



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 24, 2024 | 9 PM

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

884 NEWFIELD AVENUE, STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT 06905

WWW.STJOHNELCA.ORG | 203-322-0066

PRELUDE

A Christmas Carol

ARR. T. JORDAN

Tom and Nanette Jordan

Linden Tree Carol

MAXIM

Instrumental

KATE & ANDREW BEHRING

I am so glad each Christmas Eve

ARR. BURKHARDT

O magnum mysterium

LAURIDSEN

There is no rose

JESSICA NELSON

On this silent night

SARAH QUARTEL

The Virgin's Slumber Song

MCKAYLA FERGUSON, MEZZO

O Holy Night

RYAN DEAL, TENOR

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Puer Natus Est: *A Child is Born in Bethlehem*

TITCOMB

We stand.

PROCESSION CAROL

Once in Royal David's City

(solo) 1. Once in royal David's city

Stood a lowly cattle shed,

Where a mother laid her Baby

In a manger for His bed:

Mary was that mother mild,

Jesus Christ her little Child.

(choir) 2. He came down to earth from heaven,

Who is God and Lord of all,

And His shelter was a stable,

And His cradle was a stall;

With the poor, and mean, and lowly,

Lived on earth our Savior holy.

All join.

3. And through all

His wondrous childhood

He would honor and obey,

Love and watch the lowly maiden,

In whose gentle arms He lay:

Christian children all must be

Mild, obedient, good as He.

4. For he is our childhood's pattern;

Day by day, like us He grew;

He was little, weak and helpless,

Tears and smiles like us He knew;

And He feeleth for our sadness,

And He shareth in our gladness.

5. And our eyes at last shall see Him,

Through His own redeeming love;

For that Child so dear and gentle

Is our Lord in heaven above,

And He leads His children on

To the place where He is gone.

6. Not in that poor lowly stable,

With the oxen standing by,

We shall see Him; but in heaven,

Set at God's right hand on high;

Where like stars His children crowned

All in white shall wait around

CAROL

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come and behold him,
born the king of angels: (R)

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens
of heaven above!
Glory to God
in the highest: (R)

(R) *O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!*

2. God of God, Light of Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten, not created: (R)

4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing: (R)

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains. (R)

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn king. (R)

(R) *Gloria in excelsis Deo;
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord with you.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.

We sit.

WORD

FIRST READING

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.
³You 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.
⁴For 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.
⁵For all the boots
of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel

for the fire.
⁶For 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.
⁷His 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.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CAROL

Joy to the World

Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her king;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n and nature sing,
and heav'n, and heav'n
and nature sing.

He rules the world
with truth and grace
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders
of his love.

SECOND READING

TITUS 3:4-7

BUT when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

We stand.

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Hark! The herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King!

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

IN those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered.

²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to

you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CAROL

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Christ, by highest heaven adored;
 Christ, the everlasting Lord;
 Late in time behold him come,
 offspring of the Virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
 hail the incarnate Deity.
 Pleased as man with us to dwell;
 Jesus, our Emmanuel!
 Hark! The herald angels sing
 glory to the new-born King!

We sit.

SERMON

PASTOR MARK GRORUD

We stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

From Heaven Above



1 "From heav'n a - bove to earth I come To bear good
 2 "To you this night is born a child Of Mar - y,
 3 "This is the Christ, our God Most High, Who hears your
 4 "He will on you the gifts be - stow Pre - pared by



news to ev - 'ry home; Glad tid - ings of great
 cho - sen vir - gin mild; This lit - tle child of
 sad and bit - ter cry; He will Him - self your
 God for all be - low, That in His king - dom,



joy I bring, Where - of I now will say and sing:
 low - ly birth, Shall be the joy of all the earth.
 Sav - ior be From all your sins to set you free.
 bright and fair, You may with us His glo - ry share.

NICENE CREED

WE believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only 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 of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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.

We kneel or sit.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

After each intercession:

Hear us, O God,
your mercy is great.

We stand.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

We sit.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Sussex Carol

JUNE NIXON

We stand.

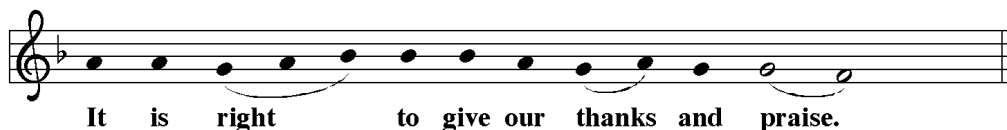
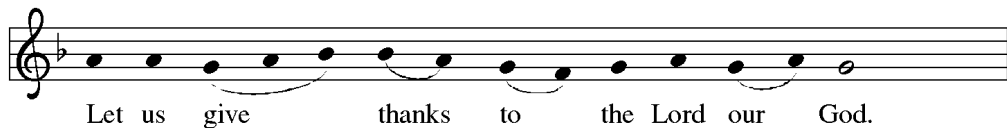
CAROL AT THE PRESENTATION

What Child Is This?

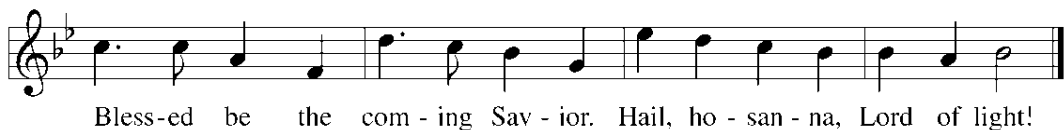
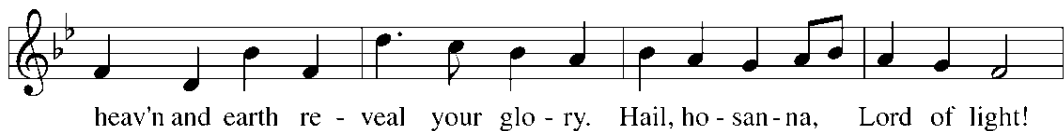
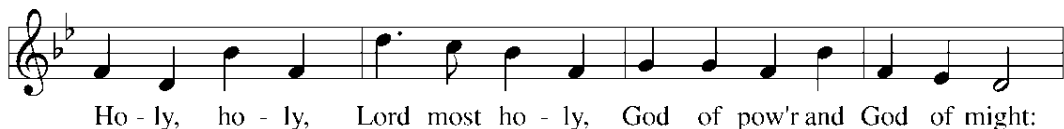
So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh;
Come, peasant, king, to own him.
The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
Raise, raise the song on high,
The virgin sings her lullaby;
Joy, Joy, for Christ is born,
The babe, the son of Mary!



GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should . . . *the pastor concludes the Preface* . . . with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life,
at the birth of time your word brought light into the world.

In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary,
to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup,
gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection,
we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him.

By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you,
we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal.
Come, behold and receive your God.

Receiving Communion

All baptized and believing Christ is present in the bread and wine, forgiving sin and promising everlasting life, we eat at God's meal of grace. Receive the wafer and dip it into the chalice of wine. Gluten free wafers are available.

We sit.

CAROL AT THE DISTRIBUTION

From Heaven Above

5. "These are the signs that you shall mark:
The swaddling clothes and manger dark.
There you will find the infant laid
By whom the heav'ns and earth were
made."

6. How glad we'll be to find it so!
Then with the shepherds let us go
To see what God for us has done
In sending us His own dear Son.

7. Come here, my friends, lift up your eyes,
And see what in the manger lies.
Who is this child, so young and fair?
It is the Christ Child lying there.

8. Welcome to earth, O noble Guest,
Through whom the sinful world is blest!
You came to share my misery
That You might share Your joy with me.

9. Ah, Lord, though You created all,
How weak You are, so poor and small,
That You should choose to lay Your head
Where lowly cattle lately fed!

10. Were earth a thousand times as fair
And set with gold and jewels rare,
It would be far too poor and small
A cradle for the Lord of all.

11. Instead of soft and silken stuff
You have but hay and straw so rough
On which as King, so rich and great,
To be enthroned in royal state.

12. And so it pleases You to see
This simple truth revealed to me:
That worldly honor, wealth, and might
Are weak and worthless in Your sight.

13. Ah, dearest Jesus, holy Child,
Prepare a bed, soft, undefiled,
A quiet chamber set apart
For You to dwell within my heart.

14. My heart for very joy must leap;
My lips no more can silence keep.
I, too, must sing with joyful tongue
That sweetest ancient cradlesong:

15. Glory to God in highest heav'n,
Who unto us His Son has giv'n!
While angels sing with pious mirth
A glad new year to all the earth.

We stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us.

Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

*The candle flame will be passed to you by an acolyte or usher as the sanctuary lights are dimmed.
Please hold your candle upright during "Silent Night" to prevent dripping wax.*

Silent Night

**Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.**

**Holy Infant so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing, alleluia!**

Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

**Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from your holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

SENDING

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

May Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Go in peace. Serve the newborn King.

Thanks be to God.



Candles are extinguished.

POSTLUDE

Hark! The Herald

HARMON

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Worship Leaders

Presider and Preacher	The Rev. Mark A. Grorud
Organist	Nathan K. Lively-Greyling, Cantor
Musicians	St. John's Choir Tom and Nanette Jordan
Reader	Jen Leffers
Acolytes	Isaac Ylitalo, Liz Ylitalo
Communion Assistants	Lois Coffin, Jen Leffers
Altar Committee	Sheila Koch
Counters	Charlie Enright, J. Giels, Janet Halpin

Dates to Remember

December 29	9:30 am Sunday Worship - Lessons & Carols
January 5	8:30 & 10:30 am Epiphany Worship (put away decorations after 10:30 service)



Start off the new year by unloading those extra Christmas cookies and treats. Bring them to share at the coffee hour on Sunday, December 29, following the single 9:30 am service of worship.

Office Holiday Schedule

The office will be closed on Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25.

Christmas Decoration and Music Contributions are Given

In MEMORY of

Her Parents given by Kathy Caraballo
Marie & David Bryant given by Marie Sweglar
Anna M. & Carl A. Swenson given by Gary Swenson
Nathan Newhall given by Amy Newhall
All Their Department Loved Ones
given by Cathy & Mike Mahler
Emma Christensen & Margaret Ryle
given by Inger Ruffles
Manfred Barke given by The Weinseiss Family
John Sadlon, Jr. given by Carol & Jack Sadlon
Beverly & Roland Hendrickson
given by David Hendrickson
Opa Manfred & Opa Hannes given by Kaete Weinseiss
Mike Zboray, Anne Budner, Debbie Piper
given by Jeanette Zboray
Anne Budner, Sophie Vojt given by Andrea Budner
Gail & William Brandt, Laura Hancock, Brian & Spiro Lambros,
given by Karen, Sue, & Emily Brandt
Grandpa & Grandma Hendrickson, Grandpa & Grandma Dunn
Given by Paul, Joan, & Robert Hendrickson

George & Helen Gleckler
given by their daughter, Barbara Gleckler
Oma Margot & Oma Heidi given by The Weinseiss Family
Mattie Moses, Bertha Nelson given by Teresa Moses
Christen Joseph Grorud
given by Pastor Mark & Caryl Grorud
Their Parents: Antoinette & Harold Schaefer,
Clara & Floyd Coffin given by Lois & Pete Coffin
Segerdell & Williams Families
given by Ken & Janet Segerdell
Richard Bartlett & All Deceased Family Members
given by Pam Bartlett
Erik Wahlberg given by Camilla Medeiros
Peter Jan Olive given by Anne Olive & Family

In HONOR of

The Rev. & Mrs. Albrecht given by their Family
Robert Hendrickson, Courtney Whiting & Tom Arning
given by Paul & Joan Hendrickson
Margot Barke & Heidi Grubes given by the Weinseiss Family
Zachary Jordan given by Nanette & Tom Jordan
Rev. Mark A. Grorud & Caryl Grorud,
Joan, Paul & Robert Hendrickson,
Julie, Courtney, Craig, Pierce & Jackson Whiting,
Tammis Rehill Lazarus
given by David Hendrickson
St. John's Music given by the Bartels Family

*Thank you to all who provided special gifts
to beautify our sanctuary for Christmas.*