



Welcome to St. John's Church

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ Christmas Eve Family Service

5:00 p.m.

December 24, 2020

The health and safety of our congregation and community is the highest concern of St. John's. Until we begin to return to in-person worship, we will continue to "live stream" our 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship on the St. John's YouTube page, at: [St. John's YouTube Page](#)

Organ Prelude

Opening Hymn “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;*

Refrain:

*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 eternal,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Son of the Father, begotten, not created, [Refrain]*

*3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:
“Glory to God, all glory in the highest!” [Refrain]*

Opening Acclamation

Officiant: Behold, I bring good news of great joy which will come to all the people: for to you is born in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

People: ***Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.***

The Collect of the Day

The Officiant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Officiant Let us pray.

The Officiant says the Collect.

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.***

The Story of the Birth of Jesus

Luke 2:1-5

“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.”

Mary and Joseph are placed in the crèche

Carol “O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!”

*I O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.*

Luke 2:6-7

“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.”

The baby, Jesus is placed in the crèche

Carol “Away in a manger”

*I Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.*

Luke 2:8-9

“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. “

The shepherds are placed in the crèche

Carol “*While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night*”

*1 While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
an angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.*

Luke 2:10-12

“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.’”

The Angel of the Lord is placed in the crèche

Carol “*Angels We Have Heard On High*”

*1 Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains.*

Refrain:

*Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

Luke 2:13-14

“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!”

All the other angels and musicians are placed in the crèche

Carol “*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*”

*1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King:
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”*

Refrain:
***Hark! the herald angels sing,
“Glory to the newborn King”***

Luke 2:15-20

“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.”

The sheep, oxen, and ass are placed in the crèche

Carol: *“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”*

*I It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.*

Children’s Homily “The Jesse Tree” Fr. Geoff, Priest-in-Charge

Please stand for the Station at the Crèche

Station at the Crèche

Officiant The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

People ***And we beheld his glory.***

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory *“O Holy Night”*

Adolphe Adam

Prayer Over The Crèche

God of every nation and people, from the very beginning of creation you have made manifest your love: when our need for a Savior was great you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy and peace, justice, mercy, and love.

Lord, bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus, and raise our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all, and who lives and reigns forever and ever. *Amen.*

A Christmas Litany

Officiant Let us pray. By way of Bethlehem, lead us, O God, to newness of life.

People ***Hear us, Lord***

Officiant By the innocence of the Christ child renew our simple trust.

People ***Hear us, Lord***

Officiant By the tenderness of Mary, deliver us from cruelty and hardness of heart.

People ***Hear us, Lord***

Officiant By the patience of Joseph, save us from all rash judgement and ill-tempered action.

People ***Hear us, Lord***

Officiant By the shepherd’s watch, open our eyes to the signs of your coming.

People ***Hear us, Lord***

Officiant By the Wise Men’s journey, keep our searching spirits from fainting.

People ***Hear us, Lord***

Officiant By the shining of the star, guide our feet into the way of peace.

People ***Hear us, Lord***

Officiant O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Final Hymn *“Silent Night”*

*1 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.*

*2 Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar;
Heav'nly hosts sing "alleluia!"
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!"*

*3 Silent night, holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

Christmas Blessing

Officiant 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. *Officiant* 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.**

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

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

Final Hymn "Joy to the world!"

*1 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.*

*2 Joy to the earth! the Savior reigns;
Let all their songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*4 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.*

Dismissal

The Officiant, dismisses them with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Organ Postlude *“A Medley of Christmas Carols”*

*On behalf of the people of St. John’s, we wish you and your family a glorious
and safe Christmas, and a happier New Year*

Special Christmas Fund Remembered Names

Mr. and Mrs. William Bardel

Florence Klein Britton

Mr. Nicholas Benson & Ms. Natalie Dyer

Elisha Dyer

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bent (Ted and Rebecca)

Renee Fotouhi, Eleanor Fotouhi, Abol Hassan Fotouhi, M.D., Parviz Fotouhi, Julia Biddle Armour Walker, Judah Folkman, M.D., Sen. Ted Stevens, Charlotte & Gordon Smith

Mr. Hunter Brown and Miss Tillie Page Laird

Kenzie Brown, Estelle and Howard Bronson, Pamela Brown, FiFi Laird Johnson

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Campbell

Jack and Pat Campbell, David Purcell, Emory Strilkauskas

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Coles

No names given

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Daniels

No names given

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Dulack

Jules and Madeleine Sintobin, Stephen and Theresa Dulack

Ms. Emily Fitzhugh

Faith Stewart Gordon, Robert James Thornton, Ann Belfield Thornton

Mr. and Mrs. David Gillespie

John J. O'Hara, Maxine B. O'Hara, Kimball R.F. O'Hara, Walter M. Gillespie, Mary L. Gillespie, Elizabeth Gillespie Hartnagel, Marcella Long. Prayers for the living: Helen O'Hara MacDuff

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman

Kenneth and Gloria Hahneman, Joseph and Betty DiNunno

Mr. Andris Kalnins and Ms. Sarah Lee Martin

Julie Hays Worthington Martin, Lorenzo Wodehouse Martin, Arthur Dwight Martin, Emilie Martin, Zenta and Gustaus Kalnins

Mrs. Kirsten Knutson

David H. Knutson, Magna and Mathias Eriksen

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Littlefield

No names given

Capt. Rudy Mangels and Ms. Holly Flor

Matthew Flor, Larkin Mangels, Edna and Marvin Mangels, Patricia and Bert Schuetz, Susan Agnes Flanagan, William Coyne, Warren Louise and Nelda Mangels.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip Markert

Phil and Maxine Markert, Tina Arnold, John Arnold, Nora and Alan Wolff, Nancy Wolff, Mickey and Peter Wolff, Helen and Wallace Gray, Drika Purvis

Ms. Katherine Michie

Peg Addicks and Peg Mowbray Jones

Mr. Alex Purves

Hoppy Barnard and Drika Purves

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Smith

Mark Christian Murphy, Marie and Christian Meier, Helen McNeil, Wentworth Smith

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Witt

In Thanksgiving for all our Blessings

ST. JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
78 Green Hill Road
Washington, CT 06793

Worship Ministers

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Officiant*
Jon Lafleur, *Organist*
Donna Castaner, *Soloist*
Laura Daly, *Reader*
Larry Littlefield, *Veejay*
Susie Markert *Altar Flowers*
MB Witt, *Altar Guild*

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527

St. John's Website: <http://stjohnswashington.com/>

St. John's Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/StJohnsChurchWashingtonCT>



St. John's YouTube Page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoOwTnqIRss4BT8VwFul4qg>

Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net