

The Eve of Our Lord's Birth



8 o'clock Holy Eucharist
December 24, 2021

Saint Dunstan's Episcopal Church

Welcome to St. Dunstan's

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church celebrates God's diverse creation and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone, no matter age, gender, sexual identity, culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.

*The clergy and staff of St. Dunstan's wish you a blessed Christmas season and peace in the coming year!
Please silence your phones and wear your mask while indoors.*

Prelude Puer nobis nascitur

Pierre Dandrieu (1664-1733)

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Hymn 89 It came upon a midnight clear

Carol

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its
 heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give
 still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Anthem On Christmas Night

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1959)

On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
 On Christmas night all Christians sing, to hear the news the angels bring;
 News of great joy, news of great mirth, news of our merciful King's birth.

When sin departs before thy grace, then life and health come in its place:
 When sin departs before thy grace, then life and health come in its place:
 Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the newborn King.

All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
 All out of darkness we have light which made the angels sing this night;
 "Glory to God and peace to men, Now and forevermore. Amen."

Hymn 81 Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Est ist ein Ros

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,

Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Duet I Sing of a Maiden

Patrick Hadley (1899-1973)
Sung by Stephanie Cervi & Melanie Cervi

I sing of a maiden that is makeless;
King of all kings to her son she ches.

He came all so still where his mother was,
As dew in April that falleth on the grass.

He came all so still to his mother's bower,
As dew in April that falleth on the flower.

He came all so still where is mother lay,
As dew in April that falleth on the spray.

Mother and maiden was never none but she:
Well may such a lady God's mother be.

Hymn 105 God Rest You Merry

God rest you merry



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Duet Something Which is Known

*Weston Priory; Gregory Norbet, O.S.B.
Sung by Elizabeth & Arthur Pasquinelli*

Something which is known to have been from the beginning:
This we have heard and seen with our own eyes;
Something we have touched and have carefully watched:
The Word, who is life, this we share with you.

Alleluia

This is the life of our God, so gracious,
Word become flesh: there is no greater wonder.
All that we have witnessed became new vision:
This our hope for you, alive in God's own spirit.

Alleluia

He it is in whom we have found the light of truth,
Source of our hope, abiding gift of God's love.
Through that love we pass and are born in life unending:
Jesus, our Lord, the fullness of our joy.

Alleluia

Hymn 112 In the Bleak Mid-Winter

Cranham

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

Solo The Little Road to Bethlehem

*Michael Head
Sung by, Cam McAra*

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
The lambs were coming homewards, one by one,
I heard a sheep bell softly calling them
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door, as I drew night,
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.
She sang about the lambs at close of day
And rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheep-bell rang,
“The lambs are coming home,” sweet Mary sang,
“Your Star of gold is shining in the sky,
So sleep, my little King, go lullaby.”

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
The lambs were coming homewards, one by one,
I heard a sheep-bell softly calling them
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Cello and Organ What Child Is This

Stephanie Cervi, Cello

Anthem Torches

John Joubert (1927-2019)

Torches, torches, run with torches all the way to Bethlehem!
Christ is born and now lies sleeping; come and sing your song to him!

Ah, Roro, Roro, my baby, Ah, Roro, my love, Roro;
Sleep you well, my heart's own darling, While we sing you our Roro.

Sing, my friends, and make you merry, joy and mirth and joy again;
Lo, he lives, the King of heaven, now and evermore. Amen.

Organ Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Johann Michael Bach (1648-1694)

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The people stand at the ringing of the bell.

Procession Hymn 83 O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

verses 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,
 *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.

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

Priest Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Priest **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.**

Gloria Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high

Gloria in Excelsis

Verses 1 & 3

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.

The Collect of the Day *The people remain standing.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

God of David's fragile house of hope and expectation:
in the time of empires, your word is born to those who have no place and sung
to those who watch in the wild; may his birth unsettle our world with hidden glory
and untold peace; through Jesus Christ, the Child of Promise. **Amen.**

Isaiah 9:2—7

A hymn of thanksgiving and hope offered at the birth of a new king in Jerusalem. The prophet hails the one born to be the ruler of his people. His reign will end oppression and bring justice, righteousness, and a lasting peace. Christians see these words coming to fulfillment in Jesus.

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn 78 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Forest Green

Verses 1 & 3 are sung before the Gospel reading. Verse 5 is sung after the Gospel reading.

Unison or harmony



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Luke 2:1—14

The story of the birth of Jesus. He is born amid very humble human circumstances. A government registration program requires Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem, the city of David. Because there was no other place for them to stay, Mary lays her new son in a stable manger.

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

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

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!”

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

The Rev. Laurel Coote

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people stand or kneel.

Leader Brothers and sisters, on this most holy night of our Lord's birth,
let us pray for ourselves and all those in need of four prayers, saying:
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Eternal God, bless your holy church, that it may boldly proclaim
the good tidings of salvation to all the ends of the earth.
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For your servants in this congregation, that, nourished by your word and holy
sacraments, we may minister in faithfulness to you and in love to one another.
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of war and injustice
may be replaced by the light of peace and love.
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For those who travel during this holiday season,
that their reunions and celebrations may be occasions for joy,
and that they return safely to their homes and loved ones.
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For those who labor this night on behalf of others: doctors and nurses,
police officers and firefighters, gas station attendants, bus and taxi drivers,
those in the armed forces, and all those whose work prevents them from
sharing this evening with those they love.
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader For those in need of our prayers: the homeless; the unemployed; the hungry;
those who are hospitalized or sick at home; those who are imprisoned in body
and soul; and those for whom this season is one not of joy but of trial and sadness.
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader In thanksgiving we remember before you, O Lord, those saints who bore witness to the light, especially St. Dunstan and St. Andre. Grant that we may persevere in the faith to which we have been called and at the end behold your glory.
Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Let us offer our prayers, thanksgivings, and names on our hearts tonight.

The people may add their own prayers.

Priest All these things we ask in the name of him who came as the light in darkness of our world, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace *All stand.*

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people exchange the peace with one another.

Christmas Greeting *The people are seated.*

*The Rev. Laurel Coote,
Rector of St. Dunstan's*

The Offertory

Priest Let us give to God with generosity and gladness
the offerings of our lives, our labors and our love.

Offertory Anthem The Shepherd's Farewell

Hector Berlioz (1803-1869)

Thou must leave thy lowly dwelling, the humble crib, the stable bare,
Babe, all mortal babes excelling, content our earthly lot to share,
Loving father, loving mother shelter thee with tender care!

Blessed Jesus, we implore thee with humble love and holy fear,
In the land that lies before thee, forget not us who linger here!
May the shepherd's lowly calling ever to thy heart be dear!

Blest are ye beyond all measure, thou happy father, mother mild!
Guard ye well your heavenly treasure, the Prince of Peace, the Holy Child!
God go with you, God protect you, Guide you safely through the wild!

All stand.

Offertory Hymn 87 Hark! The herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

Verses 1 & 3

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,

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 S130 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Franz Schubert

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 people stand or kneel.

Priest 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."

Priest Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

Priest 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 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 A-MEN.

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

**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

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem S164 Jesus, Lamb of God

Schubert

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 score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: '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:', and 'give us your peace, give us your peace.' The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

Priest These are the Gifts of God, given for you, God's beloved. So come and receive.
It is the Lord who invites you and His will that those who desire him,
should meet him here.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO RECEIVE THE HOLY COMMUNION

All are welcome to receive communion. The table we set is the Lord's. Wherever you find yourself on your spiritual journey, you are welcome to receive the Bread made holy.

When directed by the usher, come forward to the communion station.
Please keep your mask on with your hands extended to receive the Host.
The bread is received in the open palm.

Once you have moved away from the Minister,
you may remove one side of your mask, consume the Host, and replace your mask.

Those who prefer to receive a blessing may indicate this by
crossing their arms over their chest.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer.

Communion Anthem Before the Marvel of this Night

Carl Schalk (1929-2021)

Before the marvel of this night adoring, fold your wings and bow,
Then tear the sky apart with light and with your news the world endow.
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!

Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.
Give earth a glimpse of heavenly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!

The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.
Into one song compress the love, the love that rules above:
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love!

Communion Hymn 102 Once in Royal David's City

Irby

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
 *3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 *5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

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.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on— to the place where he is gone.—
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye,— set at God's right hand on high.—

Post-Communion Hymn and Candle Lighting

Hymn 111 Silent Night

Stille Nacht

The people's candles are lit by the acolyte in the center aisle, followed by the singing of the hymn.

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 people extinguish their candles after the singing of Silent Night.

The Post-Communion Prayer *All Stand.*

Priest Let us pray.

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 Blessing

Priest **M**ay Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn 100 Joy to the world!

Antioch

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
 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,

Priest **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

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

Postlude From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

The people are invited to listen and observe silence during the postlude.

All are welcomed to enjoy fellowship at a reception following the service.



WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

WHAT WE ARE FOR

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

WHAT WE ARE AGAINST

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

WHAT WE VALUE

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

WELCOME!

Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomen's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

28005 Robinson Canyon Road, Carmel, California 93923



(831) 624-6646 office@stdcv.org