

The Feast of the NativityDecember 24, 20234:00pm

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.

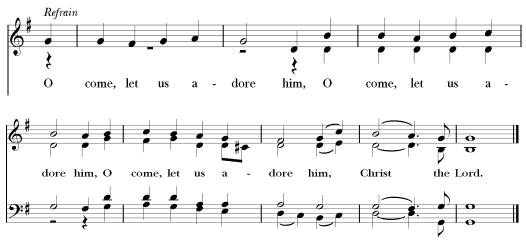
Auditory Assistance is available – ask an usher or a greeter about obtaining a hearing device.

Prelude

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful





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 rom, and heaven and nature sing, And heaven and nature sing, And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Children's Message

The Peace

All stand.

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

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



L come to proclaim good news to you

HOLY COMMUNION

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

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.

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.

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



Go Tell it on the Mountain



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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.

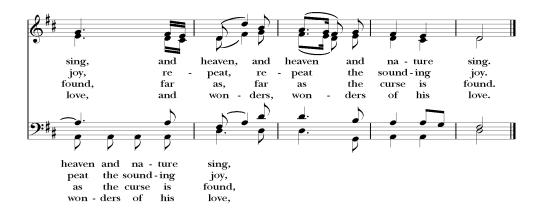
At the conclusion of the carol, the nave lights will be brought gradually to normal and the children are asked to turn off their lights. A basket will be placed in the back of the nave to place the lights.

Silent Night



Christmas Blessing





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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