

Christmas Eve



4 o'clock Holy Eucharist
December 24, 2021

Saint Dunstan's Episcopal Church

Welcome to St. Dunstan's

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.

*The clergy and staff of St. Dunstan's wish you a blessed Christmas season and peace in the coming year!
Please silence your phones and wear your mask while indoors.*

Prelude Noël for the Flutes

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Silent Night

Played by Nathan Lagier

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The people stand at the ringing of the bell.

Procession Hymn 83 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

verses 1, 3, & 6

1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e-ter-nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion,
*4 See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra-dle,
*5 Child, for us sin-ners poor and in the man-ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth-le-hem;
2 lo! he ab-hors not the Vir-gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci-ti-zens of heaven a-bove;
4 leav-ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em-brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

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.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
 born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;
 Word of the Father,
 now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Priest **B**lessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

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.

Gloria Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high
Verses 1 & 3

Gloria in Excelsis

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

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

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

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

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

God of David's fragile house of hope and expectation:
in the time of empires, your word is born to those who have no place and sung
to those who watch in the wild; may his birth unsettle our world with hidden glory
and untold peace; through Jesus Christ, the Child of Promise. **Amen.**

Isaiah 9:6—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.

A child has been born for us.

We have been given a son who will be our ruler.

His names will be Wonderful Advisor and Mighty God,

Eternal Father, and Prince of Peace.

His power will never end; peace will last forever.

He will rule David's kingdom and make it grow strong.

He will always rule with honesty and justice.

The Lord All-Powerful will make certain that all of this is done.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn 79 O little town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

Verses 1 & 3 are sung before the Gospel reading, verse 5 is sung after.

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 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Luke 2:1—14

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.

About that time Emperor Augustus gave orders for the names of all the people to be listed in record books. These first records were made when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to go to their own hometown to be listed. So Joseph had to leave Nazareth in Galilee and go to Bethlehem in Judea. Long ago Bethlehem had been King David's hometown, and Joseph went there because he was from David's family. Mary was engaged to Joseph and traveled with him to Bethlehem. She was soon going to have a baby, and while they were there, she gave birth to her first-born son. She dressed him in baby clothes and laid him on a bed of hay, because there was no room for them in the inn. That night in the fields near Bethlehem some shepherds were guarding their sheep. All at once an angel came down to them from the Lord, and the brightness of the Lord's glory flashed around them. The shepherds were frightened. But the angel said, "Don't be afraid! I have good news for you, which will make everyone happy. This very day in King David's hometown a Savior was born for you. He is Christ the Lord. You will know who he is, because you will find him dressed in baby clothes and lying on a bed of hay." Suddenly many other angels came down from heaven and joined in praising God. They said:

"Praise God in heaven!

Peace on earth to everyone who pleases God."

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children's Sermon

After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

The Rev. Laurel Coote

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people stand or kneel.

Leader Brothers and sisters, on this most holy night of our Lord's birth,
let us pray for ourselves and all those in need of our 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 **All** these things we ask in the name of him who came as the light in darkness of our world, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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. Laurel Cote
Rector of St. Dunstan's*

The Offertory

Priest Let us give to God with generosity and gladness
 the offerings of our lives, our labors and our love.

Offertory Anthem Angels' Carol

John Rutter (b. 1945)

Have you heard the sound of the angel voices
Ringing out so sweetly, ringing out so clear?
Have you seen the star shining out so brightly
As a sign from God that Christ the Lord is here?
Have you heard the news that they bring from heaven
To the humble shepherds who have waited long?
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels sing their joyful song.

He is come in peace in the winter's stillness,
Like a gentle snowfall in the gentle night;
He is come in joy like the sun at morning
Filling all the world with radiance and with light.
He is come in love as the child of Mary;
In a simple stable we have seen his birth:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing 'Peace on earth.'

He will bring new light to a world in darkness,
Like a bright star shining in the skies above;
He will bring new hope to the waiting nations
When he comes to reign in purity and love,
Let the earth rejoice at the Savior's coming;
Let the heaven's answer with the joyful morn:
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Hear the angels singing 'Christ is born.'

All stand.

Offertory Hymn 87 Hark! The herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

Verses 1 & 3

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed 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."

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.



People A-MEN.

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
 People **O**ur 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. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S164 Jesus, Lamb of God

Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

Priest These are the Gifts of God, given for you, God's beloved. So come and receive.
It is the Lord who invites you and His will that those who desire him,
should meet him here.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE THE HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set is the Lord's. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to receive the Bread made holy.

When directed by the usher, come forward to the communion station.

Please keep your mask on with your hands extended to receive the Host.

The bread is received in the open palm.

Once you have moved away from the Minister,
you may remove one side of your mask, consume the Host, and replace your mask.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing may indicate this by
crossing their arms over their chest.

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

Communion Anthem I Sing of a Maiden

Patrick Hadley (1899-1973)
Sung by Stephanie & Melanie Cervi

I sing of a maiden that is makeless;
King of all kings to her son she ches.

He came all so still where his mother was,
As dew in April that falleth on the grass.

He came all so still to his mother's bower,
As dew in April that falleth on the flower.

He came all so still where is mother lay,
As dew in April that falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden was never none but she:
Well may such a lady God's mother be.

Communion Hymn 101 Away in a manger

Cradle Song



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Communion Hymn 115 What Child is This

Greensleeves

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds
 guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
 bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Post-Communion Hymn and Candle Lighting

Hymn 111 Silent Night

Stille Nacht

The people's candles are lit by the acolyte in the center aisle, followed by the singing of the hymn.

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven 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 hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

The people extinguish their candles after the singing of Silent Night.

The Post-Communion Prayer *All stand.*

Priest Let us pray.

People **E**ternal 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.**

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.**

May 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.**

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

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

Closing Hymn 100 Joy to the world!

Antioch

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, 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,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

Priest Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

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

*Christmas flowers are given
to the Glory of God*

by

Steve Andrews

and in thanksgiving for

Katy & Joe Heston by Beth & Joe Heston

For my brother Peter Poulson's recovery from cancer by Gigi McWilliams

América del Pilar Powell Kumul by Louis Powell

and in memory of

Laura & David James and Katie & Clayton Neill by Alexandra James

Glenn Leonoff by Lauren Leonoff

Dorothy Manchester by Sue & Tom Masters

Dick Merrill, Ida Wilks, and Dick Hansler by Grace Merrill

Ruth Pryer by Nancy Pryer

Jim and Margaret Tomlin Ralph and Irene Hickcox by Julie & John Tomlin



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.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

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