

**Saint Matthew's**

EPISCOPAL CHURCH



**Christmas Eve**  
**December 24, 2020**  
**5:00 pm**

*The People are invited to read the words in **bold**. While we're online, these words will be led by someone on screen so that you can read and pray with them. No matter where you are, joining in this worship service is a form of prayer that connects you to God and to each other. Find a comfortable place to sit. Kneel or stand for the prayers if you'd like. Whenever two or three are gathered, even virtually, Jesus is present among us.*

*If you are visiting us for Christmas, welcome! We're glad that you're here and we pray God's abundant blessings upon you. If you have questions, or if you are in need of help, please email the Priest: [marissa@stmatthewswilton.org](mailto:marissa@stmatthewswilton.org). We hope you'll continue to visit us online, and that when it's possible you'll visit us in person to experience God's love with us. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your journey, no matter what your story is, there is a place for you at St. Matt's.*

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## Choral and Instrumental Prelude

Instrumental

Gustav Holst, arr. Stanislaw

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

*Harp*

Carol

Elizabeth Poston

“Jesus Christ the Apple Tree”

*Parish Choir*

Text: The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
Laden with fruit, and always green:  
The trees of nature fruitless be  
Compared with Christ the apple tree.

His beauty doth all things excel:  
By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
The glory which I now can see  
In Jesus Christ the apple tree.

For happiness I long have sought,  
And pleasure dearly I have bought:  
I missed of all; but now I see  
'Tis found in Christ the apple tree.

I'm weary with my former toil,  
Here I will sit and rest awhile:  
Under the shadow I will be  
of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

This fruit doth make my soul to thrive,  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
Which makes my soul in haste to be  
With Jesus Christ the apple tree.

Words from 'Divine Hymns or Spiritual Songs', 1784

Instrumental

John Jacob Niles, arr. Hayes/Kerner  
“I Wonder as I Wander”  
*Harp*

Carol

“How Far Is It to Bethlehem?”  
*Parish Choir*

Nicholas White

Text: How far is it to Bethlehem?  
Not very far.  
Shall we find the stable room  
Lit by a star?

Can we see the little Child?  
Is He within?  
If we lift the wooden latch  
May we go in?

May we stroke the creatures there  
Ox, ass, or sheep?  
May we peep like them and see  
Jesus asleep?

If we touch His tiny hand  
Will He awake?  
Will He know we've come so far  
Just for His sake?

Great kings have precious gifts  
And we have naught  
Little smiles and little tears  
Are all we brought.

For all weary children  
Mary must weep  
Here, on His bed of straw  
Sleep, children, sleep.

God in His mother's arms  
Babes in the byre  
Sleep, as they sleep who find  
Their heart's desire.

Carol

“O Magnum Mysterium”

Tomás Luis de Victoria

*Schola Cantorum*

O magnum mysterium,  
et admirabile sacramentum,  
ut animalia viderent Dominum natum,  
iacentem in praesepio!  
Beata Virgo, cujus viscera  
meruerunt portare  
Dominum Iesum Christum.  
Alleluia!

O great mystery,  
and wonderful sacrament,  
that animals should see the newborn Lord,  
lying in a manger!  
Blessed is the virgin whose womb  
was worthy to bear  
the Lord, Jesus Christ.  
Alleluia!

Carol

“Winter’s Wait”

James Whitbourn

*Schola Cantorum*

Days grow short, the dead leaves fall,  
The mist is thick 'round the stable's wall.  
Harvest's in, the fire is lit  
The shepherds watch and sit –  
And wait for the sun.

Hands grow numb in an icy cold,  
The water's locked in its frozen hold.  
Man and beast are most asleep  
Across the floor a mouse creeps –  
They wait for the sun.

Snow grows deep, a night owl sings  
'Where are the Kings? Where are the Kings?'  
Bright star shines in a velvet sky  
But Oh! So bright, so high! –  
All wait for the sun.  
Sleep is over, the cold is past,  
The star has shown the world at last  
That death's defeated, Christ is come.  
Man's wait is done, is done.  
All praise to God's Son.

Robert Tear (1939-2011)

Carol

“Resonemus Laudibus”

*Schola Cantorum*

arr. by Sir David Willcocks

Resonemus laudibus cum jocunditatibus  
ecclesiam fidelibus.

Apparuit quem genuit Maria.

Let us resound with praise with rejoicing  
faithful to the Church.

He appeared whom Mary bore.

Deus fecit hominem ad suam imaginem  
et similitudinem.

Apparuit quem genuit Maria.

The Lord created man in His image  
and likeness.

He appeared whom Mary bore.

Deus fecit omnia: cælum, terram, maria  
cunctaque nascentia.

Apparuit quem genuit Maria.

The Lord created everything: heaven, earth,  
sea, and everything that was born.

He appeared whom Mary bore.

Ergo nostra concio in chordis et organo  
benedicat Domino.

Apparuit quem genuit Maria.

Therefore, our conscience with heart and  
organ shall praise the Lord.

He appeared whom Mary bore.

Et Deo qui venias donat et læticias  
nos eidem gratias.

Apparuit quem genuit Maria.

And to the Lord, who came and gave us  
gladness, let us offer thanks to Him.

He appeared whom Mary bore.

Carol

“The First Noel”

Arr. Jodi Ann Tolman

*Harp*

# The Word of God

The bells are rung.

## Processional Hymn 83

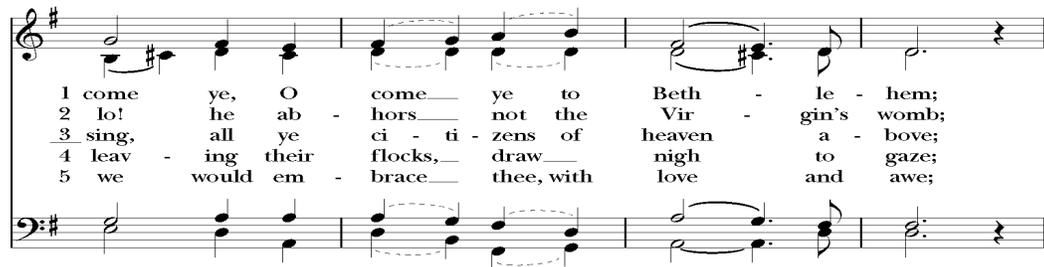
## Adeste Fidelis

### “O come, all ye faithful”

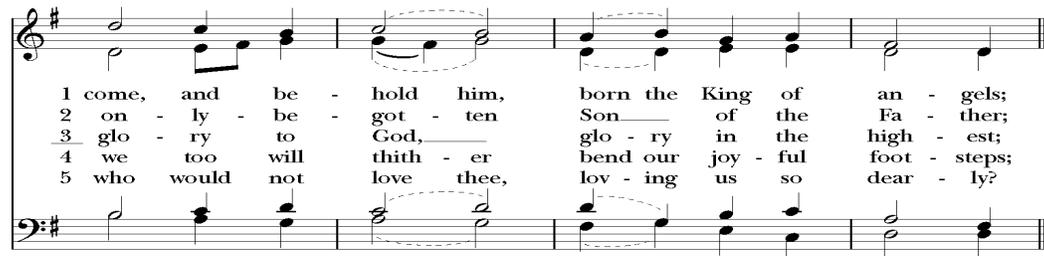
Verses 1, 2, 4 & 3 sung by all.



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,

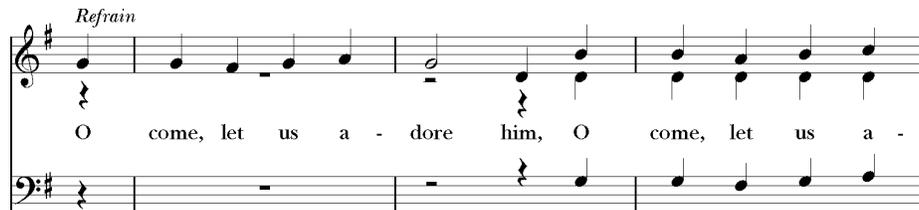


1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

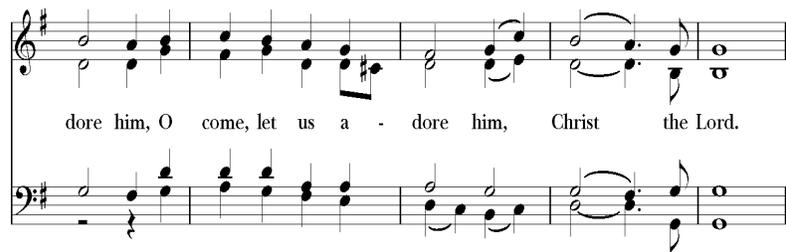


1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*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*

*Celebrant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

### **The Collect for Purity**

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.**

### **Song of Praise-*Gloria in excelsis Deo***

**Franz Joseph Haydn**

**from “Heiligmesse”**

*Sung by the Parish Choir with Trumpet*

*Text: Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis.*

*Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te.*

### **The Collect of the Day**

*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. **Amen.**

### **The First Reading**

**Isaiah 9:2-7**

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.

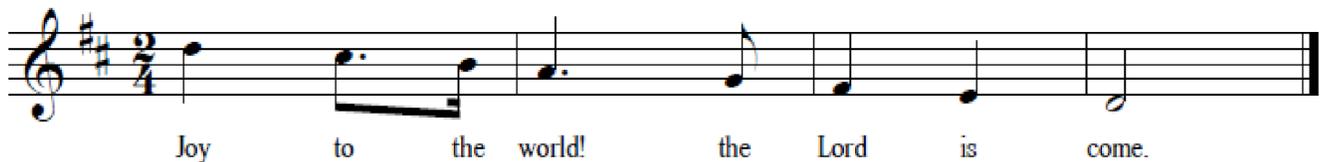
*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 96

## Plainchant

*The trumpet introduces the antiphon before being sung by the cantor.*



- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new / song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the / whole earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD and bless his / Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from / day to day.
- <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the / nations \*  
and his wonders / among all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD and greatly to be / praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than / all gods.
- <sup>5</sup> As for all the gods of the nations, they are but / idols; \*  
but it is the LORD who / made the heavens.
- <sup>6</sup> Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his / presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor / of his sanctuary!
- <sup>7</sup> Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the / peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD / honor and power.
- <sup>8</sup> Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his / Name; \*  
bring offerings and come in- / to his courts.
- <sup>9</sup> Worship the LORD in the beauty of / holiness; \*  
let the whole earth / tremble before him.

- <sup>10</sup> 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."
- <sup>11</sup> 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.
- <sup>12</sup> Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for / joy  
before the LORD when he comes, \*  
when he comes to / judge the earth.
- <sup>13</sup> He will judge the world with right- / eousness \*  
and the peoples / with his truth.

## **The Second Reading**

**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.

*Lector*        The Word of the Lord.

*People*        **Thanks be to God.**

*Sung by all*

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 Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

*Deacon* 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!"

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 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.

## The Prayers of the People

*Intercessor* Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem to greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you – that we might be the Church and the People who you call us to be. We pray especially for the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, for our Bishops, Ian and Laura, and for all the clergy and people of this diocese. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. We give you thanks for this community at St. Matthew's, for the work you call us to do and for the joy you give us to share together. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

- Intercessor* As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; Draw our nation and all the nations of the world to his brightness. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* As angels sang and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill to all peoples; Bring us your peace, and bring an end to all terror and strife. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; Draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* Our Savior was born in a manger because there was no room in the inn; be present, O God, with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. We pray for those who are sick, especially for Christine, Rich, Nancy, Ken, Dawn, Barrie, Donnie, James, Jeff, Aaron, Michael, Katie, Petra, Doris, Geoff, Darunee, Patricia, Frank, Richard, Mary Lou, Charles, Gene, Kathy, Bo and those we now name (*the people are invited to offer their own intercessions*); God of love, **Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* For the members of our military, for first-responders, and for all who risk their lives on behalf of others; especially for Jake and Matthew and those we now name, let us pray to the Lord. God of love, **Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* We pray also for those who have died, [especially \_\_\_\_\_] and for those we now name (*the people are invited to offer their own intercessions*); God of love, **Hear our prayer.**
- Intercessor* We thank you, Lord for all the blessings of this life, especially for our families, friends, pets, and for this community at St. Matt's, a spiritual home where all of God's people are welcome; and for those blessings we now name (*the people are invited to offer their own thanksgivings*); God of love, **Hear our prayer.**

*Silence may be kept.*

*Then the Celebrant adds a concluding Collect*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Confession**

*Then the Celebrant says*            Let us confess our sins to God.

*Silence may be kept. The people may stand or kneel.*

*Celebrant and People say together*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

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

## **The Holy Communion**

*After the Celebrant says an Offertory sentence, the congregation may be seated.*

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

### **Offertory Anthem**

### **“On Christmas Night”**

*Sung by the Parish Choir*

**arr. Sir Philip Ledger**

Text: 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.

Then why should men on earth be so sad, since our Redeemer made us glad  
when from our sin he set us free, all for to gain our liberty?

When sin departs before his grace, then life and health come in its place,  
Angels and men with joy may sing, all for to see the new-born King.

All out of darkness we have light, which made the angels sing this night:  
“Glory to God and peace to men, now and for evermore. Amen.”

### **Presentation Hymn 87 (vs 3)**

*Mendelssohn*

### **“Hark! The herald angels sing”**

*Sung by all*

**Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
*Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!***

# 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 our thanks and praise.**

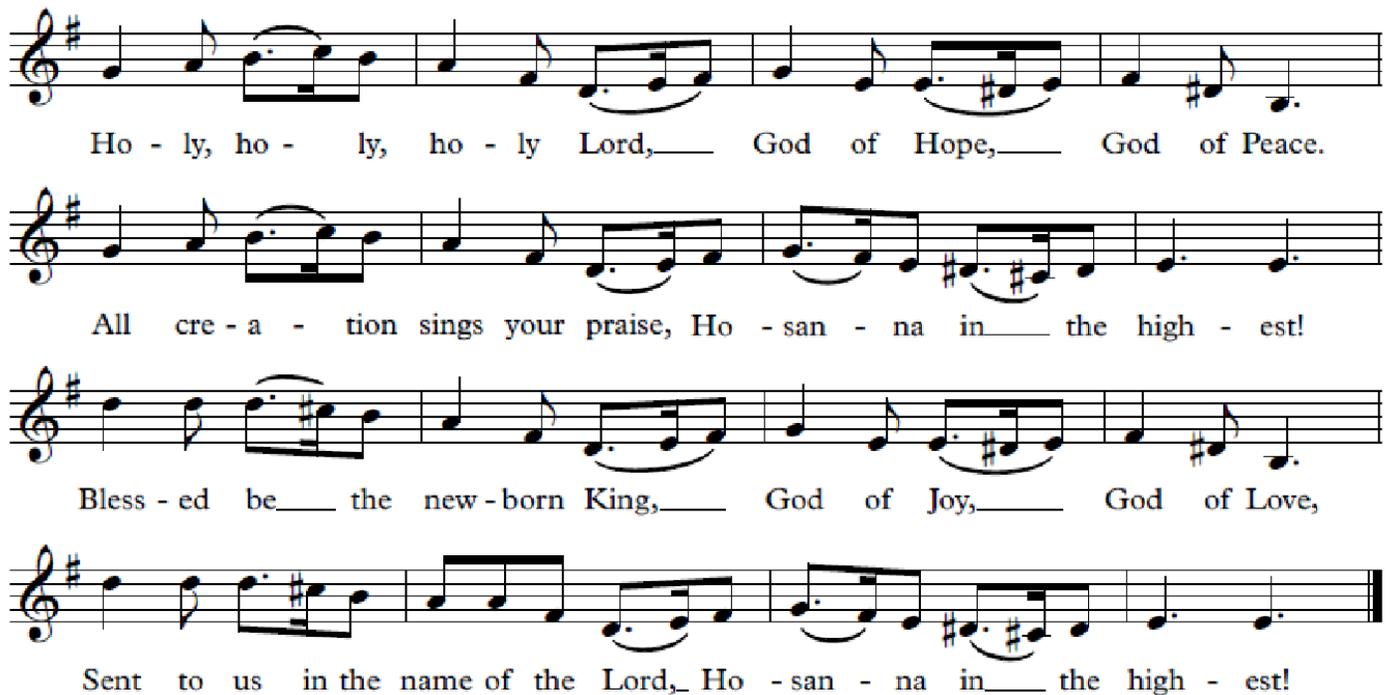
We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

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 magnify you as we sing:

## Sanctus

*Greensleeves, adapted by Rob Passow*  
*Sung by all*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of Hope, God of Peace.

All cre - a - tion sings your praise, Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Bless - ed be the new-born King, God of Joy, God of Love,

Sent to us in the name of the Lord, Ho - san - na in the high - est!

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: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. 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 to 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 St. Matthew and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

## The Great Amen

## *Greensleeves*, adapted by Rob Passow

*Sung by all*

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef. The first staff has a final period, and the second staff ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are: A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men. (first staff) and A - men, a - men, a - men, a - men. (second staff).

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 forever and ever. Amen.**

## Fraction Anthem

*Greensleeves*, adapted by Rob Passow

*Sung by all*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is sa - cri - ficed for us;  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Let us keep the feast.

## The Breaking of the Bread

*Celebrant* The gifts of God for the People of God.

## The Act of Reception

Saint Augustine's Prayer Book (2<sup>nd</sup> ed)

*The Celebrant and the People say together*

In union, Blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body and Blood are offered this day, I long to offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace.

Come Lord Jesus, and dwell in my heart in the fullness of your strength; be my wisdom and guide me in right pathways; conform my life and actions to the image of your holiness; and, in the power of your gracious might, rule over every

hostile power that threatens or disturbs the growth of your kingdom, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

*Silence is kept.*

## Music at Communion

**Instrumental**

**“Interlude from A Ceremony of Carols”**

*Harp*

**Benjamin Britten**

**Communion Anthem**

**“Away in a Manger”**

*Sung by the Parish Choir*

**Dr Jonathan White**

Text: Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
But little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! look down from the sky,  
And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
And take us to heaven to live with thee there.

# Communion Hymns

The People are invited to join in the singing of the Communion hymns.

## Hymn 115

### “What child is this”

Greensleeves

*Sung by all*

*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.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) Music: Greensleeves, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871

*Sung by all*

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.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894) Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)**The Postcommunion Prayer***Celebrant*

Let us pray. Loving God,

*People*

**We give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

“Silent Night, holy night”

*Sung by all.*

*We invite you to light a candle and, if you're able, to kneel.*

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 you vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - dian 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**

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be with you this night and always. **Amen.**

# “Joy to the world”

*Sung by all*

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,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

## Dismissal

*Deacon* Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

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

## Voluntary

**In dulci jubilo, BWV 729**

**J.S. Bach**



## Worship Leaders

*Celebrant & Preacher*

The Rev. Marissa Rohrbach

*Deacon*

The Rev. Deacon Don Burr

*Lectors*

Amy, Doug, Douglas & Mikey Gubner

Brian, Jennifer, Michael, Katie & Patch Angerame

Lindsay & Ella Wyman

Caroline DeAngelis

Sharon Pearson

Samantha Trolice

*Artist in Residence*

Scott Ellaway

*Cantor*

Dermot Kiernan

*Choir*

The Parish Choir & Schola Cantorum

*Harp*

Wendy Kerner

*Trumpet*

Matthew Suckling



## **Merry Christmas from St. Matthew's!**

If you're visiting us tonight, know that you are welcome. We are glad you are here, and we hope you will join us in person for a visit when it is safe to do so.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, no matter what might have kept you away, God's love is always with you. And there is a place for you at St. Matt's. We pray that the Christ child will be born again in your life this Christmas, bringing you the gifts of faith, hope, and love. And that you might come and take your place at St. Matt's as we build a spiritual home where all people are welcome.

God bless you, God keep you, and God bring you back safely again.

**Merry Christmas!**



Join us for:  
Lessons & Carols  
The First Sunday after Christmas  
December 27, 2020  
10:00 am  
On Facebook and our Website  
[www.stmatthewswilton.org/live](http://www.stmatthewswilton.org/live)



## Christmas Memorial Flowers

### **In Memory Of or Thanksgiving For:**

My Wonderful Family

John Berger

Jeanette Marsella

Carolyn McAdoo and our loved ones no longer with us

Mike & Marie Perry Masland  
Ellen Masland Salyer  
Dermond Ives, Jr.  
Richard Kendrick, Charles Portman  
May C. Proctor, P. Richard Allwork  
Robert Phelps  
All our grandparents

Doris & Norman Gortz  
Jack Rogers  
Betty Lou Rogers Paul  
Mike Paul

Robert Kerrigan

Barbara & Don Davidson

### **Given By:**

Char Griffin

Janel Downs

The Wyman Family

Jamie Hewitt & Ralph Walker

The Perry Family

The Gortz Family

Andy & Kendal Gaillard

Steve & Betsy Pettit

## Christmas Music Memorials

### **In Memory Of or Thanksgiving For:**

Alice & Roger Valkenburgh, Sr.  
Frank M. Hutchins

Tom Campbell  
Jack & Flo Redden  
Thomas & Betty Campbell

Gina Lockhart

David Lee Gaillard

Pat & Endy Perry  
Jane Phelps

My Wonderful Family

Elizabeth & John Godfrey  
Dorothy & Carl Brautigam

Doris & Norman Gortz  
Jack Rogers  
Betty Lou Rogers Paul  
Mike Paul

Siddie & David Bloomer  
Lucia & Ed Woods

Michael Cristini, Jack Richey  
June Wingeback, Dell Agvent  
Marilyn Perry, Geraldine Curry  
Jack Cummings

In memory of our parents

### **Given By:**

Ginny & Roger Valkenburgh

Jean Campbell

The Kepner Family

Andy & Kendal Gaillard

The Perry Family

Char Griffin

Nancy & Bill Brautigam

The Gortz Family

The Woods Family

The Cristini Family

Steve & Betsy Pettit

## Rector's Discretionary Fund

### **In Memory Of or Thanksgiving For:**

George & Sylvia Ellis  
Harold & Edna Hudspeth  
Henry & Anne Shalet  
Deborah Watts  
Georgianna Ellis  
Josephine Poor  
In gratitude for our treasured St. Matthew's staff  
and parish family in these challenging times

Marissa

Philip & Caroline Pearson  
Clifford & Trinetta Ely, Scott Ely

Doris & Norman Gortz  
Jack Rogers  
Betty Lou Rogers Paul  
Mike Paul

John & Janet DeAngelis

Marissa – In appreciation for all you do

### **Given By:**

Steve & Becky Hudspeth

A grateful family

John & Sharon Pearson

The Gortz Family

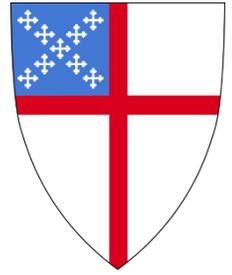
DeAngelis Family

Steve & Betsy Pettit

## Next Week: Worship online again with St. Matthew's

*There are many ways to connect with St. Matt's in the coming weeks. Please keep an eye on our website and social media as well as our e-news. There you'll find information and opportunities to connect for friends and members of all ages.*

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### **Staff**

Rector	The Rev. Marissa S. Rohrbach, <a href="mailto:marissa@stmatthewswilton.org">marissa@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Deacon	The Rev. Deacon Don Burr, <a href="mailto:don@stmatthewswilton.org">don@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Artist in Residence	Scott Ellaway, <a href="mailto:scott@stmatthewswilton.org">scott@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Parish Administrator	Nancy Johnson, <a href="mailto:office@stmatthewswilton.org">office@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
Children, Youth & Family	Samantha Trolice, <a href="mailto:samantha@stmatthewswilton.org">samantha@stmatthewswilton.org</a>
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WEPCO	Sandy Muschler, <a href="mailto:wepco@optonline.net">wepco@optonline.net</a>
Nursery Staff	Lucia Sato, Kate DeAngelis
Sexton	Max Gil

### **Wardens and Officers**

Sr. Warden	Jen Kepner	Asst. Treasurers	Bruce Beebe, Andrea Sato
Jr. Warden	Brian Angerame	Clerk	Anne Newton
Treasurer	Keith DeAngelis		

### **The Vestry**

Michael Kaelin	Kim Hall	Joe Magnano
Dodo Roberts	Tim Jarvis	Paul Reis
Jessica Christ	Pam Ely	

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