Saint Paul's Episcopal Church

The Eve of the Nativity

Tuesday, December 24, 2024
four o'clock in the afternoon

WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

Whatever brings you here, and whoever you are,
we are glad you are here!

First Time Worshipping at St. Paul's?

St. Paul's is an Episcopal Church and uses liturgy or language for worship from *The Book of Common Prayer*. While we use a variety of other resources, all the words and music needed for today's service are found in this bulletin. There are helpful tips on when to stand and sit; however, do what feels most comfortable for you throughout the service.

Are you new to St. Paul's or the surrounding area?

Let us know by filling out a Welcome Card located in the pew rack and on the website, and we will connect with you. We also have a Welcome Table you can visit following the service in the Gathering Space of the Parish House.

Restrooms

Restrooms are located in the Parish House. You are welcome to use the bathroom that best aligns with your gender identity.

Nursery

The nursery is open for this service. There is a child-size restroom and a changing table available as well as the ability to hear service.

Contact the Clergy

The St. Paul's clergy are eager to hear from you and to support you. On most Sundays a member of the clergy is available to pray with you during Communion at the station to the left of the altar railing. If you are going through a life transition, have an emergency, or are in need of pastoral care for any other reason, please call the church at 804.643.3589.

For Families and Children During Worship

Young ones need to be able to see and experience worship. Our ushers are happy to direct you to our **Family Space** at the front of the church where you will find picture books, paper and crayons, and small hand-held toys. We also have **Worship Bags** as you enter the church that contain **Children's Bulletins**, paper and crayons. During the **Gospel Procession**, children and families are encouraged to participate, and Children's Chapel follows. Kids will leave with our staff to participate in their own time of prayer and fellowship. They will return after the sermon during the Peace.

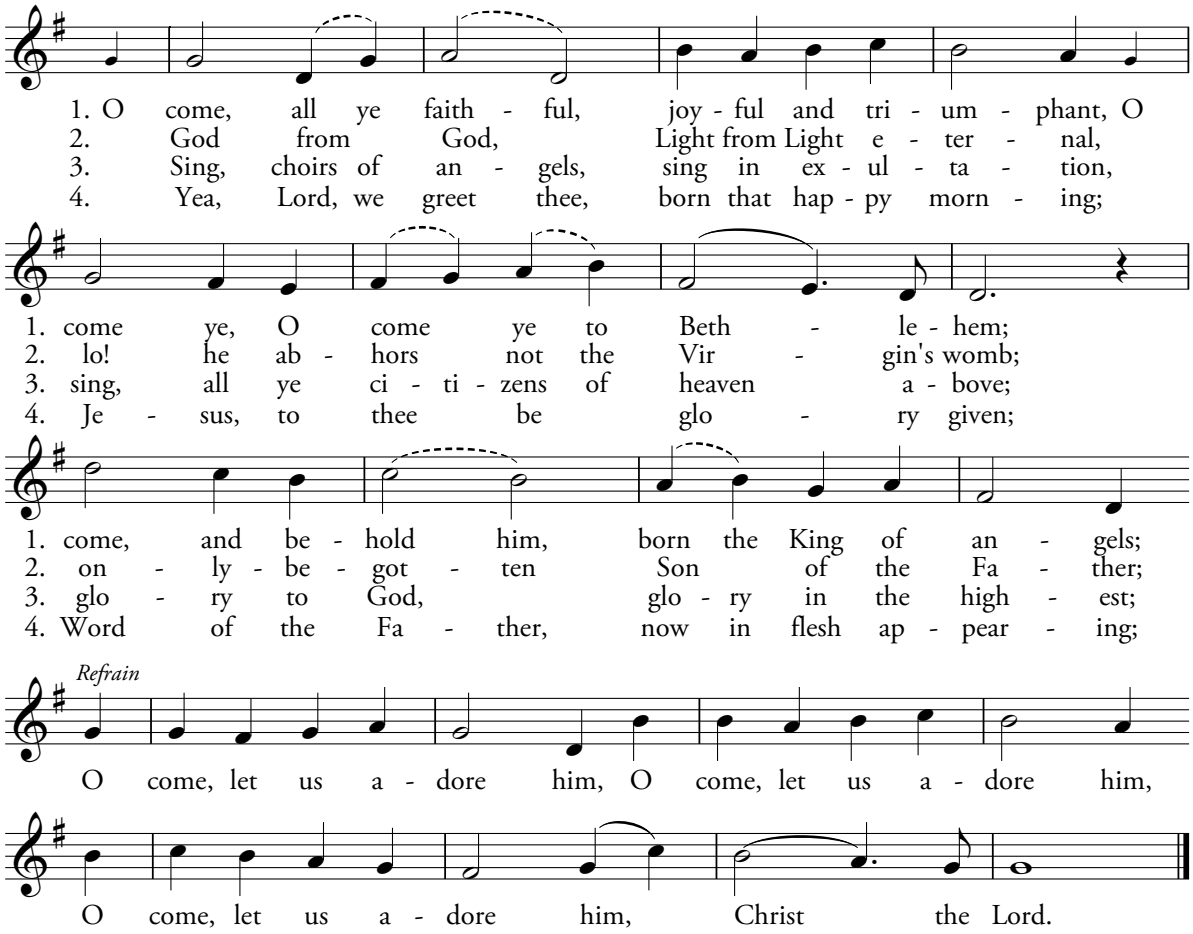
Pageant and Holy Eucharist

Organ Voluntaries

Prelude on *Divinum mysterium* — Wilbur Held (1914-2015)

Chorale Prelude on *In dulci jubilo* — Johann Michael Bach (1648-1694)

Carillon on a Ukrainian Carol — Gerald Near (b. 1942)

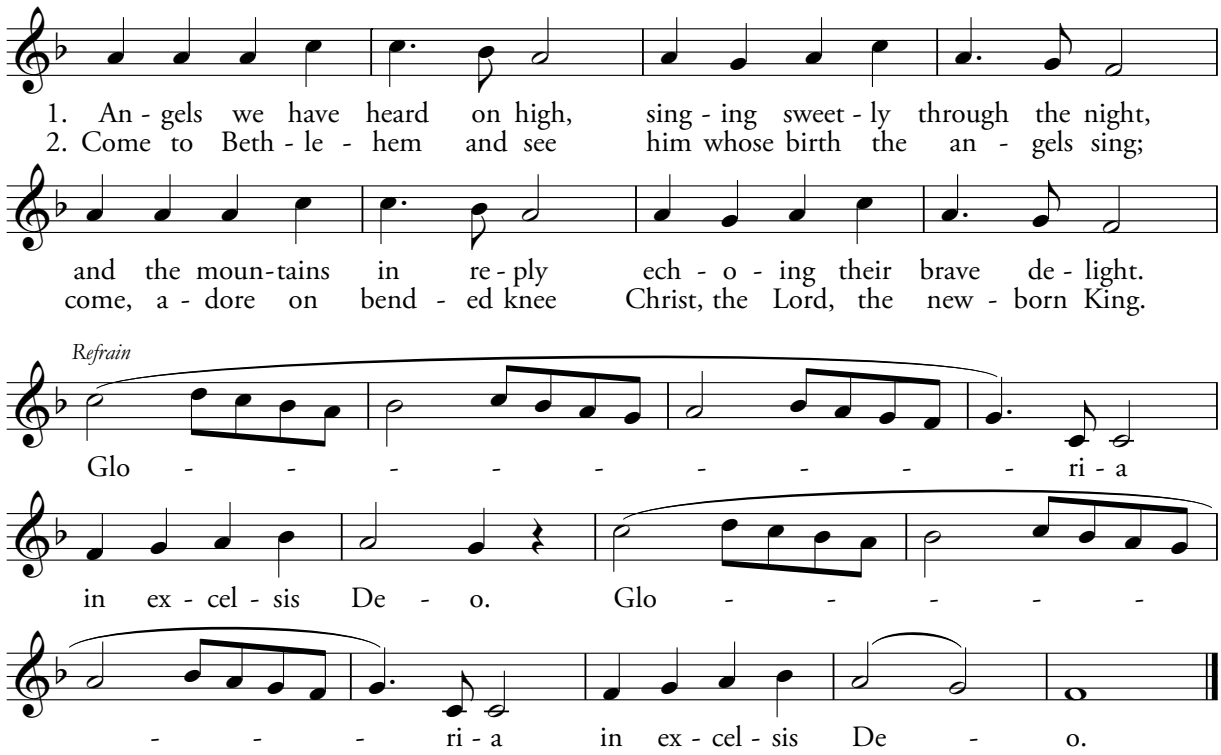
Hymn

Text: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
Music: *Adeste fideles,* present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal,* 1906

The Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Presider The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us;
People **And we beheld God's glory.**

Hymn of Praise



Text: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
Music: *Gloria,* French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

The Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord 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. **Amen.**

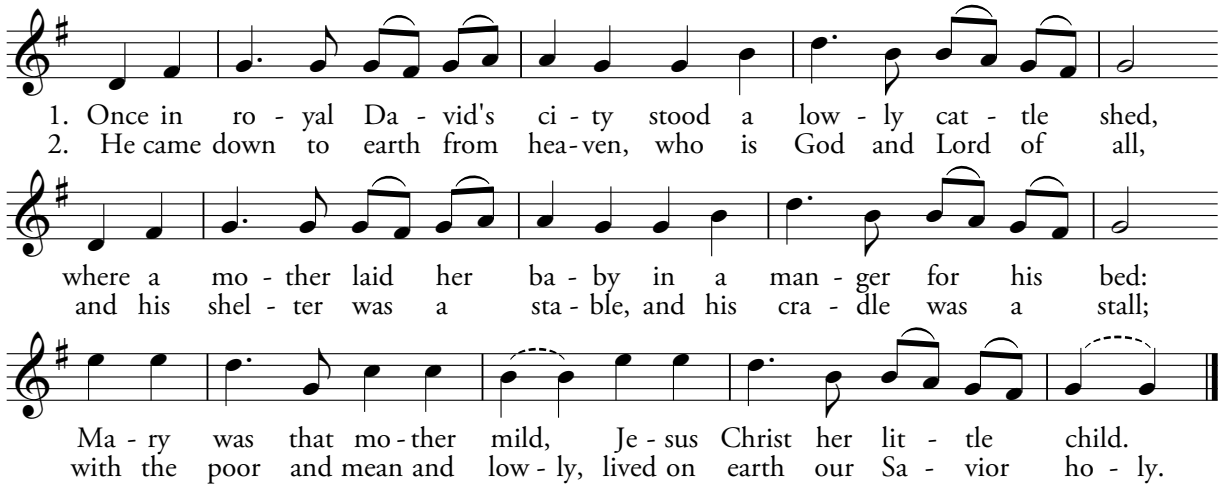
The people are seated and remain seated until the final hymn of the pageant.

The Birth of Christ

The hymns are sung by all, seated.

Please refrain from taking pictures during the pageant, there will be an opportunity during the hymn "Joy to the world" for pictures.

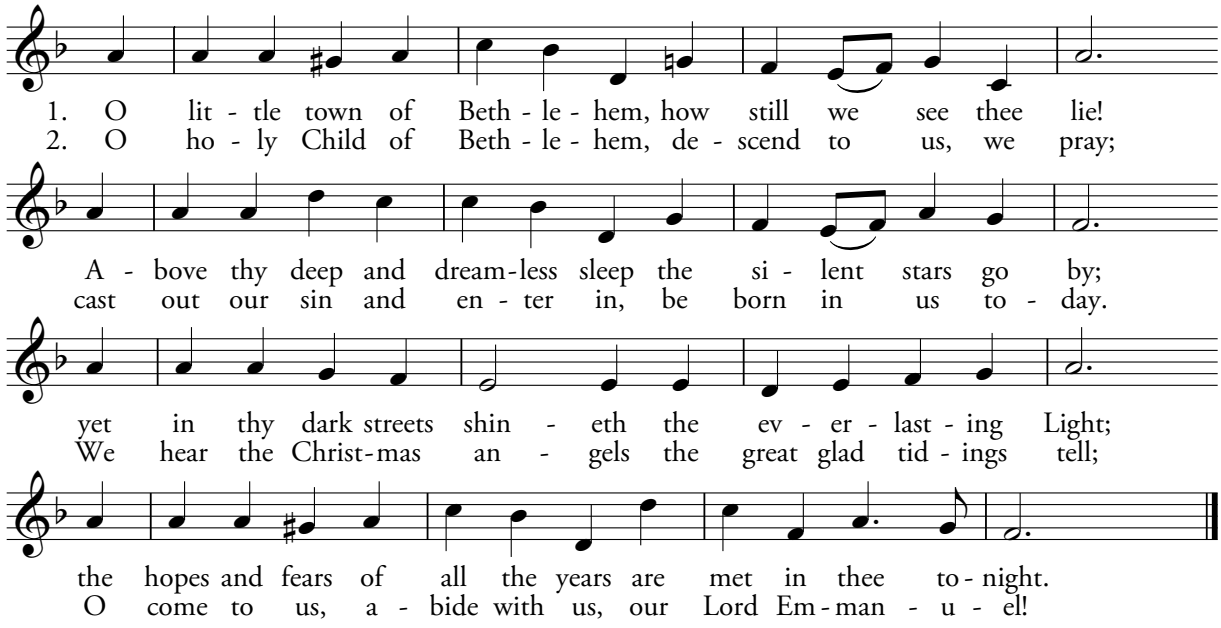
Hymn



Text: Cecil Francis Alexander (1818-1895)

Music: *Irby,* melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929)

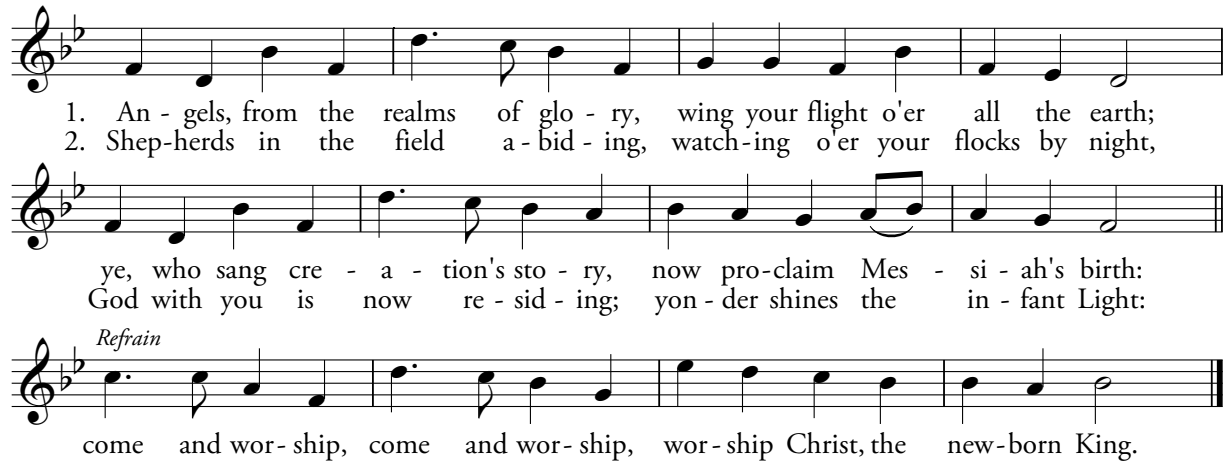
Hymn



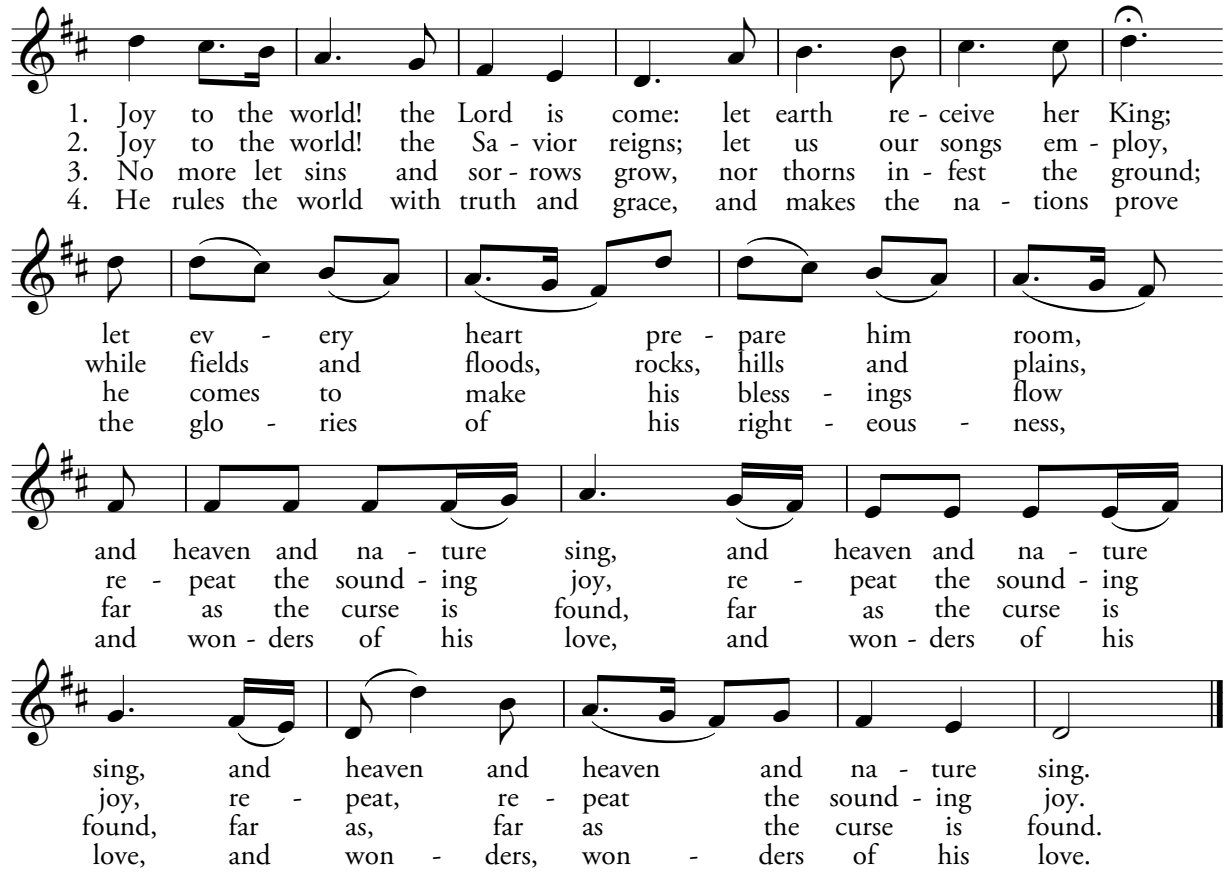
Text: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)

Music: *St. Louis,* Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

Hymn



Text: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt.
Music: *Regent Square,* Henry Thomas Smart (1813-1879)

Hymn

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

The Sermon

The Rev'd Charles Dupree, D.Min., *Rector*

The Prayers of the People

The people stand.

Presider As we join the whole creation and celebrate with joy the Word made flesh, let us offer prayers to God who dwells among us to the end of time.

Intercessor With all our heart and all our mind, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Make us instruments of your peace.**

Intercessor For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Where there is hatred, let us sow love.**

Intercessor For our enemies and those who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Where there is injury, let us sow pardon.**

Intercessor For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease and all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord;

People **Where there is discord, let us sow union.**

Intercessor For those who do not yet believe, for those who have lost their faith, and those in despair and darkness that they may receive the light of faith, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Where there is doubt, let us sow faith.**

Intercessor We pray for the poor, the persecuted, the sick, especially those who have asked for our prayers. *(During the silence, add your petitions)*. We pray for all who suffer and those in danger. *(During the silence, add your petitions)*. We pray for those who are far away from family and friends. *(During the silence, add your petitions)*. We pray for comfort and protection, O Lord:

People **Where there is despair, let us sow hope.**

Intercessor For the mission and ministry of the Episcopal Church; for Michael our Presiding Bishop; for Mark, our Bishop; and for this parish family, that in faithful witness we may spread God's love near and far, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Where there is darkness, let us sow light.**

Intercessor For all who have died in the hope of the resurrection, especially those we name now. *(During the silence, add your petitions).* We also remember those who have died as a result of addiction, disease, conflict, or any manifestation of violence and hatred. For all the departed and those who are grieving, may they find comfort and be at peace, we pray to you, O Lord:

People **Where there is sadness, let us sow joy.**

Intercessor Your own intercessions and thanksgivings are now invited silently or aloud.

During the silence, add your petitions and thanksgivings.

People **Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

Presider Living God, source of grace and truth, accept the prayers we offer on this joyful feast. May we come to see the true light who shines throughout the world and may we be the light that reveals truth and love to all of your people. This we ask in the name of the one who sleeps helplessly in the manger, Child of God.

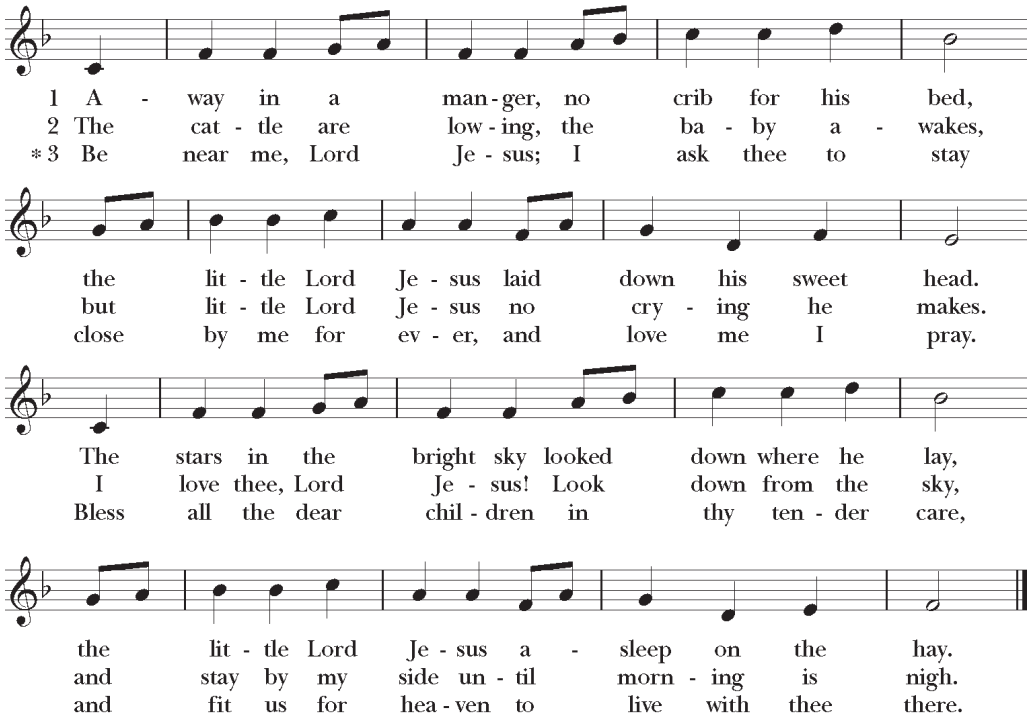
People **Amen.**

The Peace

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

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Hymn

Text: Traditional carol
Music: *Cradle Song,* melody William James Kirkpatrick (1838-1921); harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The Great Thanksgiving

The people stand.

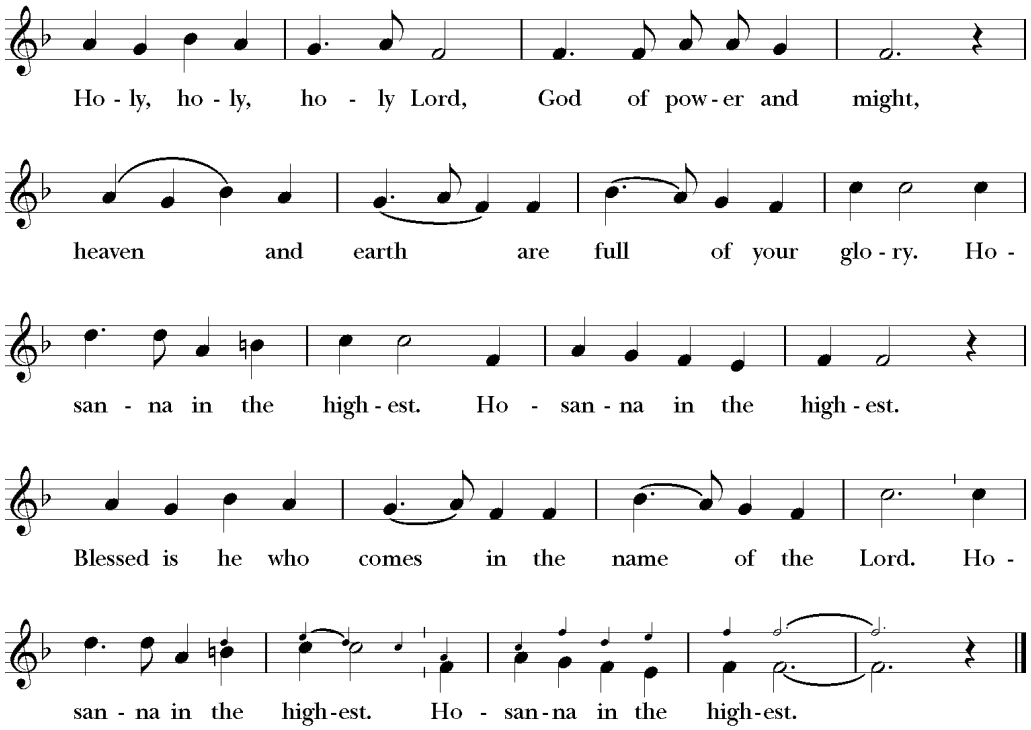
Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presider continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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 perfectly human 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 to the glory of your Name:



Text: Mass Ordinary, Fifth century
Music: from *A Community Mass;* Richard Proulx (1937-2010)

The people stand or kneel as the Presider continues.

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 Savior 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 Jesus 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,

The people say with the Presider.

We remember Christ's death,
We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
We await Christ's coming in glory;

The Presider continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Savior 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 in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, through whom we are acceptable to you,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 Paul, Mary, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo,
santificado sea tu Nombre,
venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad,
en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación
y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
tuyo es el poder, y tuya es la gloria,
ahora y por siempre. Amén.

The Breaking of the Bread

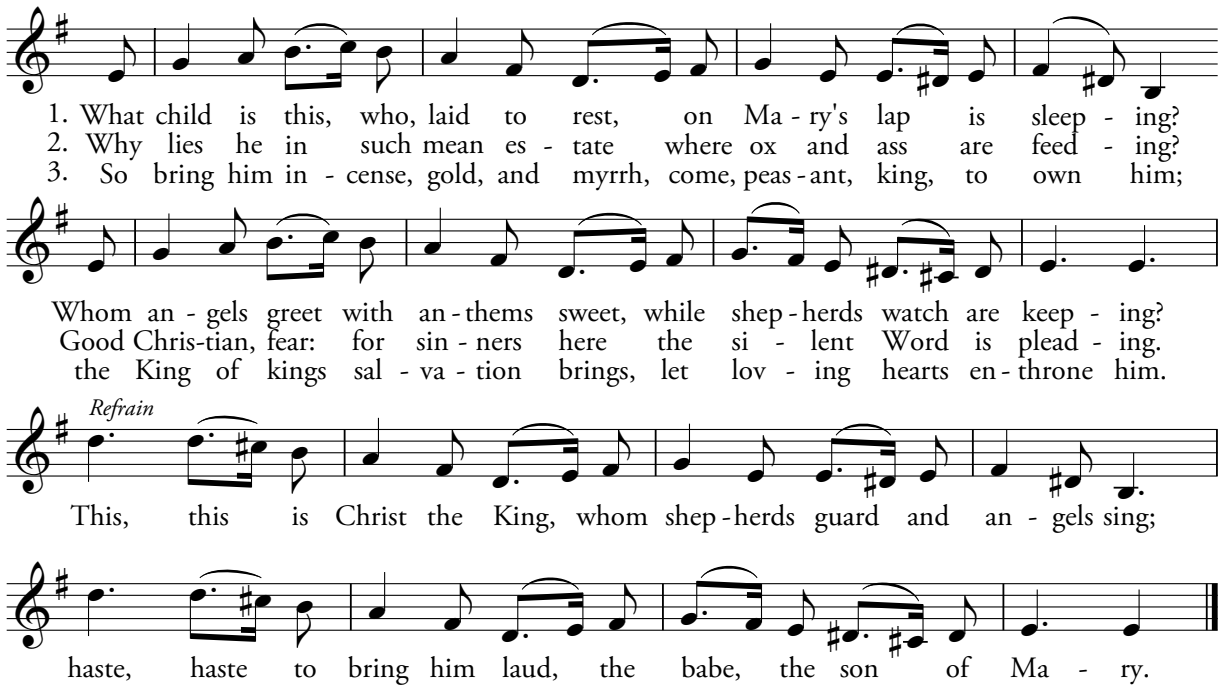
The Presider breaks the bread followed by silence.

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

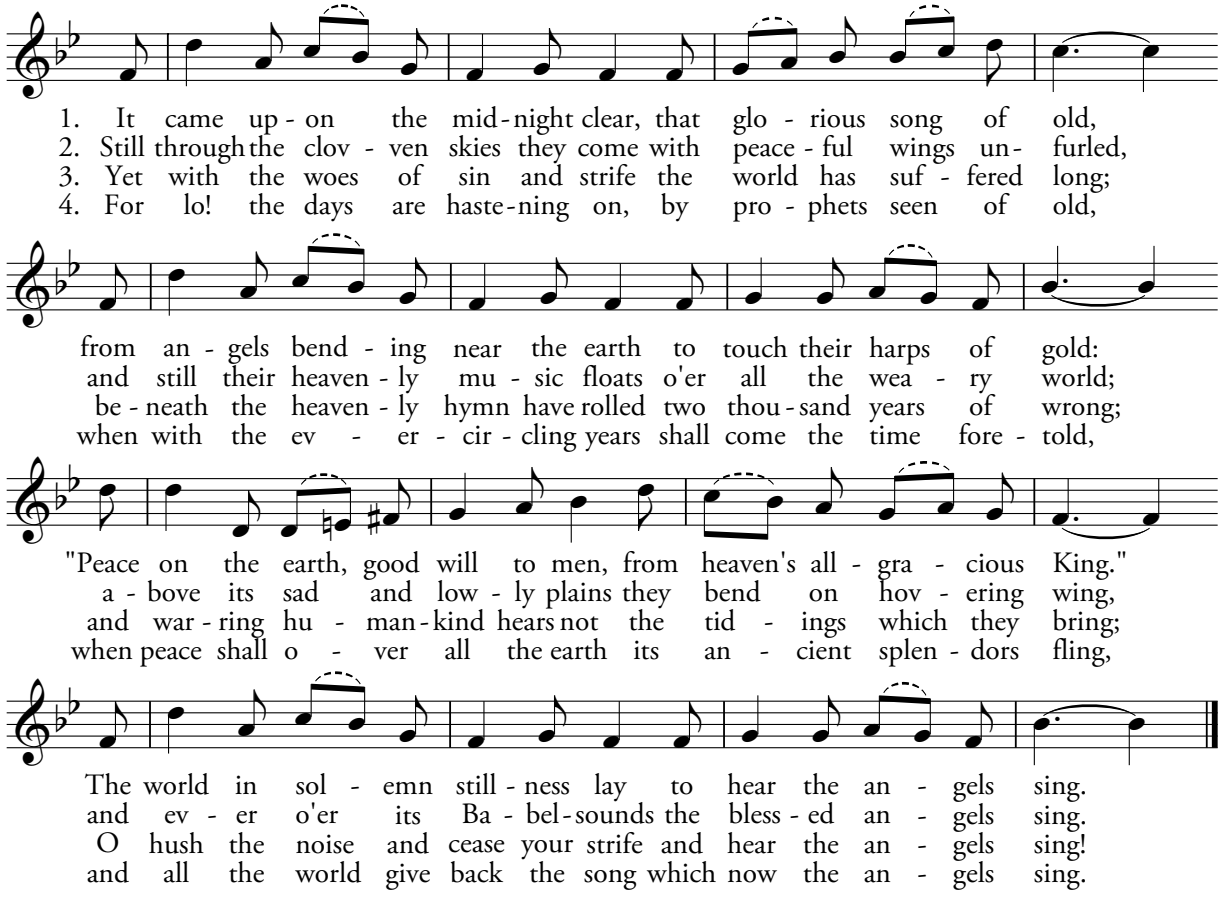
The Invitation to the Table and Holy Communion

All are welcome at God's table. An usher will signal when you may go forward. All are invited to receive the sacraments (bread and wine) or a blessing. Bread will be placed in your hand by the priest. If you choose to receive the wine, the preferred (and most sanitary) way is by drinking from the common cup, guiding it by the base to your lips. While our preference is to keep fingers OUT of the chalice, if you plan to intinct, please use hand sanitizer before coming to the altar rail. Hand sanitizers are located on the tables in the front and back of the church.

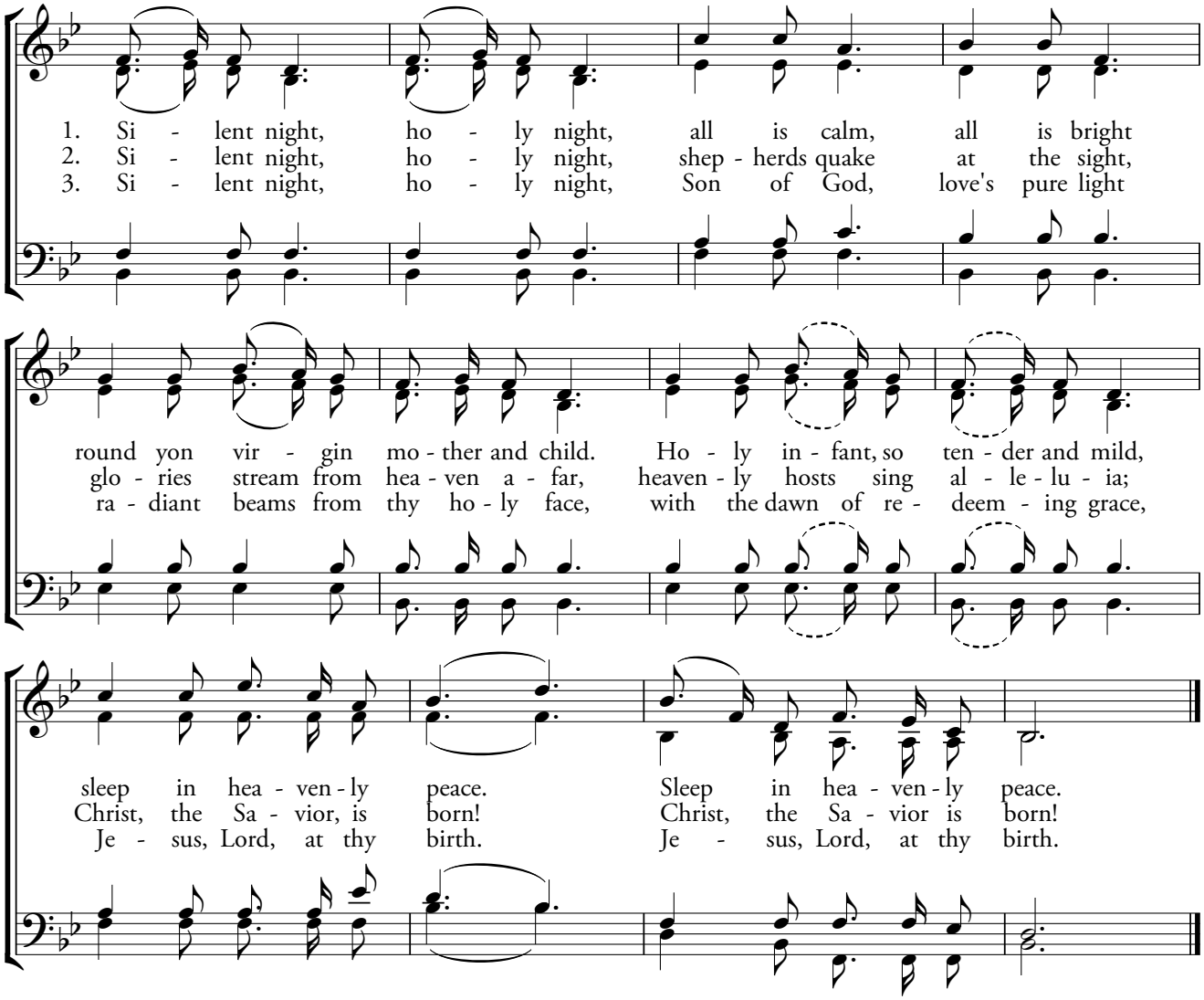
HYMN



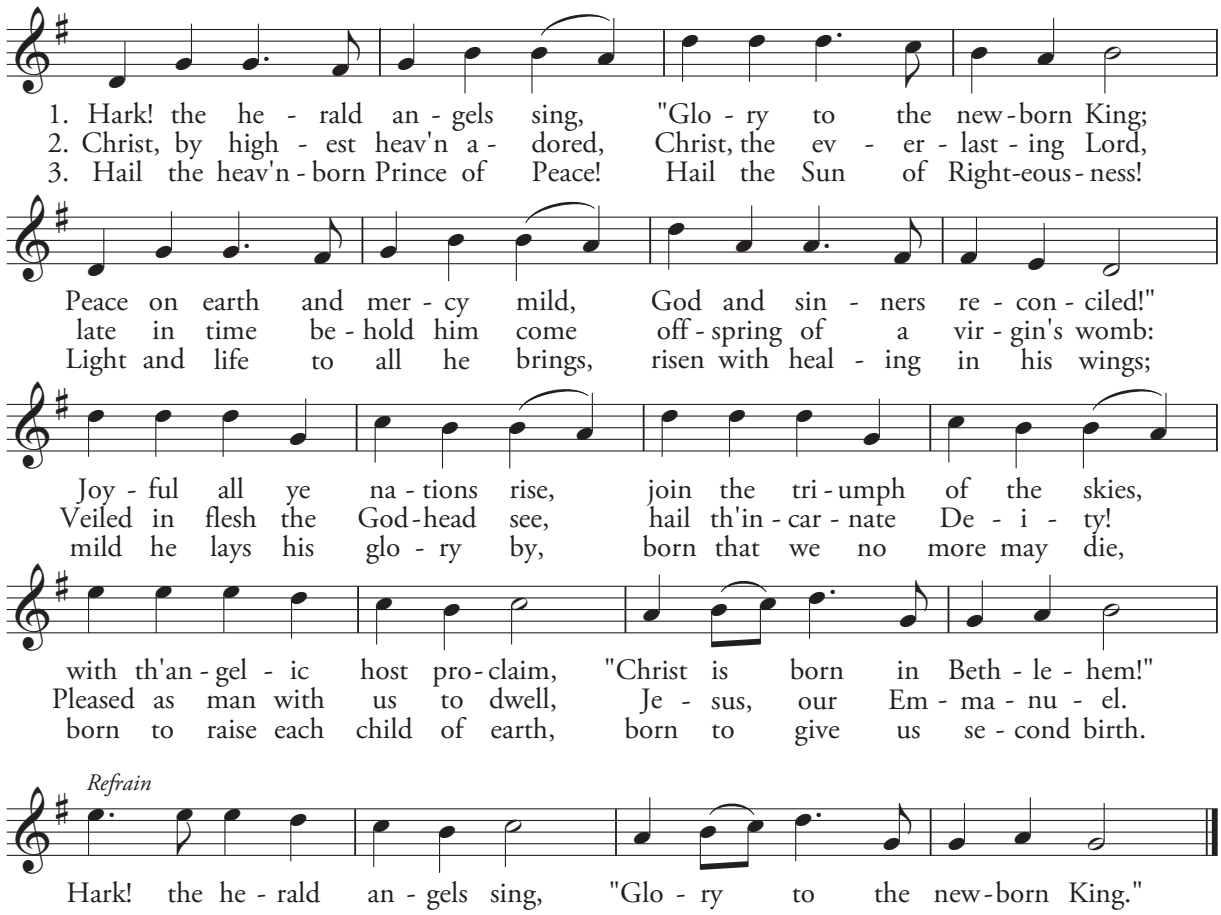
Text: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)
Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. Christmas Carols New and Old, 1871

HYMN

Text: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt.
Music: *Carol,* Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900)

Hymn

Once everyone has received communion, the acolytes will process down the aisles to light the tapers. The people on the ends of the aisle then pass the light from one another, tilting the unlit candle. The hymn is sung kneeling.

Text: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)
Music: *Stille Nacht,* melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

The Christmas Blessing

Hymn

Text: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), George Whitefield (1714-1770), Martin Madan (1727-1790), and others
Music: *Mendelssohn,* Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth in the light of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

Organ Voluntary

Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella — Keith Chapman (1945–1989)

Participants

Clergy

The Rev'd Charles Dupree, D.Min., *Rector*
The Rev'd Gwynn Crichton, *Associate Rector for Community Engagement*
The Rev'd Rainey G. Dankel, *Associate for Worship and Liturgy*
The Rev'd Andie W. Rohrs, *Associate for Pastoral Care*

Musician

Christopher Reynolds, D.M.A., *Director of Music and Organist*

Pageant Narrators

Ella Etters and Ryon Sinclair

Acolytes

Colin Matthews, Maura Matthews, Ryon Sinclair

Eucharistic Minister

Sally Ray Griffith

All music printed by permission from www.OneLicense.net (License number: A-711887).
Permission to stream the music in this service obtained from www.OneLicense.net (License number: A-711887).
All rights reserved.

2024 Christmas Flowers

- Given by Jane Baird Hyde in loving memory of Dr. Charles Lewis Baird, Jr., and Olin Volney Hyde
- Given by Susan Scott in loving memory of Sidney Buford Scott
- Given by Bettina Nelson in loving memory of William H. Mann
- Given by Rainey Dankel in loving memory of Thad Dankel, Frank Raysor, and Rachel Smylie
- Given by Cindy, David and Si Wofford in loving memory of Caroline Gray Wofford
- Given by Jamie Kennedy and Daniel Blichasz in loving memory of Robyn Kennedy
- Given by Connie Rice in loving memory of Lee P. Rice
- Given by Celia Luxmoore in loving memory of David Baker
- Given by Maria and Joel Everett in loving memory of their parents Mary and Fred Everett, Kathryn and Alexander Kissal, and Maria's sister Joanne Kissal
- Given by Nan Ellen and Dick Ritsch in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm E. Ritsch, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey L. Williams, Jr., and Mr. Harvey L. Williams, III
- Given by Wilson and Liz Whitehurst in loving memory of Marie and Jim Keller, and Betty Whitehurst
- Given by Mike and Lynn Kotrady in loving memory of our parents Charlotte G. Tyndall and C. Ford Genzet Sr. and our brothers, Charles F. Ganzert, Jr., and Donald W. Kotrady
- Given by Sally Ray Griffith in loving memory of David Baker, May Dickson, Clinton W. Griffith, Lolly Hetherington, Phill Huss, Lee Rice, Walter Scott, Kent Titus, and Quincy Umphlette
- Given by Bryn and Paul Davis in memory of Phil Huss and Birdie Lighthiser and in honor of our children and grandchildren.
- Given by Rainey Dankel in honor of St. Paul's organists and choir
- Given by Thomas Ayer and Lee Katherine Ayerhart in loving memory of their father Alton Ayer
- Given by Leila Taaffe and Arthur Kellermann in loving memory of Patricia Taaffe, Jim McMullen, and Brian Strongin, and in honor of the St Paul's clergy and support staff

At St. Paul's,
we are committed to...

Racial Justice
St. Paul's is committed to naming and dismantling systemic racism. We foster community healing and support the work of reparative action through local, regional, and international dialogue and action.

Being a Spiritual Center for Downtown
St. Paul's extends a generous, affirming, and inclusive welcome. We are a place for serving, partnering, gathering, learning, growing, and worshiping.

Progressive Christian Thinking
St. Paul's embraces our commitment to nurture a curiosity of spirit and mind. We are a spiritual space in which a diversity of people and perspectives are supported and shaped.

Transformative and Relevant Worship
St. Paul's offers worship and liturgical experiences that are beautiful, thoughtful, grounded in the Episcopal tradition, and reflective of a God who is speaking into current conversations and contexts.

Embracing and Caring for All Ages
St. Paul's builds a multi-generational community. We engage and support people through all of life's journeys and transitions.

ST. PAUL'S