



**The Episcopal  
Church of the Nativity  
Christmas Eve 2020, 6:00 pm  
In Person**



Please join us for weekly services:

**Sundays 10:00 am** - In Person Outside and Online

**Wednesdays 6:00 pm** - Evening Prayer followed by Bible Study Online

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

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# WELCOME TO ALL THIS EVENING

**Instrumental Prelude** *Christmas Medley* - Various composers  
Piano Quartet



## The Blessing of the Christmas Creche

**Processional Hymn: # 83** *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vv. 1, 3 & 6)



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,



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;



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;

### *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;

**Celebrant:** Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit..

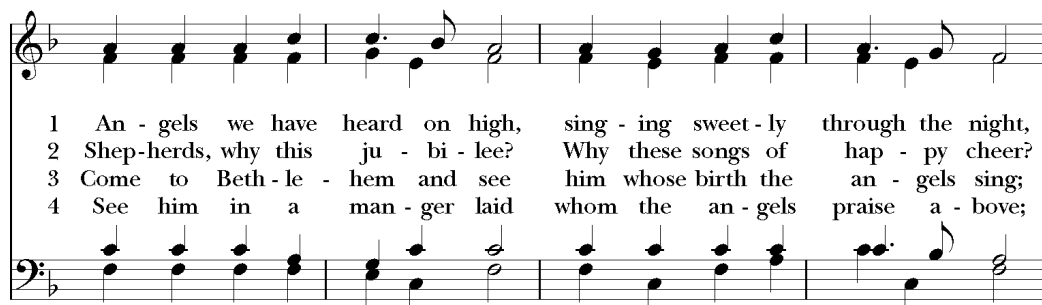
**People:** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

**All:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid:  
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may  
perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

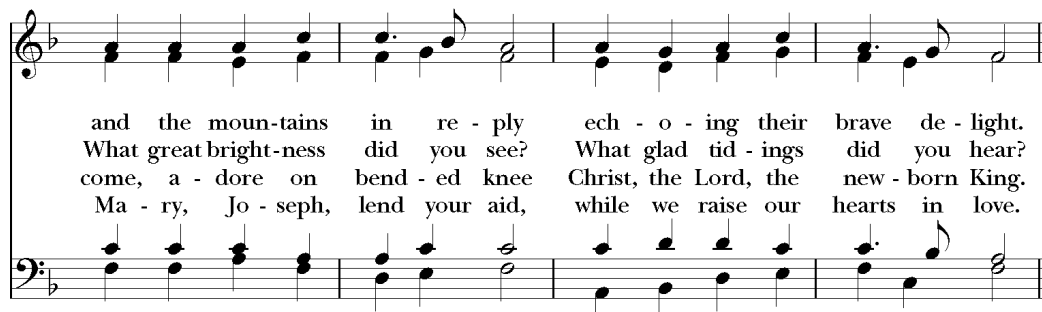
Please  
stand and  
sing the  
hymn.

Please  
join in  
singing.

# 96 Angels we have heard on high (vv. 1 & 4) Gloria, Edward S. Barnes (1887-1958)



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;

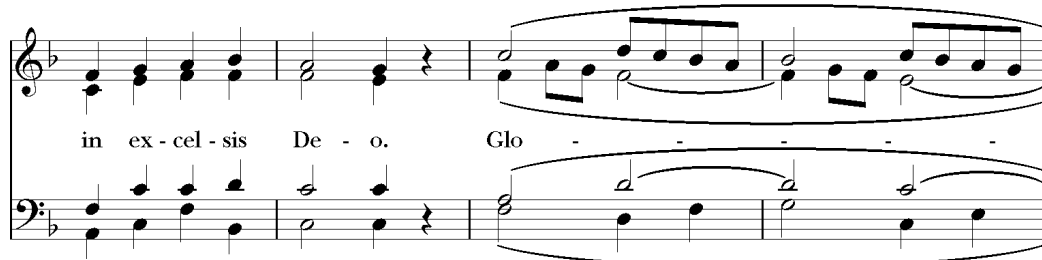


and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

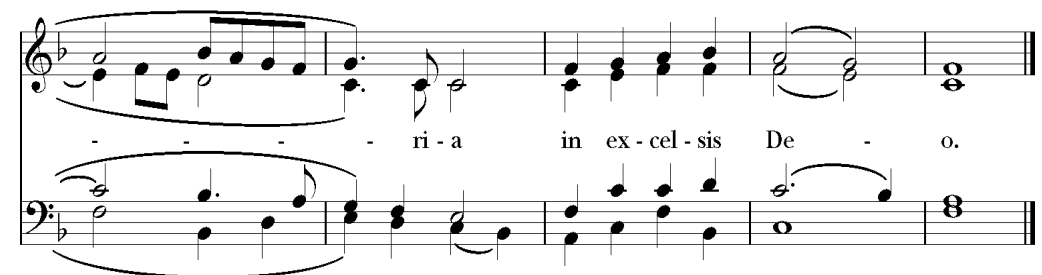
*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



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

**Celebrant:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

**People:** Amen.



## The Lessons

### First Lesson: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

*The prophet Isaiah tells of joy and exultation at the triumph of the King of kings – and this triumph is contained in one child whose promise brings God's peace to the world.*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**



*The Psalms,  
hymns of  
ancient  
Israel, speak  
of the hopes,  
joys and  
fears of  
God's  
people.*

**Psalm 96** *Book of Common Prayer* p. 725

*Sing a New Song*- Michael Praetorius  
Vocal ensemble

- 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.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm  
that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 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.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

The apostle expresses the meaning and glory of God's presence with us in Christ.

Please stand and sing the hymn.

**Second Lesson:** *Titus 2:11-14*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Sequence Hymn:** #102 *Once In Royal David's City* (vv. 1-2 & 5)

*\*Soloist sings verse 1; congregation join on verse 2\**



1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a  
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is



1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her  
2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a



1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the



1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —  
2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.



5 And our eyes at last shall see Him,  
Through His own redeeming love;  
For that child so dear and gentle,  
Is our Lord in heaven above,  
And He leads His children on,  
To the place where He is gone.

*In the midst of darkness, poverty and fear, the Son of God is born. In a humble stable, away from home, without welcome from the people of the world, the child Jesus is surrounded by the love of Mary and Joseph, and the wonder of poor shepherds – and that is enough.*

*Please be seated*

**The Gospel:** Luke 2:1-20

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

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

*Deacon:* 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!"

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.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord

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

**The Sermon:**

**The Rev. Scot McComas, Rector**



*Please stand.*

*The Nicene Creed is the most ancient and important corporate profession of our faith.*

*We are joining ourselves to the great heritage of the holy (of God) catholic (universal) and apostolic (witnessing to the resurrection) church down through the centuries.*

*This heritage is vaster, richer and more mysterious than any one individual can understand, but we, as the members of the Body of Christ, share and commit ourselves to it and through it.*

## **The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation**

**he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit**

**he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,**

**he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again**

**in accordance with the Scriptures;**

**he ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.**

**With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.**

**He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,**

**and the life of the world to come. Amen.**





*We pray at all times in the Spirit (Ephesians 6:18) We stand as a priestly people and offer intercessions for the whole world.*

*Please be seated.*

*We make offerings in thanksgiving for the many gifts God has given us.*

*Please stand as the ushers bring forward the offering.*

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Leader:* Brothers and sisters, on this most holy night of our Lord's birth, that we may find peace, joy and contentment in this holy season, let us pray for ourselves and all those in need of our prayers, saying: Glory to God in the highest.

*Leader:* For the church of Christ, that it may faithfully proclaim the good news of salvation and may care for the needs of God's people in all corners of the world, we pray to you, O Christ.

**People: Glory to God in the highest.**

*Leader:* For peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of war and injustice may be replaced by the light of peace and love, we pray to you, O Christ.

**People: Glory to God in the highest.**

*Leader:* For all those in need of our prayers: the homeless; the unemployed; the hungry; those who are hospitalized, those who are imprisoned in body or soul; and all those for whom this season is one not of joy but of trial and sadness, we pray to you, O Christ.

**People: Glory to God in the highest.**

*Leader:* For the sick that their illnesses may be turned into health and their sorrow into rejoicing, we pray to you, O Christ.

**People: Glory to God in the highest.**

*Leader:* For all members of the armed forces, especially those spending this Christmas away from home; that you will defend them day by day with your heavenly grace, strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, we pray to you, O Christ.

**People: Glory to God in the highest.**

*Leader:* For those who are mourning, and for all who have gone before us, that they may live forever in the light of your eternal glory, we pray to you, O Christ.

**People: Glory to God in the highest.**

*Leader:* Mighty God, mercifully hear the prayers of the people you have chosen as your own. Give us zeal in our ministries and joy in our work, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

The Celebrant says a concluding collect.

### **The Peace**

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People: And also with you.**

### **Announcements and Blessings**

### **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory Anthem:** *Christ the Lord is Come to Earth* - Jennifer L. Stammers  
Vocal Ensemble

**All Say:** Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below,  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**



*The Sursum Corda ("Lift up your hearts" in Latin) is the invitation to the people to join in the Eucharistic offering, to raise minds and hearts to prepare to enter the heavenly banquet.*

*Please join in singing.*

## The Great Thanksgiving

**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.

*Celebrant:* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:

**Celebrant and People:** Hymnal S130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The Institution Narrative recalls the particular mighty act that is the focus of the service: God's gift of himself to us.*

*The word "Amen" ("So be it" in Hebrew) at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer indicates the people's participation in the Eucharistic prayer.*

*Celebrant:* We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People:*        **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**



*Celebrant:* And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Mary and Joseph and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

***People:* AMEN.**

*Our Lord  
taught us a  
simple,  
heartfelt  
prayer  
(Matthew  
6:9-13,  
Luke 11:2-4)*

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

*Celebrant 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 Breaking of the Bread

**Fraction Anthem:** Hymnal S164

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The third staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The fourth staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp.

## Communion of the People

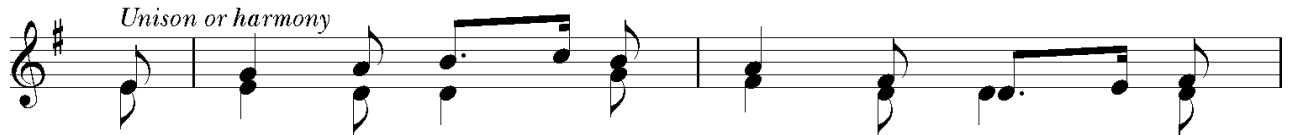
All who seek God are welcome to receive the Bread of Christ's Body, standing. Even if you do not seek God, God seeks you. For those who would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms-down. If you would prefer a blessing instead of communion, fold your arms across your chest.

**Celebrant:** Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

**Communion Music:** #115 *What Child is This* (vv. 1 - 3)

*\*Please join in singing with the choir\**



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.



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.

**Lighting of Candles: *Night of Silence*** - Daniel Kantor/Frans Gruber, arr. John Ferguson  
Choir & Congregation

*\*Please join in singing Silent Night (vv. 1-3) with the choir when the conductor gives a cue\**

*The candles  
are lit as we  
sing "Silent  
Night"  
together.*

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 Christmas Blessing**

**Recessional Hymn: #87 Hark the herald angels sing (vv. 1 - 3)**

Charles Wesley, Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Dan Forest

*\*Please follow conductor for cues to sing\**

*Verse 1 (all sing)*

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.”  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

*Verse 2 (choir only)*

Christ by highest heav’n adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord!  
Late in time behold Him come,  
Offspring of a Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

*Verse 3 (all sing)*

Hail the heav’n-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings,  
Ris’n with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by,  
Born that man no more may die,  
Born to raise the sons of earth,  
Born to give them second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”



**The Dismissal**

*Deacon:* Let us go forth in the name of Christ! Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Instrumental postlude: *Reprise of Hark the Herald Angels Sing* - Dan Forrest

Piano Duet



A big

**THANK YOU**

to the musicians who contributed to our service,  
both in person and virtual choir members,  
handbell choir, and our guest musicians:

Lauren Berman, soprano  
Leia Wasbotten, soprano  
Jonathan Fitzgerald, violin  
Mila Crise Gallardo, viola  
Yeil Park, cello  
Chris Granger, piano



*The Christmas Flowers are  
Given to the Glory of God  
In Loving Memory of*



*Bob Christopher  
By Mina Rafferty*

*Elanna Davis  
By Carol & Lewis Smith*

*Julia Walski  
By Fred Walski*

