

BETHESDA EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Washington Street near Broadway
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866**



**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
CHRISTMAS EVE at 10:00 P.M.
24 DECEMBER 2019**

Music of the Nativity *at 10:00 p.m.*

*Please switch off all cellular telephones, Blackberries, and other electronic devices.
Thank you.*

Organ – *Noël Provençal*

Pierre-Joseph Candelle (1800-1862)

Orchestra – *Noel Carols*

Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1636-1704)

Carol – *Noël Nouvelet*

Nowell, sing Nowell good people gathered here.
Offer thanks, ye faithful, to the news give ear.
Sing we nowell, a new King born today.
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Unto humble shepherds came the angel near;
'Hence', said he, 'to Bethlem, be ye of good cheer.
Seek there the Lamb of God, love own pure ray.'
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

When to Bethlehem they came in lowly fear,
Found they gentle Mary with her Son so dear.
Heaven's mighty Lord all cradled in the hay,
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Eastern sages seek him, in the darkness drear
By a star illumined shining forth so clear,
Guiding them to Bethlehem far away.
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Now doth our Savior Jesus Christ appear,
Bringing salvation promised many a year

By his redeeming blood this happy day.
Nowell, sing nowell good people gathered here.

Words: French traditional carol. English by John Rutter
Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

Carol – *Noel We Sing*

Angels of the Lord they came from heaven singing.
Called the Shepherds forth by name while the bells were ringing.
Told the shepherds while they lay,
that the Jesus Christ was born today.
Noel we sing. Christ is born a King

Leave your ewes and leave your rams,
leave the watch you're keeping.
Leave your sheep and leave your lambs
on the hillside sleeping.
Rise up, shepherd, follow me to the manger lowly.
Noel we sing. Christ is born a King.

To the manger, straight they came,
there they knelt before Him,
singing praises to His name,
thus they did adore Him,
Echoing their sweet amen,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Noel we sing. Christ is born a King.

Trumpets sound and Angels sing, join in celebration,
To us all good tidings bring of a new creation.
For today a child is born, Oh, Jesus son of Mary.
Noel we sing. Christ is born a King.

Words: Louise Dobbs
Music: Louis Claude Daquin (1694-1772)

Carol – *In the Bleak Midwinter*

In the bleak midwinter,
frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron,
water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow,
snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter,
long ago.

Enough for him, whom cherubim,
worship night and day,
a breast full of milk,
and a manger full of hay,
Enough for him, who angels,
fall down before,
the ox and ass and camel,
which adore.

Words: Christiana Rossetti (1872)
Music: Harold Darke (1888-1976)

Our God, heaven cannot hold him
nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away
when he comes to reign:
in the bleak midwinter
a stable place sufficed
the Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.

What can I give him,
poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him,
give my heart

Carol – *What Sweeter Music*

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!

Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day
That sees December turned to May,
That sees December turned to May.

Why does the chilling winter's morn,
like a field beset with corn?
Or smell like a meadow newly shorn
Thus on a sudden.? Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be;
'Tis he is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and lustre, public mirth,
To heaven and the under-earth.

We see him come, and know him ours,
Who with his sunshine and his showers,
Turns the patient ground to flowers.
The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome him.
The nobler part
of all the house here is the heart,

Which we will give him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do him honor; who's our King,
And Lord of all this reveling.

What sweeter music can we bring
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King.

Words by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)
Music: John Rutter

Solemn Eucharist *at 10:30 p.m.*

The Entrance Rite: The Great Procession

All stand as the Sacred Ministers and acolytes enter the church, during which the Choir sings the

Introit – *Joseph is well Married*

My Lord spoke and said to me,
This day have I begotten thee.
Thou art my beloved Son.
This day have I begotten thee.
Why do nations conspire?
Why do Kings rise up?
'gainst the Lord's anointed?
My Lord spoke and said to me,
This day have I begotten thee.
Thou art my beloved Son,
This day have I begotten Thee.

Words: *Psalm 2:7, 1-2*

Music: Marc-Antoine Charpentier

The Celebrant greets the people as follows

Dear friends: As we gather here to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless us, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.
Choir and People In the Name of Christ. Amen.

All now sing this

Hymn

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.*

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Only-begotten, Son of the Father; *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest; *Refrain*

Station at the Creche

Celebrant The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:
Choir and People And we beheld his glory.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God our Creator, to restore our fallen race you spoke the effectual word, and the Eternal Word became flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that as he humbled himself to be clothed with our humanity, so we may be found worthy in him, to be clothed with his divinity; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

Celebrant

Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept for a space.

Celebrant God our Father, you sent your Son, full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.

Choir and People Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant Jesus our Savior, you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Choir and People Christ, have mercy.

Celebrant Spirit of love, your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Choir and People Lord, have mercy.

Celebrant May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Choir and People Amen.

The people stand and the Procession continues, all singing this

Hymn

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;
We would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*

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

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786), circa 1743;
stanzas 1-3 & 6 trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880), 1841;
stanzas 4 & 6 trans. William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917).
Music: *Adeste fideles* (18th century melody, probably John Francis Wade, 1711-
1786); harmony mainly by William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

The choir now sings

Gloria in excelsis

Glória in excélsis Deo
et in terra pax
homínibus bonae voluntátis.
Laudámus te,
benedícimus te,
adorámus te,
glorificámus te,
grátias ágimus tibi
propter magnam glóriam tuam,
Dómine Deus, Rex cæléstis,
Deus Pater omnípotens.
Dómine Fili Unigénite,
Iesu Christe,
Dómine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Fílius Patris,
qui tollis peccáta mundi,
miserére nobis;
qui tollis
peccáta mundi,
súscipe deprecatióem nostram.
Qui sedes
ad dexteram Patris,
miserére nobis.
Quóniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dóminus,
tu solus Altíssimus,
Iesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spíritu:
*Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace,*

*good will towards men.
We praise thee,
we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee
for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King,
God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son,
Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God,
Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takes away
the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest
at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only,
O Christ,
With the Holy Ghost, art most high
In Gloria Dei Patris.
Amen.
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.*

Words: Traditional

Music: *Messe de Minuit*, Marc-Antoine Charpentier

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
Choir and People And with thy spirit.
Celebrant Let us pray.

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 on earth, so we may also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reignth, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The Liturgy of the Word

All sit.

The First Lesson – *A Reading from the Book of Isaiah*

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. (9:2-7)

Lector The Word of the Lord.
Choir and People Thanks be to God.

The choir now sings the

Gradual – *Cantate Domino*

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

Words: *Psalm 96*

Music: Anglican Chant, David Hurd (b. 1950)

The Second Lesson – *A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds. (2:11-14)

Lector The Word of the Lord.

Choir and People Thanks be to God.

All now stand and sing the

Sequence: Hymn

Angels we have heard on high
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight.

Refrain Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
Which glad tidings did you hear? *Refrain*

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

All now face the Book of Gospels.

The Holy Gospel – Luke 2:1-14

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

Choir and People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord
Choir and People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Response: Hymn

See him in a manger laid,
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise hearts in love. *Refrain*

Words: Traditional French Carol; trans. James Chadwick, 1862.
Music: *Gloria*

The Sermon

Dean Vang

The Nicene Creed

All stand and say

I believe in one God,
 the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
 the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of his Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light,
 very God of very God,
 begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father;
 by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Celebrant bids the Intensions of the Eucharist, concluding

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

All kneel. The Deacon continues

Father, in this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.
Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.
Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.
Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

In this holy night the angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen those who work for peace and justice.
Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.
Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.
Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

In this holy night heaven is come to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.
Mercy and truth have met together;
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.

The choir now sings this

Carol – *Quittez, Pasteurs*

Quittez, pasteurs, Vos brebis, vos houlettes,
Come leave your sheep, Your ewes with lambs a-feeding,
Votre hameau Et le soin du troupeau;
O shepherds, hear Our message of good cheer;
Changez vos pleurs En une joie parfaite;
No longer weep; The angel-tidings heeding,
Alez tous adorer
To Bethlehem haste away!
Un Dieu, qui vient vous consoler.
Our Lord is born this happy day.

Vous le verrez Couché dans une étable
He lieth there within a lowly manger;
Comme un enfant Nu, pauvre, languissant;
An infant poor He languisheth full sore.
Reconnaissez Son amour ineffable
God's loving care Hath saved us all from danger
Pour nous venir chercher
And brought us to his fold;
Il est le fidèle berger!
Now own His faithful love revealed of old.

Rois d'Orient L'étoile vous éclaire;
Ye sages three Arrayed in royal splendor,
A ce grand roi Rendez hommage et foi.
Your homage pay; a king is born this day.
L'astre brillant Vous mène à la lumière
The star ye see Its radiance must surrender

De ce soleil naissant;
Before our Sun most bright:
Offrez l'or, la myrrhe et l'encens.
Your gifts are precious in his sight.

Esprit divin A qui tout est possible
Come Holy Ghost, Of blessings source eternal,
Percez nos coeurs De vos douces ardeurs;
Our souls inspire With thy celestial fire;
Notre destin Par vous deviant paisible;
The heavenly host Praise Christ the Lord supernal
Die prétend nous donner
And sing the peace on earth
Le ciel envenant s'incarner.
God gives us by his holy birth.

Words: French traditional carol. English John Rutter
Music: John Rutter

Then all stand and sing this

Hymn

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.

For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the Mother mild;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1867)

Music: *Forest Green*, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1906)

Eucharistic Prayer II

The people remain standing.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>Choir and People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>Choir and People</i>	We lift them up unto the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
<i>Choir and People</i>	It is meet and right so to do.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus & Benedictus qui venit

Celebrant, Choir, and People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Words: Traditional
Music: Healy Willan (1928)

The people kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which

is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant, Choir, and 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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then is said

Pascha nostrum

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Sacred Ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people. All who are baptized are invited to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. *Amen.*
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. *Amen.*

During the ministration of Communion, the choir sings the following

Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

Words: Traditional
Music: Marc-Antoine Charpentier

Carol – *Whence Comes This Rush of Wings?*

Whence comes this rush of wings afar,
following the Nowell star?
Birds from woods in wondrous flight,
Bethlehem seek this holy night.

Tell us, birds, why come ye here,
to this stable poor and drear?
Hastning we seek the newborn King,
and all our sweetest music bring.

Angels, shepherds, birds of sky,
come where the son of God doth lie;
Christ on earth with man doth dwell,
join in the shout Nowell, Nowell!

Nowell. Our sweet music bring.

Nowell. Our sweet music bring.

Words: Tradition French
Music: Brian Hoffman

Motet – *The Lamb*

Little lamb, who made thee?
Dost thou know who made thee?
Gave thee life, and bid thee feed
By the stream and o're the mead;

Little Lamb, I'll tell thee;
He is called by thy name,
For he calls himself a Lamb.
He is meek, and he is mild,

Gave thee clothing of delight,
Softest clothing, woolly, bright;
Gave thee such a tender voice,
Making all the vales rejoice?

He became a little child.
I, a child, and thou a lamb,
We are called by his name.
Little lamb, God bless thee!

Words: William Blake
Music: John Tavener (1944-2013)

After the ministrations of Communion, all kneel and sing this

Hymn

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.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!

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.

Words: Josef Möhr (1792-1848)

Music: Stille Nacht (Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863))

The Concluding Rite

Celebrant Let us pray.

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever.
Amen.

The Celebrant now bestows

The Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

All stand.

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All now sing this

Hymn

Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with us to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
Light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:
hail, the Sun of Righteousness.
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

Words: Charles Wesley, alt. (1739)

Music: *Mendelssohn*; adopted from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn (1840)

Organ – *Praise of Christ's Nativity*

Andrew Gant (b. 1963)

The Priests of Bethesda would be honored and privileged to bring the Blessed Sacrament to those unable to attend the liturgies of Our Lord's Nativity. Please telephone the Parish Office to make arrangements.

CHRISTMAS COMMEMORATIONS 2019

In Thanksgiving for
The Incarnation of Our Lord
and for
The Bethesda Family

by
The Very Rev'd Marshall J. Vang

The Aumbry Candle is given in memory of
Ray Priestley and Madeline Stewart
by *Lynne Priestley*

Given By:

Jane Agee

Mark & Kathleen Anspach

Audrey J. Ball

Sharon & Gordon Boyd

Johanna Brackett

Laurie Brenenstuhl

Chris & Wendy Hayes

In Loving Memory Of:

William Hugh Agee

*Mark W. Anspach, Ruth S. Anspach
Wanda M. Gilliatt, Clayton E. Gilliatt
Carol Jeanne Frazier*

Edward Ball

*Rev. John Kettlewell, Liz Hood
Garrett Smith*

Jack Brackett

John & Emily Capano

Kyleigh Hayes

Pamela Houde

*Gary Houde, Clarence Pickard
Laura Pickard, Lance Pickard
James Norton*

Jean Huber

Adelaide Peters

Huntley - Federiconi Family

*Ralph Federiconi
C. William & Lee Huntley*

Janet M. Longe

*Frederick Longe, Beatrice Longe,
Percival Crawford, Ida Crawford
Fanny Longe, Michal Mathews
Megan Crawford, Mary Crawford
Francis Longe, Katherine Longe
Sandra Miles*

Virginia & Bruce McMorris

Paul Ruzicka

Mildred Meeker

*Robert C. Meeker, John Hoyle
Lottie Hoyle*

Lynne Priestley

*Ray Priestley, Madeline Stewart
Emilie & John Becher
Anna & Raymond Priestley
Tom Connor*

Carol Simek

David J. Simek

Shauna M. Sutton

*William H. Sutton, Sr. & Cornelia
May Sutton, William H. Sutton, Jr.
& Muriel Armer Sutton, George
Hodgson, Sr. & May Sutton Hodgson
Fred H. Hodgson, Minna Jane Sutton
Rod O. Sutton, Albert M. & Elizabeth
M. Chandler*

Barbara Tasso

*Anthony Tasso Gene & Nellie Tasso.
Andrew & Julia Tykwinski
Gene Tasso*

June B. Tessier

Russell Tessier, David & Anna Tessier

Jerilyn & Michael Towner

*L. Carlton & Lena S. Armstrong
Robert C. Sr. & Margaret Armstrong
Robert C. Armstrong Jr.
Charles & Helen Towner*

Karen & Craig Walton

Michael Stockman

David & Nancy Wilder

*Lillian & Edward O'Boyle
Mary Virginia & David Danforth
Wilder*

Mary Withington

*The Rev'd Robert W. & Kathleen
Dodge Withington, Betty Withington,
Diana Mobley, Frances & Dorothy
Wendelglass, William Quinn,
Philip & Doris Kautzman*

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang

Celebrant

The Reverend Paul F. Evans

Deacon

Darren Miller

Subdeacon

Robert E. Bullock

Eucharistic Minister

Mary Shartle, Darren Miller

Lectors

Farrell Goehring

Organist & Director of Music

Dr. Kathleen Slezak

Choral Director