

Welcome to St. John's Church



CHRISTMAS EVE FAMILY SERVICE AND THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

*December 24, 2023
5:00 p.m.*

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

Parish Office Telephone: (860) 868-2527
Parish Office Hours: *Wednesdays and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*

St. John's Email: stjohnschurch@snet.net

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/UCoOwTnqlRss4BT8VwFul4qg>

LESSONS AND CAROLS ON THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD AND THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

*Children's activity bags are available on the bench by the Baptistry.
Please return them after the Service.*

*There is a furnished children's room downstairs with soft toys and rugs,
and audio of the Service, if parents wish to use it.*

Prelude

The Call to Worship with the tolling of the church bell

Opening Hymn # 83 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

The image displays the musical score for the hymn "O Come, All Ye Faithful". It is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are arranged in two systems, with the first system containing five verses and the second system containing five verses. The piano accompaniment features a simple, steady bass line and a more active treble line with chords and moving lines. The lyrics are as follows:

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

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant 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

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *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 creche

HYMN # 78

O Little Town Of Bethlehem

Unison or harmony

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'O Little Town Of Bethlehem'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system contains the first five lines of the hymn, and the second system contains the next five lines. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are as follows:

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 2:6-7 While Mary and Joseph were there in Bethlehem, the time came for Mary 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

HYMN # 101 *Away In A Manger*

1

*Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.*

*2 The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
 I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
 and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
 close by me for ever, and love me I pray.*

*Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

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.

Hymn # 109

The First Nowell The Angel Did Say

1

*The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.*

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

2 *They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.*

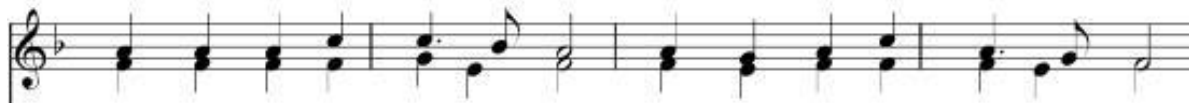
Refrain

LUKE 2:10-14 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!”

The Angel is placed in the creche

Hymnal # 96

Angels We Have Heard On High



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 - - - - -



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 shepherds are placed in the creche

Hymn # 89

It Came Upon The Midnight Clear

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

THE CHILDREN'S HOMILY

Fr. Geoff, Priest-in-Charge

The children are invited to come forward and sit with Fr. Geoff on the Chancel steps for the Children's Homily, if they wish

Please stand for the Station at the Creche

STATION AT THE CRECHE

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 also with you.***

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

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam

O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining; It is the night of our dear Savior's birth. Long lay the world in sin and error pining 'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth. A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices, For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn. Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices! O night divine, O night when Christ was born, O night, O night, O night divine! Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming, With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand. So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming, Here come the Wise Men from Orient land. The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger, In all our trials born to be our friend. He knows our need, he guards us from all danger. Behold your King; before the lowly bend. Behold your King; before the lowly bend.

Please sit or kneel for the Prayers

PRAYER OVER THE CRECHE

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 thy 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 liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting.
Amen.

(Please remain kneeling for the hymn which is sung by all)

Hymn # 111

Silent Night, Holy Night

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night". It is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in G major and 3/4 time. The melody is simple and gentle, with the lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: "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,". The score is presented in a clear, legible font, with the lyrics aligned under the corresponding notes.

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.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING *(Please remain kneeling)*

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.**

Please stand and join in singing the hymn.

Hymn # 100

Joy To The World!

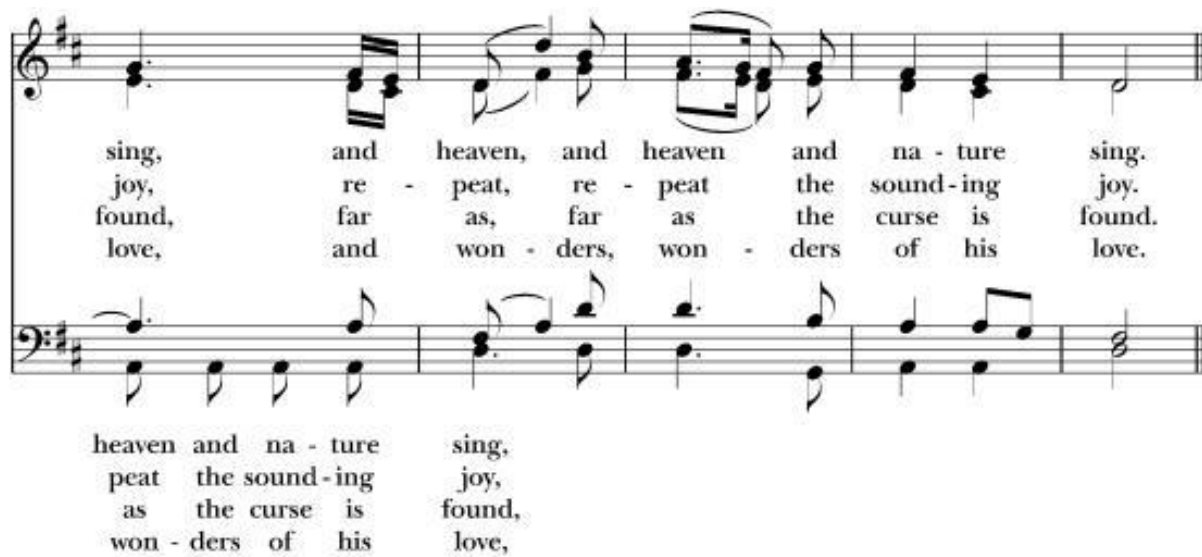
The musical score is written for four voices (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. The score is divided into three systems. The first system contains the first four lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the final four lines. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal parts. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves, with line numbers 1 through 4 indicating the different parts.

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



DISMISSAL *Please remain standing*

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

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

Organ Postlude

Worship Ministers Today:

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Officiant*

Vivienne Cummings, *Liturgical Assistant*

Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Spencer Yang, *Pianist*

Laura Daly, *Veejay (VJ)*

Laura Daly, *Readers*

MB Witt: *Altar Guild*

Susan Markert, Alexander Purves, Natalie Dyer, Emily Fitshugh, Veronique

Dulack, *Christmas Flower Arrangements*

Bob Futh, Natalie Dyer: *Usher*

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

Staff

The Reverend Dr. Geoffrey Hahneman, *Priest-in-Charge*
Tom Brand, *Organist & Choirmaster*
Dawn Rosiello, *Parish Administrator*
Joan Burgess, *Foundation Administrator*

Vestry

Mary Davis, Jay Bauer: *Wardens*
David Gillespie: *Treasurer*
Andris Kalnins: *Assistant Treasurer*
Laura Daly: *Clerk*

Class of 2023

Laura Daly, Veronique Dulack, Joseph Claro

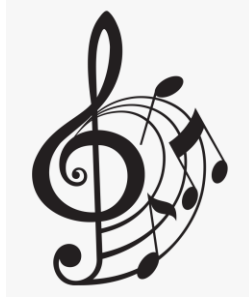
Class of 2024

Rebecca Bent, Michael Del Nin, Susan McFeely

Class of 2025

Worth Bracken, Sara Coles, Andris Kalnins

Diocesan Delegates: Sara Coles, MB Witt
Laura Daly: **Alternate**



COME SING WITH US IN 2024

CHORAL OPPORTUNITIES AT ST. JOHN'S

Our exceptional choirs provide wonderful opportunities for music making and fellowship for singers of all ages and experience levels.

St. John's Community Youth Choir!!!

- A nurturing and inclusive group in which family members of multiple generations can enjoy singing together in a low-stress environment (infants, children, youth, and adults are all welcome and encouraged to participate)
- Perform fun, upbeat musical selections in the Family Service on a Sunday morning once each month.
- Next performance will take place on Sunday, January 14, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Rehearsal immediately prior at 9:00 a.m.
- Open to parishioners as well as community members

Chancel Choir

- Intergenerational ensemble open by audition to volunteer and professional singers from throughout the region
- Rehearses on Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. and performs in the 10:00am service from mid-September through mid-June and on various feast days
- Eclectic repertoire includes anthems of all periods and styles.
- Simple and flexible schedule; singers are welcome to participate every Sunday or whenever their schedules permit

Schola Cantorum

- Professional chamber choir of lay clerks and choral scholars
- Specializes in the performance of polyphonic motets and Masses from the Renaissance

For further information about joining one of our choirs, please contact Tom Brand, Organist & Choirmaster, at tbrand@saecula.org.