



# Grace Episcopal Church

First Sunday after Christmas

December 30, 2018 | 8 and 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Music | Wendi Olinger

Tribe | Snowberry

*A bell rings. We listen to the longing in our hearts. We remain seated.*

## Gathering Song | On This Day Earth Shall Ring

Words: *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; trans. By Jane M. Joseph | Music: *Personent Hodie*; arr. by Gustav Holst



1. On this day earth shall ring

4. On this day an - gels sing;



with the song chil - dren sing to the Lord,  
with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ,



Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther  
heav-en's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he

### *Refrain*



gave us.

gave us. \*Id-e-o - o - o, id-e-o - o - o,



id - e - o, glo-ri - a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## A Call to Worship

After the gathering song, the Celebrant invites us to stand.

Celebrant In the beginning

**People was the Word.**

Celebrant The Word was with God,

**People and the word was God.**

Celebrant In the beginning was God.

**People All things came into being with God. What has come into being is life,**

Celebrant and that life is the light of all people.

**People The light shines in the darkness,**

Celebrant and the darkness did not

**People will not**

Celebrant can not

**People overcome it.**

We remain standing and sing together.

## Opening Song | Sing We Now of Christmas

Words: French carol 18<sup>th</sup> c. | Music: Noel Nouvelet

*Unison*



1 7 Sing we now of Christ-mas, No - el, sing we  
2 7 An - gels called to shep-herds, "Leave your flocks at  
3 In Beth - le - hem they found him; Jo - seph and Ma - ry



here! Hear our grateful prais - es to the Babe so dear.  
rest, jour - ney forth to Beth-le-hem, find the lamb - kin blest."  
mild, seat - ed by the man - ger, watching the ho - ly child.

*Refrain*



Sing we No - el, the King is born, No - el!



Sing we now of Christ - mas, sing we now No - el!

# The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Gather us up in your grace and truth, God of love. You are the light that enlightens all people. Kindle your light within us so that righteousness and praise spring up through our words and in our lives. **Amen.**

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## WE TELL THE STORY

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*We are seated for the reading.*

### **The First Reading** | Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;  
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.  
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.  
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,  
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

*We stand and say the Psalm.*

## **Psalm** | 147:13-21

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem  
O holy city praise your God.

**For the Lord has strengthened the bars of your gates  
he has blessed your children within you.**

The Lord has established peace within your borders  
and fed you amply with the finest wheat.

**You O Lord send your word to the earth  
and your command runs very swiftly.**

You give snow like wool  
and sprinkle hoarfrost like ashes.

**You scatter hailstones like breadcrumbs;  
you send the cold, and the waters stand frozen.**

You utter your word and the ice is melted  
you blow with your wind and the waters flow.

**You make known your word to Jacob  
your statutes and decrees to Israel.**

You have not done for any other nation  
nor have you taught them your laws.  
O praise the Lord.

*We are seated for the second reading.*

## **The Second Reading** | Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

*After the reading, the reader will say*

The Word of the Lord.

**All Thanks be to God.**

We stand together and sing

# Gospel Song | In the Bleak Midwinter

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) | Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;  
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed  
but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

*The Celebrant then introduces the Gospel by saying*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People**      **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

## **The Gospel** | John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

*After the Gospel the Celebrant will say*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People**      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

# OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

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## The Homily

### Affirmation of Faith

*We stand and say*

**We believe in God above us,  
maker and sustainer of all life,  
of sun and moon,  
of water and earth,  
of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us,  
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,  
Born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor,  
he was tortured and nailed to a tree.  
Knowing full passion and deep sorrow, he died forsaken.  
He descended into the earth to the place of death.  
On the third day he rose from the tomb.  
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,  
and his Kingdom will one day be known.**

**We believe in God within us,  
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,  
life-giving breath of the Church.  
She is the Spirit of healing and forgiveness,  
source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen.**

*We share prayers adapted from those written by Abigail Kocher and Sam Wells.*

### The Prayers of the People

Leader God of unexpected gifts, in Jesus you give us the gift of your presence and your love.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.*

Leader To you, God of love,

**All we raise our voices.**

Leader Bless your people around the world. Continue to make us a people who seek to reflect your glory and humility.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts*

Leader To you, God of love,  
**All we raise our voices.**

Leader Bless those people and places that long to hear the angels' message of peace and goodwill.

We offer prayers for those on our prayer list.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.*

Leader To you, God of love,  
**All we raise our voices.**

Leader Bless all who are in transition or who are, as the magi, discerning your will or seeking your guidance.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.*

Leader To you, God of love,  
**All we raise our voices.**

Leader Bless those who, like the holy family, have no place to stay, no security to rely on, who are strangers and pilgrims on earth.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.*

Leader To you, God of love,  
**All we raise our voices.**

Leader Bless the earth to which you came. Grant us wisdom to use its gifts rightly and in the service of others.

*We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.*

Leader To you, God of love,  
**All we raise our voices.**

## The Peace

*We conclude these prayers with the sharing of God's peace.*

Celebrant We turn to one another with outstretched arms, saying: the peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People And also with you.**

After the peace, we are seated.

## Offertory Song | Gesu Bambino Solo by Wendi Olinger

Words: Frederick Martens | Music: Pietro Yon

### THE CELEBRATION OF OUR SACRED MEAL

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We stand as the table is set with the gifts of our hearts and hands.

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 God thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon and stars; earth, wind and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away. And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity lifting our voices to you as we sing:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might a - dored,  
heaven and earth shine so bright with the glo - ry of your light.  
Loud ho-san-nas now we sing! In the high-est may they ring! Blest is your An-  
oint - ed One, Christ, E - man - nu - el, your Son. Sing Ho-san - na  
at his birth! Glo - ry on high, and peace on earth!

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you. And whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now, gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet of the world.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ. By him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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

**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 Breaking of the Bread**

*We are now invited to share the gifts of Communion.*

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.

*Please know that at Grace Church all are invited to receive the bread and wine. This sacrament is God's free gift. Assist the Chalice Bearers by tipping the cup from the base. Please tell your server if you prefer a wafer that is free from gluten, soy, and dairy.*

# Music during Communion | What Child is This?

by David Foster & Erin Taylor Foster

*Unison or harmony*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds



guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to



bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

# 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Words: Fr. Jean de Brebeuf, English Words by J. E. Middleton | Music: Jesus Ahatonhia, French Canadian melody

1. 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time, When all the birds had fled,  
2. With - in a lodge of bro - ken bark The ten - der babe was found,  
3. The ear - liest moon of win - ter - time Is not so round and fair  
4. Oh child - ren of the for - est free, Oh sons of Man - i - - tou,

That might - y Git - - chi Man - i - - tou Sent an - gel choirs in - - stead;  
A rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin En - wrapped His beau - - ty 'round;  
As was the ring of glor - y on The help - less In - - fant there.  
The ho - ly Child of earth and Heav'n Is born to - day for you.

Be - - fore their light the stars grew dim, And wan - d'ring hun - ters heard the hymn:  
But as the hun - ter braves drew nigh, The an - gel song rang loud and high:  
The chiefs from far be - fore Him knelt With gifts of fox and bea - ver pelt.  
Come kneel be - fore the rad - iant Boy, Who brings you beau - ty, peace and joy.

Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is born, In ex - cel - sis glo - ri - - a.

# Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Words: Polish carol; para. by Edit M. G. Reed | Music: Polish carol; harm. by A. E. Rusbridge



1. In - fant ho - ly, In - fant low - ly, For his bed a  
 2. Flocks were sleep - ing: Shep - herds keep - ing Vi - gil till the



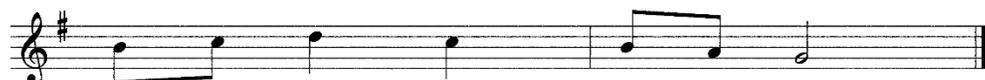
cat - tle stall; Ox - en low - ing, Lit - tle know - ing  
 morn - ing new. Saw the glo - ry, Heard the sto - ry,



Christ the babe is Lord of all. Swift are wing - ing  
 Tid - ings of a gos - pel true. Thus re - joic - ing,



An - gels sing - ing, No - els ring - ing, Tid - ings bring - ing:  
 Free from sor - row, Prais - es voic - ing Greet the mor - row:



Christ the babe is Lord of all.  
 Christ the babe was born for you.

*Following Communion we share silence with one another.  
 The quiet will last a few minutes and will begin and end with a bell.*

# Song after Communion | Go in Peace

by Sam Baker



Go in peace, Go in kind-ness, Go in love, Go in faith, Leave the



day, the day be - hind us, Day is done, Go in grace, Let us



go in-to the dark, Not a - fraid, not a - lone, Let us hope by some good



plea - sure, Safe - ly to ar - rive at home. Let us



hope by some good plea - sure Safe - ly to ar - rive at home.

# GOING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

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## Our Prayer after Communion

*We stand and say together*

**Eternal God,  
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 Blessing

*The Celebrant offers a blessing.*

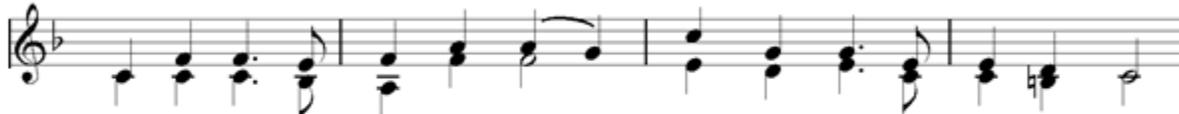
May God who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, grant you strength, fill you with joy, and put a good word in your mouth. And the blessing of God be upon you, Christ's peace be with you, and the Spirit surround you now and always. **Amen**

# Closing Song | Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Words: Charles Wesley | Music: Felix Mendelssohn; adapt. William H. Cummings



1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

## Birthday and Anniversaries

## Announcements

## Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!