



# CHRISTMAS EVE

*Festal Choral Eucharist*

*December 24, 2024 at 10 o'clock in the evening*

**ST PETER'S CHURCH IN ESSEX FELLS**

A PARISH OF THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF NEWARK

271 Roseland Avenue, Essex Fells, NJ 07021

973.226.6500 • [stpetersef.org](http://stpetersef.org)

# HOLY EUCHARIST

## PRELUDES TO THE EUCHARIST

VOLUNTARY

*Prelude in C*  
*'Hark! the Herald Angel Sings'*

*Richard Proulx*  
*arr. Richard Proulx*  
*St. Peter's Handbell Choir*

VOLUNTARY

*Adagio for Strings and Organ*

*Tomaso Giovanni Albinoni*



## THE WORD OF GOD

*Please stand and sing*

ENTRANCE HYMN

*Hymnal 1982, 83*

*Text: Latin 18th century; tr. Frederick Oakley, alt.*  
*Tune: John Francis Wade, Cantus Diversi, 1751*

- 1 O come, all ye faithful,  
Joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him,  
Born the King of angels;  
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,*  
*O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*
- 2 God from God,  
Light from Light eternal,  
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
Only begotten Son of the Father;  
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,*  
*O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,*  
*O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*
- 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;

Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
*O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

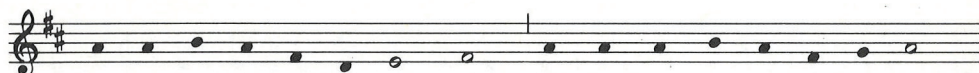
OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

*Presider  
People*

GLORIA

*New Plainsong Mass, David Hurd*



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



2. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you,



we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



4. you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



7. You a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Presider*

God be with you.

*People*

And also with you.

*Presider*

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.

*Please be seated*

THE LESSONS

FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 2:9-7*

*Reader*

A reading from the Book of Isaiah. 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.

PSALM 96 *Cantate Domino*

*Tone V*



To-day is born our Sav-ior, Christ the Lord.

*Cantor*

*Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.*

*Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. Refrain*

*Cantor Declare his glory among the nations;  
and his wonders among all peoples.  
For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods. Refrain*

*Cantor 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.  
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes,  
when he comes to judge the earth. Refrain*

SECOND LESSON

*Titus 2:11-14*

*Reader* A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus. 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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

*Please stand and sing*

HYMN

*Hymnal 1982, 82*

*Text: Prudentius, 5th century; tr. composite; Tune: Plainsong, Mode V*

1 Of the Father's love begotten,  
Ere the worlds began to be,  
He is Alpha and Omega,  
He the source, the ending he,  
Of the things that are, that have been,  
And that future years shall see,  
Evermore and evermore!

2 O that birth for ever blessed,  
When the Virgin, full of grace,

By the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
Bare the Savior of our race;  
And the Babe, the world's redeemer,  
First revealed his sacred face,  
Evermore and evermore!

3 Christ, to thee with God the Father,  
And, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
And unwearied praises be:  
Honor, glory and dominion,  
And eternal victory,  
Evermore and evermore!

GOSPEL READING

*Luke 2:1-20*

*Deacon  
People  
Deacon*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
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!" 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  
People*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

*The Rector*

*Please stand*

NICENE CREED

*ALL*

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Leader  
People*

Pray for God’s people all over the world.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader  
People*

We pray for *N.* and all who minister in your Church.  
Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* We pray for peace and goodwill among all nations, especially those in the Middle East.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* We pray for leaders of every nation and every community throughout the world.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* We pray for *N.*; and for the poor, the sick, the hungry, those who are alone, and all who are in trouble.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* We pray for all prisoners, captives, and refugees.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* We thank you Lord, for this joyful celebration, and for all our blessings, especially for those who celebrate birthdays and anniversaries this week.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Leader* We pray for all who have died.

*People* Lord, hear our prayer.

*Presider* O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

*People* Amen.

*Presider* THE PEACE

*People* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*During the offering, please feel free to make a gift and offering in thanksgiving to God. To take advantage of our electronic giving options, please follow the QR code with your capable electronic device.*



THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*In dulci jubilo,  
Nun singet und seid froh!  
Unsers Herzens Wonne  
Liegt in praesepio,*

*Dieterich Buxtehude*

*[With sweetest rejoicing  
Now sing and be glad!  
Our heart's delight  
Is lying in a manger*



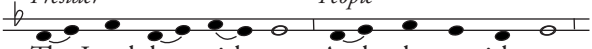
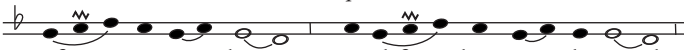


*Und leuchtet als die Sonne  
 Matris in gremio,  
 Alpha es et O!  
 O Jesu parvule  
 Nach dir ist mir so weh!  
 Tröst mir mein Gemüte  
 O puer optime  
 Durch alle deine Güte  
 O princeps gloriae.  
 Trahe me post te!  
 O Patris caritas!  
 O Nati lenitas!  
 Wir wären all verloren  
 Per nostra crimina  
 So hat er uns erworben  
 Coelorum gaudia  
 Eia, wären wir da!  
 Ubi sunt gaudia  
 Nirgend mehr denn da!  
 Da die Engel singen  
 Nova cantica,  
 Und die Schellen klingen  
 In regis curia.  
 Eia, wären wir da!*

*And shines like the sun  
 on his mother's lap,  
 You are Alpha and Omega!  
 O tiny baby Jesus  
 I so long for you!  
 Comfort my soul,  
 O peerless boy;  
 By all your goodness,  
 O prince of glory,  
 Draw me to you.  
 O love of the Father!  
 O leniency of the Son!  
 We were all lost  
 Through our sins  
 Until you gained for us  
 The joys of heaven:  
 O that we were there!  
 Joys are there  
 As in no other place!  
 There the angels sing  
 A new song  
 And the bells ring out  
 In the court of the King:  
 O that we were there!]*

—Heinrich Suso, 1295-1366

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Eucharistic Prayer B*

<i>Presider</i>	<i>People</i>
	
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.	
<i>Presider</i>	<i>People</i>
	
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.	
<i>Presider</i>	
	
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.	
<i>People</i>	
	
It is right to give God thanks and praise.	

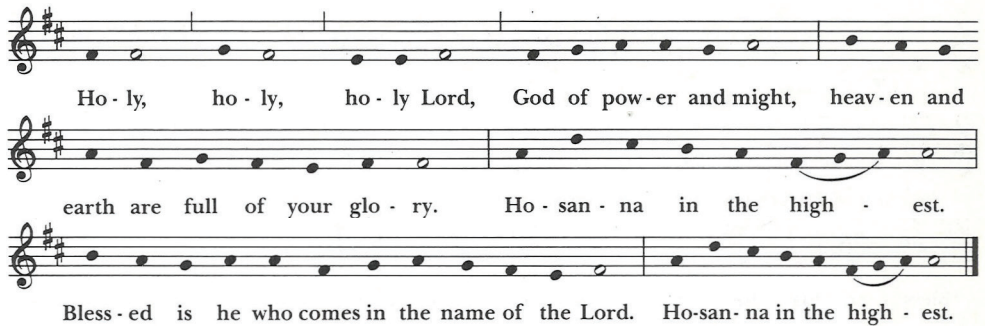
*Presider*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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:

SANCTUS

*New Plainsong Mass, David Hurd*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and  
 earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

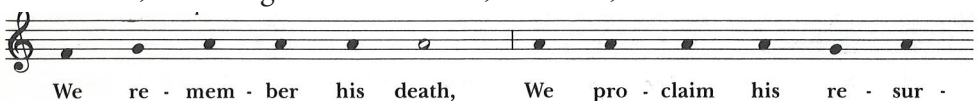
*Presider*

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.

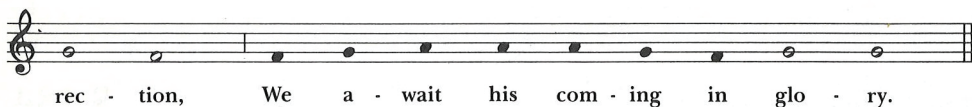
On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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,



We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -



*Presider*

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.



#### LORD'S PRAYER

*Presider*  
*ALL*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
Our Father 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 for ever. Amen.

#### BREAKING THE BREAD

*New Plainsong Mass, David Hurd*



Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;  
 there - fore let us keep the feast.  
 (Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.)

*Presider*

**The Gifts of God for the People of God.**

*All baptized Christians are welcome to receive the Bread and Cup to be in communion with God and each other. You may receive only the bread by placing your hands together flat in front of you (Gluten-free wafers are available upon request). Afterwards you may drink wine from the chalice. If you would rather have the bread intincted (dipped) in the wine, you may hand the bread to the person administering the chalice and they will intinct and hand it back to you. If you (or your child) would rather not receive the Sacrament, you may come to the altar rail during Communion and cross your arms on your chest for a blessing.*

CAROL

*Adolph Torovsky*

*Softly the stars were shining,  
 Shining with golden ray,  
 Over the Baby Jesus,  
 Cradled upon the hay.  
 Shepherds drew near to see Him,  
 Low in His manger bed.  
 Glory and wondrous brightness  
 Gathered around His head.  
 Dear little Baby Jesus,  
 Come to our hearts, we pray.  
 May we be pure and loving,  
 Make us like Thee today.  
 Softly the babe was sleeping,  
 Angels their watch were keeping,  
 Calm and secure, tender and pure,  
 Jesus the Holy Child.*

—*Adolph Torovsky*

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 ser - a - phim throng - ed the air;  
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, 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 congregation's candles are lit; please kneel as you are able.*

*Reader*

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.

CAROL

*Hymnal 1982, 111*

*Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818; Tune: Franz Grüber, 1818*

- 1 Silent night, holy night,  
All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin mother and child,  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.  
    Sleep in heavenly peace.
- 2 Silent night, holy night,  
Shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
    Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,

With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

*Please stand*

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

ALL

Grant, we pray, O Lord our God:  
that we, who rejoice to celebrate the birth of our redeemer,  
may follow him in the way of righteousness  
and by your grace may be made worthy to dwell with him in heaven, who  
lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

*Please join in singing*

HYMN

*Hymnal 1982, 87*

*Text: Charles Wesley, 1739, alt.; Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1840*

- 1 Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!*

- 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come,  
Offspring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;  
Hail th'incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell;  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King!*

3 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.  
Ris'n with healing in his wings,  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Hail, the heav'n born Prince of Peace!

*Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King!*

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

*Presider* May 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.

*People* Amen.

*Presider* 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.

*People* Amen.

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

*People* Amen.

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

*People* Amen.

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

*People* Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

*Pastorale*

*Francesco Manfredini*



## CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

### *In loving memory of*

*Alvin Andersen, Sydney & Hugh Kennedy, Anskar & Esther Andersen by Eileen Andersen  
George P. & Mary deC. Bartholomew, William Bartholomew, Stephen & Laura Bartholomew,  
Betty Bartholomew by Ann Bartholomew Powers  
Nick Bowness by Christine Albano  
Clem & Susan Boyers by Sheila Valenti  
Connor loved ones by Nancy Connor  
Bunny Dockrell, Val Pettit by Margot Dockrell  
Carolyn Faloni by Faloni, Capen, Adams Families  
Pam Kamel by Michael Kamel  
Pam Kamel, Gloria Kelley by Diane Kazimir  
Looker-Mosher loved ones by Larry Looker & Karen Mosher  
Michale Mazur, Agnes Hill, Lottie & Blythe, Anita & Walter Bach by Sue Mazur  
Father John Negrotto by Sue Negrotto  
John and Valerie Pettit by Larry Pettit  
Nan & Bob Rame, Willard & Jacki Haight by Tom & Laurie Haight  
Margaret & Raymond Morrison, Gary Samuels by Alice Samuels  
Gerardina Piserchia by Pat Scaglione  
Carolyn Faloni by Faloni, Capen, Adams Families  
Joan Waitts by George & Diane Waitts  
Lee Wescott, Earl Wescott, Carles & Priscilla Pierce by Carolyn Westcott*

### *In thanksgiving for*

*St. Peter's Church by Joan Loiacano  
Brittany & Gregory by Sue Mazur  
The McLaughlin grandsons by Kathleen McLaughlin  
The work of the Altar Guild by Eloise Monzillo Hiris  
Family & friends by Carolyn Westcott*



## CHRISTMAS MUSIC

### *In loving memory of*

*George P. & Mary deC. Bartholomew, William Bartholomew, Stephen & Laura Bartholomew,  
Betty Bartholomew by Ann Bartholomew Powers  
Clem & Susan Boyers by Sheila Valenti  
Gregory Counce, Oliver Counce, Ted Irwin, Jonathan Pope by Liz & Jim Irwin  
Connor loved ones by Nancy Connor  
Bunny Dockrell, Val Pettit by Margot Dockrell  
Priscilla Hannen Kleinman by Mark Trautman and Ben. Sifuentes*

*In thanksgiving*

*Valerie Felix*

*For the McLaughlin grandsons by Kathleen McLaughlin*

*Joan Loiacano*

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

*In thanksgiving by Valerie Felix*

*In loving memory of Father Negrotto by Sue Negrotto*

*In thanksgiving by the Wohltmann family*



**MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY**

<i>Altar Guild</i>	Nancy Connor, Karen Mosher, Alice Samuels
<i>Ushers</i>	Wayne Copeland, Evan McLaughlin
<i>Acolyte</i>	Joseph Wohltmann
<i>Readers</i>	Nancy Connor, Evan McLaughlin
<i>Eucharistic Minister</i>	
<i>Director of Music</i>	Mark A. Trautman
<i>Presiding</i>	The Reverend Nathaniel Darville

**MUSICIANS**

Michael Barretti+, Joanne Dadd, Diane Kazimir, Joan Loiacano,  
Devin McGuire, Carl Sturcke, Giulia Utz+, *Choir*

+SECTION LEADER

Catherine Yang, Benjamin Hellman, *violin*;

Tina Chang-Chien, *viola*; Daryl Nuccio, *cello*

Karen Mosher, Margot Dockrell, Candace Carr, Colin Carr, *handbells*



**JOIN US FOR WORSHIP**

Sundays, 8 am, 10 am, 4 pm

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## THE PRESIDING BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Dear People of God in The Episcopal Church:

Among the Christmas Gospels, Luke is surely the crowd pleaser. Nearly our entire visual vocabulary of Christmas—the manger, the shepherds, the angels—comes from the second chapter of Luke. Thanks to Luke, we all know the answer to the trivia question, “Who was Quirinius?”

But if you go to church on Christmas morning, or if your congregation's custom is to read a last Gospel on Christmas Eve, you will hear the beginning of the Gospel of John, which includes other words we all know: “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...” Christmas does not truly begin for me until I hear those words.

While Luke paints us a picture of a noisy and chaotic birth, in John we encounter the powerfully quiet mystery of the Incarnation. John brings us the astonishing truth that God lived among us as a person, “full of grace and truth,” ready to share the pain and sorrow of being human.

Especially this year, our hurting and divided world is desperate for the Incarnation. We live, as have many generations before us, in a time of fear, division, and instability. The Enemy has turned us against one another, sometimes in our own families and communities. The land of Jesus' birth is torn apart by violence and tremendous suffering, and across the globe, we have hardened our hearts against the strangers among us. All too often, we hear voices that claim the mantle of Christianity calling most loudly for exclusion and conquest.

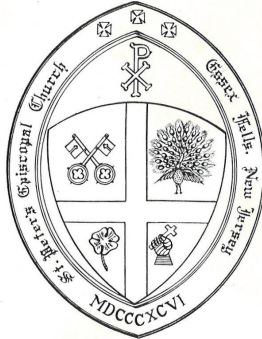
As Episcopalians, we must resist the urge to retreat from this broken world. Instead, we have been called to model our life together on a different vision of God's kingdom. Contrary to the world's expectations, we have bound ourselves together in a global community, following the Risen Christ together despite our differences. We know that death, suffering, and enmity are not the last word, and we proclaim it every time we gather at God's table.

At Christmas, we can make our unity a witness to the world. Every day, in congregations and communities across our church, you are feeding the hungry, binding up the brokenhearted, caring for the vulnerable, and transforming lives through the power of the gospel. We can also proclaim God's presence by giving to our church's historic ministries that are working to alleviate suffering at home and abroad, including Episcopal Migration Ministries; American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; and Episcopal Relief & Development.

Most of all, we can commit our lives to creating a world that is more just and more loving, in which the grace and truth that came down to us at Christmas is kindled all year long. Especially this year, as we begin our ministry together, I am grateful to be working toward this vision with you.

May God bless you and all those you love this Christmas and always.

*The Rt. Rev. Sean W. Rowe  
Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church*



THE VESTRY OF ST. PETER'S CHURCH  
Mary Shearin and Wayne Copeland, *Wardens*  
Valerie Felix, Jim Irwin, Christine Albano, Eloise Monzillo Hiris,  
David Cowell, Kurt Vonderahe, *Vestry Members*

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