

Christmas Eve



7 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 The Shepherds (from *La Nativité du Seigneur*)

Olivier Messiaen
(1908-1992)

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

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 lol! 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

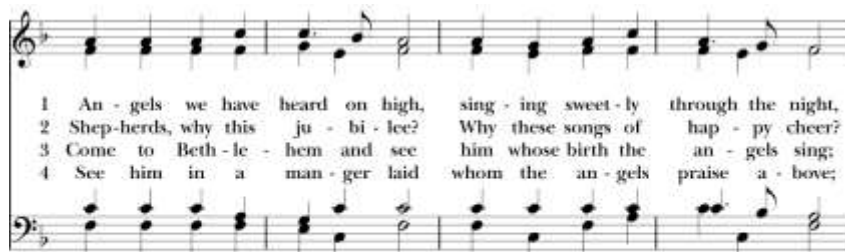
Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

**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.**

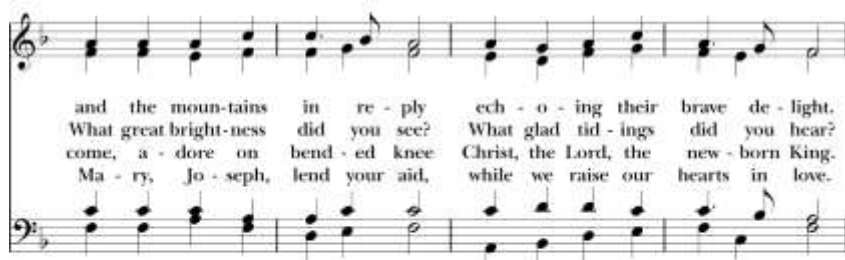
Gloria Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

Verses 1—3



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 - do - re 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



- 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.

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.

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 - ell.

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.

The Sermon

The Rev. Laurel Coote

After the sermon 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 Nativity Carol

John Rutter

Born in a stable so bare
Born so long ago
Born 'neath light of star
He who loved us so:

*Far away, silent he lay
Born today, your homage pay
For Christ is born for aye
Born on Christmas Day*

Cradled by mother so fair
Tender her lullaby
Over her son so dear
Angel hosts fill the sky:

Wise men from distant far land
Shepherds from starry hills
Worship this babe so rare
Hearts with his warmth he fills:

Love in that stable was born
Into our hearts to flow
Innocent dreaming babe
Make me thy love to know:

All stand to sing and for the procession of the offering.

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 triumph 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 **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 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.

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



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.

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.

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! the Sa - vior, is born!
birth, Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

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.**

All stand for the blessing

The Blessing

Priest 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.**

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

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.

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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