



## **The Feast of the Nativity**

**December 24, 2023 4:00pm**

*Welcome Guests and Visitors! We are glad you are here. If you are new to St. Thomas, stop by the Reception Desk in the lobby and identify yourself to our clergy and people so we may properly welcome you. You may also fill out an "I'm New" card located on the backs of the chairs in the church. If you need assistance with the order of service, feel free to ask the person next to you.*

*Auditory Assistance is available – ask an usher or a greeter about obtaining a hearing device.*

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

## Prelude

## Opening Hymn

### *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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.

Verse 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

*All standing the celebrant says*

The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

*Response: **And we beheld his glory.***

## Opening Prayer

Almighty and ever living 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.**

# Christmas Pageant

## WHAT CHILD IS THIS A Nativity Musical Pageant

*Welcome Families, Friends and Guests! We are thrilled to have you here with us for this Nativity Story shared by the Children's Choir of St. Thomas. We would love to hear your voices during the congregational hymns!*

### **"O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

Elena Blumreich, soloist

### **"The First Noel"**

Children's Choir & Congregation

*The first Noel, the angel 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.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel – Born is the King of Israel.*

### **"Do You Hear What I Hear"**

Gideon Evans, Lydia Evans and Eleanor Wry, soloists  
with Children's Choir

### **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**

Children's Choir & Congregation

*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.*

### **"Rise Up Shepherds and Follow"**

Maggie Sullivan, soloist  
with Children's Choir

## **“Away in a Manger”**

Verse 1 - Children’s Choir

Verse 2 - Micah Evans, soloist

Verse 3 - Children’s Choir and Congregation

*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 cradle till morning is nigh.*

## **“We Three Kings”**

Verse 1 - Simon Koppenhaver, soloist

Refrains - Children’s Choir and Congregation

*O! Star of wonder, star of night! Star with royal beauty bright!  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.*

*O! Star of Wonder, star of night! Star with royal beauty bright!  
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!*

## **“What Child is This?”**

Josie Tallman, soloist

## **“Little Drummer Boy”**

Gideon Evans, soloist

with Children’s Choir

## **“Joy to the World”**

Children’s Choir and Congregation

*Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

## **Children’s Message**

## The Peace

*All stand.*

Celebrant     The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

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



*I come to proclaim  
good news to you*

# HOLY COMMUNION

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## Offertory Hymn

*Hark, the Herald Angels Sing*  
Children's Choir & Congregation

***"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 host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"***

Refrain: ***"Hark!" the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn 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 man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! (Refrain)***

***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 Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! (Refrain)***

## Offertory

Celebrant All things come of thee O Lord.  
People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

## Great Thanksgiving

### *Eucharistic Prayer B*

Celebrant The Lord be with you.  
People ***And also with you.***  
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.  
People ***We lift them to the Lord.***  
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People ***It is right to give him thanks and praise.***

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

*Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.*

*Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.*

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**

*People*      ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

*Celebrant*      We give thanks to you, O God . . .  
. . . Therefore, according to his command, O Father,  
***We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;***

And we offer our sacrifice and thanksgiving . . .  
. . . 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. **AMEN.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*People and Celebrant*

***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.***



## Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*and may add* Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS

*We invite everyone who has been baptized by water in any Christian tradition to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers.*

*If you have a wheat allergy, please tell one of the clergy administering communion and we will see that you receive a rice wafer instead.*

## Communion Music

### *O Holy Night*

Jessica Tallman, soloist



## 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 - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Go Tell it on the Mountain

*Refrain*

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1	While	shep - herds	kept	their
2	The	shep - herds	feared	and
3	Down	in	a	low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
 trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang  
 man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

*Repeat Refrain*

hold, through-out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

## Postcommunion Prayer

*Celebrant and 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 families are invited to take a light from a basket at the front of the nave after leaving the communion rail. The nave lights shall be darkened as the lights are turned on.*

*Once the lights are turned on, the carol, "Silent Night" will be sung.*

*Some may wish to kneel as they sing.*

*At the conclusion of the carol, the nave lights will be brought gradually to normal and the children are asked to turn off their lights. A basket will be placed in the back of the nave to place the lights.*

## Silent Night

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

The musical score is written in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. It features a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The score is divided into five systems, each with a vocal staff and a piano staff. The first system contains the first three lines of lyrics. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the next three lines. The fourth system contains the final three lines. The fifth system contains the final three lines. The piano accompaniment consists of chords and single notes, providing a simple harmonic support for the vocal line.

## Christmas Blessing

# Closing Hymn

## *Joy to the World!* (verses 2-4)

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  
 re - 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

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.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

## Dismissal

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.  
 People ***Thanks be to God.***

## Postlude

*To request prayers, please fill out the form on the "Pray" card located on the backs of the chairs. We invite you to list your specific concerns and leave them in the Prayer Request box at the back of the church, place them in the offering plate, or bring them to the church office. Prayers of the People are written weekly. Normally they are offered for three weeks, but any request may be resubmitted as needed.*

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