# **Christmas Eve**



**4 o'clock Holy Eucharist** December 24, 2023

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.

Prelude In dulci jubilo

Dietrich Buxtehude

The Shepherds (from La Nativité du Seigneur)

(1637-1707) Olivier Messiaen

Musical Offering Dance of the sugarplum fairies

(1908-1992) Tchaikovsky Played by Nathan Lagier

#### THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

On this holy night we light the center candle of our Advent Wreath, the Christ candle, to welcome the light of the world into our midst. We will also extinguish the second blue candle, the Bethlehem candle, as we stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land, who suffer and mourn the violence in the region.

The people stand at the ringing of the bell.

**Processional Hymn 83** O Come, All Ye Faithful *verses 1, 3, & 6* 

Adeste fideles





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



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

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, 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.

#### Gradual Hymn 79 O little town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

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



#### 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.

# A time with the children Homily

The Rev. Laurel Coote

After the homily a brief silence is kept.

#### 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 difficulty 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 Coote Rector of St. Dunstan's

#### THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

#### **Offertory Sentence**

During the setting of the table a collection is taken to support the life and ministry at St. Dunstan's. A portion of tonight's offering will be sent to the Diocese of Jerusalem to aid our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land. The people's offerings of bread, wine and money or other gifts will be brought to the altar. The people stand while the offerings are presented. You may also make a donation to St. Dunstan's online at www.stdcv.org, and select GIVE.

Priest Behold, the dwelling of God is with humankind. God will dwell with them, and they shall be God's people, and God will be with them, and be their God.

#### **Offertory Anthem** Christmas Day

Gustav Holst (1874-1934)

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; Give ye heed to what we say: News! News! Jesus Christ is born today: Ox and ass before him bow, And he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! [repeat]

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour was born on Christmas day,
To save us all from woe and sin,
When we were gone astray.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Jewry,
This blessed babe was born,
And laid within a manger,
Upon that holy morn;
The which His Mother, Mary,
Did nothing take in scorn.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this. He hath oped the heav'nly door, And man is blessed evermore. Christ was born for this.

Come ye lofty, come ye lowly, Let your songs of gladness ring; In a stable lies the Holy, In a manger rests the King: See in Mary's arms reposing, Christ by highest heav'n adored:

#### Sung simultaneously:

The first Nowell, the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay, Keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Born is the King of Israel.

Come, your circle round him closing, Pious hearts that love the Lord.
Come, ye poor, no pomp of station Robes the Child your hearts adore.
He, the Lord of all salvation,
Shares your want, is weak and poor.
Oxen, round about behold them;
Rafters naked, cold and bare,
See the shepherds, God has told them
That the Prince of Life lies there.
Come ye children, blithe and merry,
This one Child your model make;
Christmas holly, leaf, and berry,
All be prized for His dear sake;

Come, ye gentle hearts, and tender, come, ye spirits, keen and bold;
All in all your homage render,
Weak and mighty, young and old.
High above a star is shining,
And the wisemen haste from far:

Come glad hearts and spirits pining: For you all has ris'n the star. Let us bring our poor oblations, Thanks and love and faith and praise: Come, ye people, come ye nations, all in all draw nigh to gaze.

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart, and soul, and voice; give ye heed to what we say:
News! News! Jesus Christ is born today:
Ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice, with heart, and soul, and voice; Now ye hear of endless bliss: Joy! Joy! Jesus Christ was born for this. He hath oped the heav'nly door, And man is blessed evermore. Christ was born for this.

Now to the Lord sing praises,
All Israel, Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface.
O tidings of comfort and joy.

Good Christian men rejoice,
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save.

# Offertory Hymn 87 Hark! The herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

Verses 1 & 3





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 S130 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Franz Schubert





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 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. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem \$164 Jesus, Lamb of God

Schubert



Priest These are the Gifts of God, given for you, God's beloved.

#### Invitation to Holy Communion

All who come in faith seeking a deeper knowledge and love of Jesus Christ are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Come forward to receive the bread in your open palm.

If you choose to receive the cup, gently guide the chalice to your lips by touching the base.

At this time, we are not able to allow dipping of the wafer into the chalice.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing, or who choose not to receive the cup, may indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest.

For those with wheat sensitivities, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer. To have communion brought to your seat, please notify an usher.

#### **Communion Anthem** Balulalow

Peter Warlock (1894-1930)

O my dear hert, young Jesus sweet Prepare thy creddil in my spreit And I sall rock thee in my hert And never mair from thee depart

Now I sall praise thee evermore With sangis sweet unto Thy glor! The knees of my hert sall I bow And sing tht richt Balulalow

#### Communion Hymn 101 Away in a manger

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#### Cradle Song



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## **Post-Communion Hymn and Candle Lighting**

**Hymn 111** Silent Night

Stille Nacht
The people's candles are lit from the center aisle, followed by the singing of the hymn.



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

### **The Prayer After Communion** the people stand or kneel

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.

#### The Blessing

Priest I

May 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.** 



#### The Dismissal

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 Noel Grand Jeu et Duo

Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

The people are invited to listen and observe silence during the postlude.

~

The clergy and staff of St. Dunstan's wish you a blessed Christmas season and peace in the coming year!

# Christmas flowers are given to the Glory of God

In Thanksgiving for:

The Jones Family by Aliceon Jones

My Church Family by Jackie Wendland

Church Family by Perry Rosen

Family by Bill and Cathy Solms

# And in Memory of:

Dick Merrill and Ida Wilks by Grace Merrill

Glenn & Betty DeLay by Sue Peccianti

Ray Hiebert by Sheila Hiebert

Doug Hansen; Warren & Dot Hansen by the Heston Family
Rev. Mark Wendland by Jackie Wendland
Our beloved church members who died this year

#### Sermon Notes

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