

# The Eve of Our Lord's Birth



**8 o'clock Holy Eucharist**  
December 24, 2019

**Saint Dunstan's Episcopal Church**



## ***Welcome to St. Dunstan's***

*The clergy and staff of St. Dunstan's wish you a blessed Christmas season and peace in the coming year!  
Please silence your cell phone at this time, and please join us for a reception immediately following the service.*

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

*The people stand at the ringing of the bell.*

Procession Chant A Child is born in Bethlehem, Alleluia (103) *Puer natus in Bethlehem;  
14th c. chant*

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Priest **A**lmighty 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.

Gloria: Carol Hymn 83 O Come, All Ye Faithful  
*verses 1—3, & 6*

*Adeste fideles*

The Collect of the Day *The people remain standing.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

**A**lmighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Isaiah 9:2-7

*A hymn of thanksgiving and hope offered at the birth of a new king in Jerusalem. The prophet hails the one born to be the ruler of his people. His reign will end oppression and bring justice, righteousness, and a lasting peace. Christians see these words coming to fulfillment in Jesus.*

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.

Psalm 96 *Cantate Domino*

*A song of praise to the Lord in which the whole heavens and earth are invited to join.*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 **Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is King! \***  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
**he will judge the peoples with equity.”**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

Gradual Carol Hymn 105 God rest you merry, gentlemen

*God rest ye merry*

*The people turn to face the reading of the Gospel. Verses 4 is sung after the Gospel reading.*

Luke 2:1-20

*The story of the birth of Jesus. He is born amid very humble human circumstances. A government registration program requires Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem, the city of David. Because there was no other place for them to stay, Mary lays her new son in a stable manger.*

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

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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

*After the sermon a brief silence is kept.*

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*The people stand or kneel.*

Leader **B**rothers and sisters, on this most holy night of our Lord's birth,  
let us pray for ourselves and all those in need of four prayers, saying:  
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Eternal God, bless your holy church, that it may boldly proclaim  
the good tidings of salvation to all the ends of the earth.  
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For your servants in this congregation, that, nourished by your word and holy  
sacraments, we may minister in faithfulness to you and in love to one another.  
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of war and injustice  
may be replaced by the light of peace and love.  
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For those who travel during this holiday season,  
that their reunions and celebrations may be occasions for joy,  
and that they return safely to their homes and loved ones.  
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For those who labor this night on behalf of others: doctors and nurses,  
police officers and firefighters, gas station attendants, bus and taxi drivers,  
those in the armed forces, and all those whose work prevents them from  
sharing this evening with those they love.  
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.



Leader For those in need of our prayers: the homeless; the unemployed; the hungry; those who are hospitalized or sick at home; those who are imprisoned in body and soul; and those for whom this season is one not of joy but of trial and sadness.

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader In thanksgiving we remember before you, O Lord, those saints who bore witness to the light, especially St. Dunstan and St. Andre. Grant that we may persevere in the faith to which we have been called and at the end behold your glory.

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Let us offer our prayers, thanksgivings, and names on our hearts tonight.

*The people may add their own prayers.*

Priest **A**ll these things we ask in the name of him who came as the light in darkness of our world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin *The people stand or kneel. Silence may be kept.*

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **M**ost 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.

The Absolution

Priest 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. Amen.

The Peace *All stand.*

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

*The people exchange the peace with one another.*

Christmas Greeting *The people are seated.*

*The Rev. John Saville,  
Interim Rector of St. Dunstan's*

The Offertory

Priest Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,  
an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem What Child is this

*Greensleeves;  
arr., John Fenstermaker*

What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap, is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.  
*Refrain*

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh. Come peasant king to own him  
The King of kings, salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone him.  
*Refrain*

*All stand.*

Offertory Carol Hymn 79 O little town of Bethlehem  
*Verses 1—3, & 5*

*St. Louis*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord.  
People And of thine own have we given thee.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are as follows:

*Celebrant*      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

*Celebrant*  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*  
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Priest 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:

## Sanctus S125 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

*A Community Mass: Richard Proulx*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The people stand or kneel.*

Priest 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."

Priest Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;

Priest 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.

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.

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

People 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 Breaking of the Bread

*The Priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

Fraction Anthem *The people sing the refrain.*



Priest 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 are welcome to receive the Holy Communion.*

The bread is received in the open palm. The wine, if desired, may be taken from the cup by drinking (guide the chalice gently to your lips by the base) or by dipping the bread.

Those who do not wish to receive Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.

During this time a prayer leader will be in the back of the church, by the font, to offer healing prayers.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer.

Communion Carol Hymn 112 In the bleak mid-winter

*Cranham*

## Anthem & Candle Lighting

*During the Anthem the people's candles are lighted by an acolyte at the center aisle.*

Carol Hymn 101 Away in a manger

*Cradle Song;  
Kirkpatrick; arr. David Willcocks*

Post-Communion Carol Hymn 111 Silent Night  
*The people extinguish their candles after the singing of Silent Night.*

*Stille Nacht;  
Franz Gruber*

The Post-Communion Prayer *All stand.*

Priest Let us pray.

People ETERNAL God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Choral Benediction Break forth, O beautiful heavenly light

*Ermuntre dich  
Tune c. 1650; harm. J.S. Bach*

Break forth, O beautiful heavenly light, and usher in the morning;  
O shepherds, greet that glorious sight, our Lord a crib adorning.  
This child, this little helpless boy, shall be our confidence and joy,  
the power of Satan breaking, our peace eternal making.

## The Blessing

Priest    **M**ay Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. Amen.

**M**ay God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. Amen.

**M**ay God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. Amen.

**A**nd the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

Procession Carol Hymn 87 Hark! the herald angels sing

*Mendelssohn*

Priest    Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People    Thanks be to God.

Postlude Chorale prelude: *From heaven on high to earth I come*

*J.S. Bach*

*Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (BWV 606)*

*The people are invited to listen and observe silence during the postlude.  
All are welcomed to enjoy fellowship at a reception following the service.*



*St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church celebrates God's diverse creation  
and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone, no matter age, gender, sexual identity,  
culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.*

*Celebrant & Preacher:* The Rev. John Saville  
*Assisting Priest:* The Rev. Marcia M. Lockwood

*Readers:* Nick Hovick, Kathleen Saville  
*Intercessor:* Ann Clarke  
*Chalice Bearers:* Joe Heston & TBD

*Acolyte*  
Joe Heston

*Ushers:* Jim Hamilton & TBD  
*Reception Host:* Kathleen Saville

*Music*  
Steve Denmark, Organist & Director of Music  
Arthur Wu, Choir Director

*St. Dunstan's Choir*  
Pam Austin, Melanie Cervi, Stephanie Cervi, Bobby Clampett, Marianna Clampett,  
Phil Clarkson, Margo Fuselier, Chantal Grybas, Betty Kasson, Otto Neely, Art Pasquinelli,  
Elizabeth Pasquinelli, Sarah Pease, Louis Powell, Bob Priestley, and Arthur Wu

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Fraction Anthem: Be known to us © 1992 Morningstar Music Publishers

*Christmas flowers are given to the Glory of God by*

*Clayton & Victoria Clark*

*Ollie Collins  
in memory of Leland G. Collins*

*Joe & Marilyn Green  
in memory of parents Helmuth & Edith Voellger and Velma & Kenneth Green*

*Joe & Beth Heston*

*Gigi McWilliams  
in memory of Kathy and George McWilliams*

*Grace Merrill  
in memory of Dick Merrill*

*Yanira Pereira  
in thanksgiving for her four children*

*Natalie Stewart  
in memory of Margaret, Hampton Jr. and John Stewart*

*Dede & Ollie White  
in thanksgiving for family*



## WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

## WHAT WE ARE FOR

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. **The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience.** Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

## WHAT WE ARE AGAINST

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and **general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)**

## WHAT WE VALUE

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that **allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation.** Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

## WELCOME!

*Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomen's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.*

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### **St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**

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stdcv.org