



Stained Glass, St. Paul and the Redeemer

The
Nativity of
Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve 9:00 pm

You Are Welcome

A Little About St. Paul & the Redeemer

What Kind of Church Is This?

St. Paul & the Redeemer is a community that seeks to mirror the radical hospitality practiced by Jesus, holding together a progressive outlook and a rootedness in the Christian faith. We are woven of different races, economic statuses, cultural backgrounds, faith backgrounds, gender identities, and sexual orientations, and we are strengthened and enriched by each person's story and voice. SPR honors both faith and doubt, bringing together our highest hopes and our deepest fears.

SPR Anti-Racism Vision Statement

To mirror the radical hospitality practiced by Jesus and be true to our baptismal covenant, we strive to become a beloved community that reflects on our own racial identities and recognizes racism and privilege in our church and society; works for justice by building relationships and sustained efforts to heal, reconcile, and seek Christ in each other; and acts to interrupt and dismantle white supremacist structures, transforming ourselves and our church to become a living embodiment of justice and peace.

Let's Get Connected

Fill out one of these cards, which you can find in the backs of the chairs and drop it in the offering basket or give it to a member of the clergy.

OR

Stop by the Welcome Table, which is near the west entrance to the church.

AND

Check-in and follow SPR on social media: [facebook.com/sprchicago](https://www.facebook.com/sprchicago) and [@sprchicago](https://twitter.com/sprchicago)



Children's Formation

Children's Chapel, Sundays, 10:15a-10:30a | During the sermon at the 10:00 service (9:15 service during the program year), children from preschool to second grade are invited to a special liturgy in the children's chapel, featuring songs and a Bible story. **Children's chapel takes place year-round every Sunday.**

Godly Play, Sundays, 10:20-11:05a | Godly Play is our Montessori-based Christian formation program for children. In Godly Play, we teach children the art of using religious forms of expression, including story, silence, and action, to articulate and wonder about the relationship they already have with God. **Godly Play will resume on January 5, 2020.**

Some Helpful Things to Know Today

Can I receive communion?

Yes. Everyone, without exception, is invited to receive communion.

When am I supposed to stand?

At any point in the service, it's perfectly fine for you to remain seated as you're comfortable. We do have customary times when we stand or kneel; these are indicated by the italicized instructions throughout the service. There are also times when it is customary to cross ourselves, and if you wish to do so, the + indicates that.

Are children welcome here?

Yes. Children are invited to participate actively in the service. Also, coloring pages, crayons, and books are at the entrances to the church. Nursery care is available.

Where are the restrooms?

There are single-user, gender-neutral restrooms down the southwest stairs and also through the northeast door of the sanctuary.

Is there wheelchair accessibility?

Yes. An accessible restroom is through the northeast door of the sanctuary. There is an elevator which gives access to the first floor, lower level, and parish hall. Everyone is invited to remain seated at any point during the service, as needed.

How about hearing assistance?

We can help there, too. Hearing-assistance devices are available from the ushers.

SPR Choirs

Choir rehearsals resume on Thursday, January 9. All experience levels and newcomers welcome.

St. Nicholas Choir (Kindergarten-2nd grade): Thursday rehearsal 6-6:30pm. Contact: Gretchen Eng (eng@sprchicago.org).

SPR Choristers (3rd Grade and above): Thursday rehearsal 6-7:30pm. Contact: Christian Clough (clough@sprchicago.org).

Teen & Adult Choirs: Thursday rehearsal 7-8:40pm. Contact Christian Clough (clough@sprchicago.org).

Youth Formation

Youth Formation, Sundays, 10:20a-11:05a | In Youth Formation, we gather for 45 minutes to enjoy donuts and discussion. We've pondered questions like "Is God male?"; "Did God write the Bible?"; and "What is the real meaning of Christmas?" **Youth formation will resume on January 5, 2020.**

Youth Group, Sundays, 5-7p | Youth Group is a weekly fellowship gathering (including dinner) on Sundays during the program year, typically from 5-7p. Check out our info board outside of the youth room, subscribe to the SPR parish's weekly email blast, or follow us at [@SPRYouth](https://twitter.com/SPRYouth) for updated scheduling info. **Youth group will resume on January 5, 2020.**

Prelude

Chorale Prelude on "Silent Night" from *Die Natali*, Op. 37

Samuel Barber (1910-1981), transcribed by the composer

Gathering Hymn

All remain seated and sing.

1. Be-fore the mar-vel of this night, a - dor - ing, fold your wings and bow;
2. A - wake the sleep-ing world with song: this is the day the Lord has made.
3. The love that we have al - ways known, our con-stant joy and end - less light,

1. then tear the sky a - part with light and with your news the world en - dow.
2. As - sem - ble here, ce - les - tial throng, in roy - al splen-dor come ar - rayed.
3. now to the love-less world be shown, now break up - on its death - ly night.

1. Pro - claim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sor - row cease:
2. Give earth a glimpse of heaven - ly bliss, a teas - ing taste of what they miss:
3. In - to one song compress the love that rules our u - ni - verse a - bove:

1. sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, _____ sing peace, sing gift of peace!
2. sing bliss, sing bliss, sing end-less bliss, _____ sing bliss, sing end - less bliss!
3. sing love, sing love, sing God is love, _____ sing love, sing God is love!

"Before the marvel of this night"

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919-2008)

Music: *Marvel*, 88. 88. 88. 86, Carl Schalk (b. 1929)

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All sing.

1. All my heart this night re-joic - es as I hear, far and near, sweet - est an - gel voic - es:
 2. Hark, a voice from yon - der man - ger; soft and sweet doth en - treat, "Flee from woe and dan - ger;
 3. Come, then, let us has - ten yon - der; here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and won - der.
 4. Bless - ed Sav - ior, let me find thee! Keep thou me close to thee; cast me not be - hind thee!
 5. Thee, O Lord, with care I'll cher - ish; live to thee, and with thee dy - ing, shall not per - ish;

"Christ is born," their choirs are sing - ing, till the air ev - 'ry - where now with joy is ring - ing.
 peo - ple come: from all doth grieve you, you are freed; all you need I will sure - ly give you."
 Love him who with love is yearn - ing, hail the star that from far bright with hope is burn - ing.
 Life of life, my heart thou still - est; calm I rest on thy breast: all this void thou fill - est.
 but shall dwell with thee for - ev - er, far on high in the joy that can al - ter nev - er.

"All my heart this night rejoices"

Words: *Fröhlich soll*, Paulus Gerhard, 1653; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1863

Music: *Fröhlich soll (Bonn)*, 8.33.6 D, mel. J.G. Ebeling, 1666

You are welcome to sing the whole carol or only the refrain, as you are comfortable.

Introduction/Interlude

1. Duér - me - te, Ni - ño lin - do, en los
2. No te - mas al rey He - ro - des que na -

bra - zos del a - mor mien - tras que duer - me y des - can - sa la pe - na de mi do - lor.
 da te ha de ha - cer; en los bra - zos de tu ma - dre y ahí na - die te ha de o - fen - der.

Estribillo (Refrain)

A la ru, a la mè, A la ru, a la mè,

a la ru a la mè, a la ru, a la ru, a la mè.

Translation (by Wayland Rogers):

Sleep, my beautiful child in the arms of love while the pangs of my sorrow are soothed and put to rest.

You need not fear King Herod. He will bring you no harm. In the arms of your mother nothing may give offense.

The Hymnal 1982 #113 "Oh, sleep now, holy baby"

Words: Hispanic folk song; tr. John Donald Robb (1892-1989), alt.

Music: *A la ru*, Irr. with Refrain, Hispanic folk melody; arr. John Donald Robb (1892-1989)

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Instrumental Interlude

Largo from Concerto Grosso (Christmas Concerto), Op. 3, No. 12

Kerstin Wellbery, *violin*

Music: Francesco Manfredini (1680-1748)

Sung by the choir.

"Jesus, oh, what a wonderful child"

Jesus, Jesus, oh, what a wonderful Child;
Jesus, Jesus, so lowly, meek and mild:
New life, new hope, new joy he brings.
Won't you listen to the angels sing,
"Glory, glory, glory to the newborn King."

He was herald by the angels,
born in a lowly manger.
The Virgin Mary was his mother,
and Joseph was his earthly father.
Oh, three wise men came from afar,
they were guided by a shining star,
to see King Jesus where he lay
in a manger filled with hay.

Luther Lewis, III, *tenor*

Words & Melody: Traditional spiritual, arr. Mark Hayes

What sweeter music can we bring,
Than a carol, for to sing
The birth of this our heavenly King?
Awake the voice! Awake the string!
Dark and dull night, fly hence away,
And give the honor to this day,
That sees December turned to May.
Why does the chilling Winter's morn
Smile, like a field beset with corn?
Or smell, like to a mead new-shorn,
Thus, on the sudden?

Come and see
The cause, why things thus fragrant be:
'Tis He is born, whose quickening birth
Gives life and luster, public mirth,
To heaven, and the under-earth.

We see Him come, and know Him ours,
Who, with His sunshine, and His showers,
Turns all the patient ground to flowers.

The darling of the world is come,
And fit it is, we find a room
To welcome Him. The nobler part
Of all the house here, is the heart,
Which we will give Him; and bequeath
This holly, and this ivy wreath,
To do Him honor; who's our King,
And Lord of all this reveling.

Words: Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

All Sing.



1. Star - Child, earth - Child go - be-tween of God, love Child, Christ Child, hea-ven's light-ning rod,
2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go, hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,
3. Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years, sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears,
4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want-ing more, wise child, faith child know-ing joy in store,
5. Hope - for - peace Child, God's stu - pen-dous sign, down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine,

Refrain



This year, this year, let the day ar - rive, when Christ-mas comes for ev-ery-one, ev-ery-one a - live!

Voices Found #35 "Star-Child, earth-Child"

Words: Shirley Erena Murray (b. 1931)

Music: *Star-Child*, Carlton R. Young (b. 1926)

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Instrumental Interlude

The choir processes to the back of the church for the start of the liturgy.

Pastoral Symphony from Messiah, *HWV 56*

Kerstin Wellbery, *violin*

Music: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn at the Processional

All stand as able and sing.

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O come ye to
 2. God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal, lo! he ab - hors not the
 3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, sing, all ye cit - i - zens of
 4. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, leav - ing their flocks, draw
 5. Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, we would em - brace thee, with

Beth - le - hem; come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Vir - gin's womb; on - ly - be - got - ten Son of God the Fa - ther;
 heaven a - bove; glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 nigh to gaze; we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 love and awe; 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*

Music: *Adeste fideles*, Irr., present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906; v. 3 reharmon. & descant Linda Fox; v. 4 & 6 descants Daniel Fortune; v. 6 reharmon. David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Welcome

+ Blessed are you, holy and living God.
Glory to God for ever and ever.

Station at the Christmas Creche

The glory of the Lord has been revealed:
And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Let us pray.

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this night holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of Mary, the Theotokos: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of this night, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Presider censes the creche during the following hymn.

All sing.

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 e - cho - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad ti - dings 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 image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Glo - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.' are written below the treble staff, with hyphens indicating that the notes are sustained across several measures.

The Hymnal 1982 #96 "Angels we have heard on high"
 Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
 Music: *Gloria*, 77. 77 with Refrain, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958); reharmon. & descant Bruce Neswick

God be with you.
And also with you.

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.

Please be seated.

The Lessons

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

All sing.

1. New songs of cel - e - bra - tion ren - der to God who has great won - ders done;
2. Joy - ful - ly, heart - i - ly re - sound - ing, let ev - ery in - stru - ment and voice
3. Riv - ers and seas and tor - rents roar - ing, hon - or the Lord with wild ac - claim;

awed by God's love God's foes sur - ren - der and fall be - fore the Might - y One.
peal out the praise of grace a - bound - ing, call - ing the whole world to re - joice.
moun - tains and stones look up a - dor - ing and find a voice to praise God's Name.

God has made known God's great sal - va - tion which all God's friends with joy con - fess;
Trum - pets and or - gans set in mo - tion such sounds as make the heav - ens ring;
Right - eous, com - mand - ing, e - ver glo - rious, prais - es be God's that nev - er cease;

God has re - vealed to ev - ery na - tion God's ev - er - last - ing right - eous - ness.
all things that live in earth and o - cean, make mu - sic for your might - y King.
just is our God, whose truth vic - to - rious es - tab - lish - es the world in peace.

The Hymnal 1982 #413 "New songs of celebration render"

Words: Eric Routley (1917-1982); para. of Psalm 98

Music: *Rendez á Dieu*, 98. 98. D, melody att. Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?); harm. Eric Routley

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A reading from the letter to Titus.

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

All stand as able and sing the response as noted.

Solo:

All:

1. Oh, who do you call the won-der-ful coun-sel-or?
 2. Oh, I call Je-sus the won-der-ful coun-sel-or.
 3. Oh, he's my Sa-vior, the won-der-ful coun-sel-or.
 4. He's Ma-ry's ba-by, the won-der-ful coun-sel-or. Oh, glo-ry hal-le-lu-jah!
 5. He's the Prince of Peace, the won-der-ful coun-sel-or.
 6. He's the Might-y God, the won-der-ful coun-sel-or.
 7. He's the Light of the World, the won-der-ful coun-sel-or.

Oh, glo-ry hal-le-lu-jah! Glo-ry hal-le-lu-jah to the new-born King!

"Wonderful counselor"
 Words: Traditional
 Music: Negro spiritual, arr. Evelyn Simpson-Curenton (b. 1953)
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At the + below, you are invited to trace a cross over your forehead, your mouth, and over your heart.

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 2:1-20

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.

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

The Sermon

Today's Preacher: The Rev. Catherine Healy, *Rector*

The Prayers of the People

Let us pray.

All stand.

Let us pray in the peace of God, that all the gifts we shall give and receive in these days be but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's Word made flesh this night. And from grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying,

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

May the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

May the child born to us find in our hearts a warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

In this time of gift giving, may we become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

May the rejoicing of this day be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

May the joy and consolation of the wonderful Counselor enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

May the blessed hope we celebrate at Christmas be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

I invite you to offer your own prayers and thanksgivings, ending each with "Lord, in your mercy."

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May our words of prayer and praise echo the song of the angels, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever. **Amen.**

Adapted from Intercessions for the Christian People

The Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

All greet one another and return to their seats.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Sung by the choir.

"Behold that star"

Refrain:

Behold that star!

Behold that star up yonder!

Behold that star!

It is the star of Bethlehem.

There was no room found in the inn,

It is the star of Bethlehem.

For him who was born free from sin.

It is the star of Bethlehem. Refrain

The wise men came on from the East.

It is the star of Bethlehem.

To worship him the Prince of Peace.

It is the star of Bethlehem. Refrain

A song broke forth upon the night,

It is the star of Bethlehem.

From angel hosts all robed in white,

It is the star of Bethlehem.

Glory to God world without end,

It is the star of Bethlehem.

And peace on earth, good will to men.

It is the star of Bethlehem. Refrain

Words & Melody: Thomas Washington Talley (1870-1952), arranged by Harry T. Burleigh (1888-1949), ed. & rev. Christian M. Clough

Presentation

Please stand as able when the clergy go to the altar.

When the thurifer (incense-bearer) bows to the congregation, you are invited to return the bow.

All sing.

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.

The Hymnal 1982 #112 "In the bleak midwinter"
 Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)
 Music: Cranham, Irr., Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

The Great Thanksgiving

All stand as the offering is brought to the altar.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, O God, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing:

All sing.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav'n — and earth — are
full — of your glo - ry. Ho san - na in the high - est. Ho san - na in the
high - est. Bless'd is the one who comes — in the name — of the Lord.
the high - est,
Ho san - na in the high - est, — Ho - san - na in the high - est. —

Music: from *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (1927-2010)
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We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Gracious God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of our sister Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

God of hope, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, + and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name. Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with Mary, the Mother of God, with the patriarchs and matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979. Eucharist Prayer D, alt.

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

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

All sing.

5. O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and en - ter in,
be born in us to - day. We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings
tell; O come to us, a - bid with us, our Lord Em - man - u - ell

*The Hymnal 1982 #79 "O little town of Bethlehem"
Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)
Music: St. Louis, CMD, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)*

The gifts of God for the people of God.

All, without exception, are invited to receive communion. If you want gluten-free bread, tell the priest. If you would like a blessing in place of communion, cross your arms over your chest. If you are unable to come to the altar and would like to receive communion at your seat, tell an usher. The ushers will help each section up to the altar. Don't worry; all will be fed.

Ojibwe Carol. Sung by the choir.

Jesus Gii-Ondaadizi
 Bizhikiwigamigong.
 Gii-onjibaa giizhigong
 Ji-ni-gidimaagizid.
 Aanzhenii gii-bi-izhaa
 Wiindamawaad eta go
 Gedimaa gizinijin:
 "Bemaaji'iwed niigi."

*Jesus was born in a stable.
 He came from heaven to share the lot of the poor.
 An angel came to tell only those who are poor:
 "The Savior is born."*

Gichi-ogichidaawi.
 Ogii-wiidookawaan sa
 Gedimaagizinijin.
 Giinawind gii-onjine.
 Be-maawan-ji'ididaa
 Zoongide'edaa gaye,
 Wiidookawangwaa kina
 Ji-owiigiwaamiwaad.

*He was a great warrior. He helped those who were poor.
 He died for us.
 We should work together and be brave,
 helping everyone to have a home.*

Words: Nagamo-inini (Lawrence Martin) and Gwayakogaabaw (Rick Gresczyk), based on a Christmas homily in *The Gospel in Solentiname*, by Ernesto Cardenal
 Melody: *Wurth's Katholischen Gesangbuch*, 1859

All sing.

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.

The Hymnal 1982 #81 "Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming"

Words: St. 1-2 German, 15th cent.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). St. 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859); tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. *Hymnal 1940*
 Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, 76. 76. 676, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

The congregation is invited to sing stanzas 1, 2, 5 & 6, and all refrains. The Choir sings stanzas 3 & 4 alone.

1. See a - mid the win - ter's snow, born for us on earth be - low,
 2. Lo, & with - in a man - ger lies He who built the star - ry skies;
 3. & 4. *are sung by the choir alone*
 5. Sa - cred in - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was thine,
 6. Teach, O teach us, Ho - ly Child, By thy face so meek and mild,

1. see, the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, pro - mis'd from e - ter - nal years.
 2. He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the che - ru - bim:
 3. & 4. *are sung by the choir alone*
 5. Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this:
 6. Teach us to re - sem - ble thee, In thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty:

All sing the refrain: 1,3,4 in harmony ad lib.; 2,5,6 in unison

Hail, thou ev - er - bless - ed morn; Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn;

Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem, Christ is born in Beth - le - hem.

"See amid the winter's snow"

Words: Edward Caswall (1814-1878)

Music: *Humility*, John Goss (1800-1880); arr. for choir and congregation, David Willcocks (1919-2015)

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All sing.

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright round yon vir - gin
2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight, glo - ries stream from
3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light ra - diant beams from
4. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is dark save the light yon - der where thy

mo - ther and child, Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,
hea - ven a - far, Heav - en - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,
sweet vig - ils keep, o'er the Babe who in si - lence sleep;

sleep in heav - en - ly peace. Sleep in heav - en - ly peace.
Christ, the Sa - vior, is born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.
rest in hea - ven - ly peace. Rest in hea - ven - ly peace.

The Hymnal 1982 #111 "Silent night"

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: *Stille Nacht, Irr.*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910), v. 4 arr. Noel Rawsthorne (1929-2019)

Sending Forth

Let us pray.

Please stand.

**Loving God, 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.**

The Presider blesses the people. You are invited to cross yourself as the Presider traces a cross over the congregation.

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Mother of us all, be among you, and remain with you always.

Amen.

All sing.

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,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

The Hymnal 1982 #87 "Hark! the heard angels sing"

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, 77. 77. D with Refrain, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915); reharm. and descant David Willcocks (1919-2015)

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

vi. Final from Symphony No. 1 for Organ, Op. 14

Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

Notes about tonight's music from the director of music:

Christmas musical traditions are powerful and persistent. By the time tonight's liturgy begins, who among us won't have heard or sung "Joy to the world" and "Hark! the herald angels sing" dozens of times? It is true that there is still something inspiring about a congregation gathered in the dark night of Christmas Eve to unite in song and faith. And yet, some of us might be numb to the beauty or power of these words by this point in the season. Like so much of our Christian culture, it has been stolen by the Kings of Commerce. For years, Christmas music has played in stores and malls during the weeks between Thanksgiving and Christmas, but nowadays, Hallowe'en is barely able to hold back the tide of secular, consumerist Christmas cheer.

Often lost in the coöpting of Christmas for commercial purposes, too, is the reason Jesus was born on earth in the first place: to save humankind from sin, from itself. Lost in the haze of familiarity and maybe even boredom is the message of hope given to all God's people, not just the privileged. As we bathe ourselves in the warm glow of nostalgia and intimacy at Christmas, we might overlook the ways in which Jesus' birth was meant to turn the world order upside down, to lift up the lowly and depose the powerful. This message has not always escaped hymn writers. The beloved American carol "It came upon the midnight clear" is quite clear about this. We might know the verses about angels cleaving the skies, but we are less likely to remember, or even to ever have sung, the inner verses by Unitarian minister Edmund Sears, which speak starkly of human violence and suffering:

Yet with the woes of sin and strife
The world has suffered long;
Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
Two thousand years of wrong;
And man, at war with man, hears not
The love-song which they bring;
O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing.

And ye, beneath life's crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow,
Look now! for glad and golden hours
come swiftly on the wing.
O rest beside the weary road,
And hear the angels sing!

Edmund Sears is exceptional for his clear concern for social justice, but he is all too commonplace when we consider the hegemony of white, western male influence over our Christmas images and traditions. As the SPR community continues to wrestle with white supremacy and its power over our society, it is fitting that we raise up voices of other groups within the Christian community. Among its 39 Christmas entries, *The Hymnal 1982* of the Episcopal Church was groundbreaking in its inclusion of four Christmas hymns not written by white Europeans or Americans: one Negro spiritual ("Go tell it on the mountain," well known to most Americans by 1982 through performances by Mahalia Jackson and others), one contemporary tune by an African American (David Hurd's tune *Andújar* for the hymn "A stable lamp is lighted"), one Latin American folk song ("A la ru"), and one Canadian Huron-associated carol bound up in the French Roman Catholic evangelization of native peoples. There are also very few contributions by women. It's hard to be sure, because many texts are unattributable, but only three texts—and no tunes—can be ascribed to women: two by the English poet Christina Rossetti ("Love came down at Christmas" and "In the bleak midwinter" and one by Cecil Frances Alexander ("Once in royal David's city").

Tonight, we are attempting to give voice to some of our underrepresented Christian sisters and brothers, women and men whose experiences and perspectives may help us to imagine more vividly the mission God commenced in sending his precious Son to be born among us sinful, yet hopefully redeemable, humans: to renew the work of saving us—and God's good world—from our sins. Our prayer is that we may all be renewed in our faith and our commitment to that same work in our own lives. Merry Christmas!

Selected music notes:

What Sweeter Music

This was one of the first new carols Stephen Cleobury commissioned during his long tenure as Director of Music of King's College Choir, Cambridge, England (1982-2019), an important commitment of his to the constant renewal of Christmas repertoire for choirs all over. Sir Stephen retired from that position earlier this year, and died of cancer on November 22. We sing this tonight in his memory.

Jesus Gii-Ondaadizi

In the summer of 2019, members of the SPR youth group traveled to Minneapolis-St. Paul to engage with members of the Native American community there. Out of that mission, we have connected with Lawrence T. Martin, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of American Indian Studies, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, and a member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwe tribe. Larry has shared some Ojibwe hymns with us, and also provided historical background, textual interpretation, and pronunciation assistance. Tonight, as we continue to raise up voices of just a few of our fellow Christians in other communities and cultures, the choir will sing one Christmas carol in Ojibwe that he and a colleague penned.

From Lawrence T. Martin: "[This] is a Christmas hymn we created for our community at Gichitwaa Kateri in Minneapolis. It is based on some ideas from two homilies on the readings from Luke's Gospel used in the liturgy of Christmas. These homilies are the work of Ernesto Cardenal, a priest and poet from Nicaragua. He gathered a small community of campesinos (poor working-class people) on an island in Lake Nicaragua, and at Sunday Mass in place of a regular homily, they usually had a discussion of the gospel reading of the day. Father Cardenal usually made a few comments to get the discussion going, but most of the ideas were contributed by the people who were there. Cardenal wrote, "The true author is the Spirit who inspired these comments—the campesinos of Solentiname knew very well that it was the Spirit who made them speak—the same Spirit who inspired the gospels." This was during the time of resistance to the corrupt and oppressive regime of the dictator Somoza, and the comments often reflect the people's sense that they saw Jesus as their leader in their quest for justice and liberation from poverty and oppression. This song is especially relevant to our situation in Minneapolis this December, since there is a tremendous crisis in American Indian homelessness, and our parish has been quite involved, including providing emergency shelter in the very cold weather we have been having this month. The last verse of the song calls us to respond to that need."



**We wish you and your loved ones a very
Merry
Christmas
and many blessings in the New Year!**

Christmas Day services will be at 10am only.

Sunday services on December 29 will be at 8am & 10am only.

Three services (8am, 9:15am and 11:15am) resume on Sunday, January 5.

Please join us to continue celebrating for all twelve days of Christmastide.

Today's Ministers

Presiders

Catherine Healy, KJ Oh

Preacher

Catherine Healy

Deacons

Jack Seymour, Jaime Briceño

Music Leader

Christian Clough

Lectors

Steve Heyman, Fran Spaltro

Prayer Reader

Claire Hartfield

Chalice Ministers

Sarah Lincoln, Maureen Jesuthasan, Allison Clark, Gail Williams

Ushers

Altar Guild

Camille Long

Communion Bread Baker

Alicia Chipman, Carolyn Pereira

Vestry

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Twila Jones

Vestry Class of 2020

Micah Prochaska
Hollis Walker
Sally Wolcott

Vestry Class of 2021

Robert Nordling
Robin Charleston
Kate Baldwin

Vestry Class of 2022

Jeffrey Stackert
Kerstin Wellbery
Jared Beverly

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