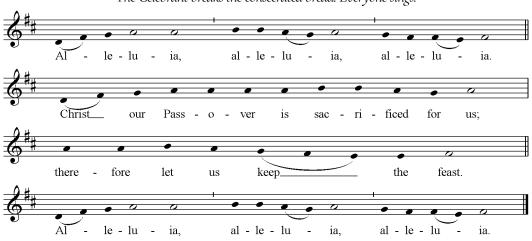
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. Everyone sings.



Setting: From New Plainsong, David Hurd (b. 1950)

INVITATION

Celebrant:

This is the table not of the righteous, but of the poor in spirit. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom our Savior identified. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which our Lord became incarnate. This is the table of Jesus Christ. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a while or ever before; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and all of us who have failed. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. It is Christ who invites you to be known and loved and fed here.

DURING COMMUNION

HYMN "Away in a manger" Everyone sings.



-Words: Traditional carol

Music: Cradle Song, William James Kirkpatrick (1838–1921)

HYMN "One earth, one sky" The cantor sings the verses; everyone sings the refrain.

 One earth, one sky, one God on high, one people here below,
 One binding theme, one goal, one dream for all who live and grow. (Refrain)

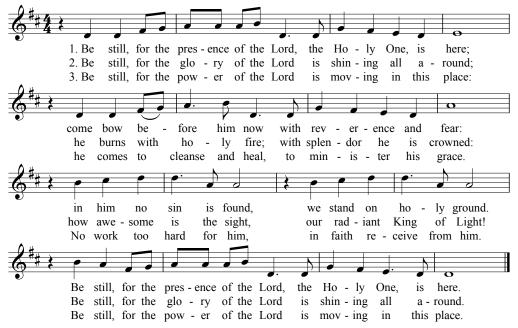


- 2. Each caring choice, each gentle voice, can make the music ring.

 Each mind and heart must do its part, each hand can help to bring (*Refrain*)
- If all the shouts could turn to prayers amidst the fiery rush,
 The whole world 'round would hear the sound, an unfamiliar hush: (Refrain)

—Words: Allison Hubbard (b. 1950) Music: Kim Oler (b. 1954)

HYMN "Be still, for the presence of the Lord" Everyone sings.



—Words and Music: David Evans, 1986.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The people kneel.

All: Almighty and everliving God,

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

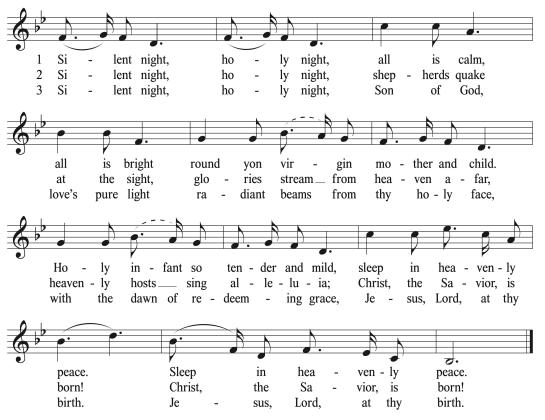
to do the work you have given us to do,

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.

HYMN "Silent night, holy night" Remain kneeling; everyone sings.



—Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885) Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

BLESSING *Remain kneeling.*

Celebrant: May the humility of the shepherds,

the perseverance of the wise men,

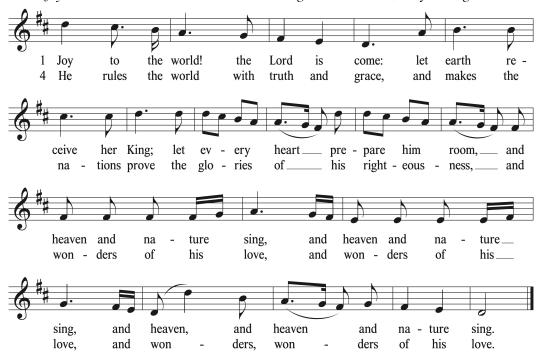
the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ Child be God's gift to you this Christmastime, and always.

And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

HYMN "Joy to the world! the Lord is come" Standing, all who are able; everyone sings.



-Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

DISMISSAL

Minister: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

—arr. Larry Shackley (b. 1956)

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