



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE  
**HOLY COMMUNION**

**Welcome!** Wherever you are on your journey of faith,  
there is a place for you at Holy Communion.

**December 17, 2017: The Third Sunday of Advent at 10:30am**



Please keep silence during the music before the service

## Organ Prelude

*Veni, veni emmanuel*

Leo Sowerby

## The Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Processional Carol:** *Please stand*

*Once in Royal David's City*

Hymnal 102

*Stanza 1 sung by Soloist; Stanza 2 sung by choir; Stanzas 3-6 sung by all.*

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

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

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

1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —  
2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.  
4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —  
6 veiled to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

## Advent Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In the season of Advent, it is our responsibility and joy to prepare ourselves to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us look forward to the yearly remembrance of his birth with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city of St. Louis.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. **Amen.**

As we look for the coming of the Kingdom,  
Lord, teach us to pray:

*Officiant and People:*

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

*Officiant:*

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

**First Reading** *Please be seated.*

*The Beginning of God's Loving Purposes*

**Genesis 2:4b-9; 15-17; 25**

*Read by Cecily Hawksworth*

On the day the Lord God made earth and sky—before any wild plants appeared on the earth, and before any field crops grew, because the Lord God hadn't yet sent rain on the earth and there was still no human being to farm the fertile land, though a stream rose from the earth and watered all of the fertile land—the Lord God formed the human from the topsoil of the fertile land and blew life's breath into his nostrils. The human came to life. The Lord God planted a garden in Eden in the east and put there the human he had formed. In the fertile land, the Lord God grew every beautiful tree with edible fruit, and also he grew the tree of life in the middle of the garden and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The Lord God took the human and settled him in the Garden of Eden to farm it and to take care of it. The Lord God commanded the human, "Eat your fill from all of the garden's trees; but don't eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, because on the day you eat from it, you will die!" The two of them were naked, the man and his wife, but they weren't embarrassed.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Words by  
**MALTBIE DAVENPORT BABCOCK (1858-1901)**  
 Adapted by  
**SHELDON CURRY**

Traditional English Melody  
**TERRA BEATA**  
 Arranged by  
**SHELDON CURRY**

**Verse 1:** This is my Maker's world, and to my listening ears  
*(Choir only)* all nature sings, and 'round me rings the music of the spheres.  
 This is my Maker's world: I rest me in the thought  
 of rocks and trees, of skies and seas; God's hand the wonders wrought.

**Verse 2:** This is my Maker's world: the birds their carols raise,  
*(Choir only)* the morning light, the lily bright declare their Maker's praise.  
 This is my Maker's world: He shines in all that's fair;  
 in the rustling grass I hear Him pass; God speaks to me everywhere.

**Verse 3: Choir & Audience/Congregation**

This is my Mak - er's world. Oh  
 let me not for - get that though the wrong seems  
 oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet. This  
 is my Mak - er's world: why should my heart be  
 sad? The Lord is King; let the heav - ens ring! God  
 reigns; let the earth be glad! This glad!

**Second Reading***Good News to the Oppressed***Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11***Read by Joe Adams*

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion — to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. For I the Lord love justice, I hate robbery and wrongdoing; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. Their descendants shall be known among the nations, and their offspring among the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed. I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.****Congregational Carol** *Please stand**Veni, veni Emmanuel***Hymnal 56, v. 1-4**

1. O come, o come Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive Is - ra - el,  
 2. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derst all things might - i - ly;  
 3. O come, o come, thou Lord of might, who to thy tribes on Si - nai's height  
 4. O come, thou Branch of Jes - se's tree, free them from Sa - tan's ty - ran - ny

that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here un - til the Son of God ap - pear,  
 to us the path of know - ledge show and teach us in her ways to go,  
 in an - cient times didst give the law, in cloud, and ma - jes - ty and awe,  
 that trust thy might - y power to save and give them vic - t'ry o'er the grave.

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, o Is - ra - ell

**Third Reading** *Please be seated.**The Ruler from Bethlehem***Micah 5:2-5a***Read by Amanda Willingham*

But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*How Far is it to Bethlehem?*

*Sasha Johnson Manning*

*sung by members of the Youth Choir: Hannah Lennox,  
Chloe Oliff, and Clara Oliff*

*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?*

*God in His mother's arms, babes in the byre  
Sleep, as they sleep who find their heart's desire.*

**Fourth Reading**

*The Fortunes of Zion Restored*

Psalm 126

*Read by the Rev. Marc Smith*

When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, then were we like those who dream. Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy. Then they said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." The Lord has done great things for us, and we are glad indeed. Restore our fortunes, O Lord, like the watercourses of the Negev. Those who sowed with tears will reap with songs of joy. Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Congregational Carol** *Please stand*

*Stuttgart*

**Hymnal 66**

1 Come, thou long - ex - spect - ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;  
 2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;  
 3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,  
 4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;

from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.  
 dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.  
 born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring.  
 by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*Ave Maria*

Javier Busto

*Ave Maria gratia plena  
Ave Dominus tecum  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus  
Et benedictus fructus in ventris tui Jesus.  
Amen.*

Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Amen.

**Sixth Reading**

*Mary visits her cousin, Elizabeth*

**Luke 1:39-56**

*Read by The Rev. Chester Hines*

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.' And Mary said, 'My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.' And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,  
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,  
 3 Then gen - te Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,  
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;  
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,  
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,  
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,  
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,  
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."  
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say -

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!  
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!  
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem**

*Awa yi o ri Baba gbojule.  
Awa yi o ri Baba febenti.  
Nibo labi Jesu, nibo lagbe bii.  
Betelehemu ilu ara, nibe labi baba o daju.  
Iyin, iyin, iyin, nijuno.  
Adupe fun o jooni, Baba oloreo  
Iyin fun o Baba anu, Baba toda wasi*

*Betelehemu*

Nigerian Carol, arr. Barrington Brooks

We are glad that we have a Father to trust.  
We are glad that we have a Father to rely upon.  
Where was Jesus born? Where was He born?  
Bethlehem, the city of wonder,  
That is where the Father was born for sure.  
Praise, praise, praise be to Him.  
We thank Thee, we thank Thee,  
we thank Thee for this day, Gracious Father.  
Praise, praise be to Thee, merciful Father.

**Eighth Reading**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star  
 3 And by the light of that same star  
 4 This star drew nigh in those north - west,  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,  
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far;  
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,  
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,  
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,  
 4 and there it did both stop and stay  
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord  
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
and with his blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain*

*Alternative Refrain*  
*Descant (others unison)*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

**Welcome and Announcements** *please be seated*

**Offertory Anthem:**

*Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day*

John Gardner

*Tomorrow shall be my dancing day:  
I would my true love did so chance  
To see the legend of my play,  
to call my true love to my dance:  
Sing O my love, O my love, my love, my love;  
this have I done for my true love.  
Then was I born of a virgin pure,  
of her I took fleshly substance;  
Thus was I knit to man's nature,  
to call my true love to my dance:  
Sing O my love...*

*In a manger laid and wrapped I was,  
so very poor, this was my chance,  
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,  
to call my true love to my dance:  
Sing O my love...  
Then afterwards baptized I was;  
the Holy Ghost on me did glance,  
My Father's voice heard from above,  
to call my true love to my dance:  
Sing O my love...*

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

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 God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Please remain standing.*

On the night Jesus was betrayed, he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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; gave thanks, 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." And so, gracious God, we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. Merciful God, gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Christ. Make us a living sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. **AMEN.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.**

**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

### **Administration of the Sacrament** *Please be seated.*

*You are invited to receive the Sacrament of the Holy Eucharist. Gluten Free wafers are available, on request, from the minister. On the left (West) side of the altar rail, the chalice is filled with white grape juice, as a sign of welcome for those who choose not to consume wine. On the right (East) side of the altar rail, the chalice is traditional red wine. Please feel free to cross the aisle for your*

preferred chalice. Additional instructions about how to receive Eucharist or a blessing are available on the red cards hanging on the ends of the pew racks.

## Hymns During Communion

Please stand

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal 79

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

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

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

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

1 Re - joice! re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear!  
 2 See that your lamps are burn - ing, re - ple-nish them with oil;  
 3 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 look now for your sal - va - tion, the end of sin and toil.  
 a - rise, thou Sun so longed for, a - bove this dark - ened sphere!

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing, and soon he will draw nigh;  
 The mar - riage - feast is wait - ing, the gates wide o - pen stand;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see

up, watch in ex - pec - ta - tion! at mid - night comes the cry.  
 rise up, ye heirs of glo - ry, the Bride - groom is at hand!  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion, and ev - er be with thee!

**Post Communion Prayer** *please kneel or stand*

*Enriching Our Worship*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Lay Eucharistic Minister Sending Prayer**

*On certain Sundays, the Celebrant distributes a communion kit to each Lay Eucharistic Minister saying:*

On behalf of God and The Church of the Holy Communion, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts that those whom you will visit may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

# The Blessing

May Almighty God, by whose providence our Savior Christ came among us in great humility, sanctify you with the light of his blessing and set you free from all sin; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Final Carol *Please stand*

*Gloria*

Hymnal 96

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 Dismissal:**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

*Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland* BWV 661

*J. S. Bach*

**Worship Leaders**

Officiant	The Rev. Mike Angell
Celebrant	The Rev. Marc Smith
Deacon	The Rev. Chester Hines
Lectors	Cassandra Gonzalez, Cecily Hawksworth
Lector & Chalice	Mary Haggerty
Lector & Crucifer	Joe Adams
Acolytes	Chloe Olliff, Amanda Willingham
Ushers	Megan Ondr, Bryant Cooper
Altar Guild	Jean Parker
Godly Play Leaders	Heidi Olliff, Meg Goldstein

## The Origin of Lessons and Carols

The tradition of the service of Lessons and Carols comes from the Chapel of King's College, Cambridge, where it was first observed on Christmas Eve, 1918. Since 1919 the service has begun with the hymn "Once in Royal David's City." Most often this was introduced by a boy chorister, singing alone, unaccompanied. Custom has it that no one knows which boy will sing the famous opening verse, including that boy himself, until the conductor gives him the signal to begin.

The service was adapted from an Order drawn up by the Reverend E.W. Benson, later Archbishop of Canterbury, for use in the wooden shed that then served as his cathedral in Truro, at 10:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve 1880. Beginning in 1928 the service was broadcast by the BBC, and except in 1930, it has been heard annually. Sometime during the 1930s, overseas broadcasts were begun, resulting in millions of world-wide listeners each year.

Since its beginning the service has been adapted for use around the globe. One correspondent reported hearing the service in a tent on the foothills of Mt. Everest; another, in the desert. King's College Dean Eric Milner-White, who instituted the services in Cambridge, points out, "The main theme is the development of the loving purposes of God. [seen] through the windows and words of the Bible." Many of those who took part in the first service must have recalled loved ones killed in the Great War when it came to the famous passage "all those who rejoice with us but on another shore and in a greater light."

This December 24 marks the ninety-ninth service at King's College, Cambridge. In addition to those present for the service, and those listening to the broadcast, thousands more will celebrate with Lessons and Carols in local services, as we do in this parish. So it is that we at Holy Communion, in University City, in this year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen, join the throngs of pilgrims to the manger, preparing for the coming of the Messiah by means of this Service of Lessons and Carols. God with us. Emmanuel.



## Announcements

**Christmas Pageant!** (Christmas Eve, 5:00pm) All children and youth are invited to participate in this year's Pageant during the 5:00pm service on Christmas Eve. The rehearsal will be Saturday, December 23, at 10:00am. To help us plan, please sign up on the table in the lounge or online at [www.holycommunion.net](http://www.holycommunion.net). For more information, please contact this year's Pageant Director, Brooklyn Payne at [youth@holycommunion.net](mailto:youth@holycommunion.net)

**Godly Play on Sunday mornings!** (9:15am) Children are invited to head downstairs at 9:15 for our Montessori-based Christian formation program. Registration is not required. For info email Heidi Olliff: [hmolliff@holycommunion.net](mailto:hmolliff@holycommunion.net).

**Adult Forum** (9:15am) The Adult Forum will be in recess on December 24 and 31

**Laundry Love – Tuesday, Dec. 19** (6:30pm) Our volunteers take over Classic Coin Laundry (7200 Balson Ave., U City) If you'd like to volunteer, please come at 6:00pm for volunteer orientation. Read more and sign up at [www.holycommunion.net](http://www.holycommunion.net).

**Advent Soup Supper and Prayer – Continuing Wednesday Dec. 20** (6:00pm) For one final Wednesday, you are invited to step away from the busy holiday pace for a shared meal and some quiet prayer time. We will gather at 6:00 p.m. contemplative prayer, and then those who can stay will share a simple soup supper. A sign-up sheet is available in the entryway for those who plan to attend and/or help make soup.

## Annual Giving Update

Thank you to all who have made a financial pledge for 2017. We are on track for a record year at Holy Communion. You can see below that both new pledgers and returning pledgers have been generous. If you have not yet made a pledge, please consider doing so soon. The vestry is preparing our 2017 budget, and every pledge that comes in will help expand the ministry of Holy Communion. You can turn in your pledge card today in the offering plate, mail it back to the church, or pledge online at [holycommunion.net](http://holycommunion.net).

2017 (final)	2018 (to date)
Total Pledges: 107	Total Pledges: 102
Total Pledged: \$225,497	Total Pledged: \$250,814

New pledges for 2018: 17

Percent of 2018 Pledgers under age 40: 20%

Historic Pledges Increase/Decrease : + \$8,148

## Celebrate Christmas at Holy Communion!

### Advent & Christmas Schedule

**Sunday, Dec. 24**      *A Blue Christmas* (Single Morning Service 10:30am)

**Christmas Eve Services:**

**5:00pm**      Carol Sing & Family Service with Pageant

**10:00pm**      Carol Sing & Holy Eucharist

**Monday, Dec. 25**      **Christmas Day:** Spoken Service (10:30am)

*Parish Office closed Christmas Day through January 2*

**Sunday, Dec. 31**      **1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas:**      Regular Services (8:00 & 10:30am)

**Sunday, January 7**      **Epiphany**      Regular Services (8:00 & 10:30am)  
Intergenerational Formation & Crafts at 9:00 am  
Epiphany Pageant at 10:30am



## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION

**Welcome to The Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion**, a welcoming and diverse community seeking to walk in the way of Jesus and to reveal Christ's reconciling love in our city, nation, and world. Children are especially welcome at Holy Communion, wiggles, noises, and all. There is a soft space at the back of the church, if your little one needs to play during the service. If you have any questions, feel free to ask a neighbor.

### Staff

The Rev. Mike Angell, *Rector*  
mangell@holycommunion.net

The Rev. Marc Smith, *Priest Associate*  
msmith@holycommunion.net

The Rev. Chester Hines, *Deacon*

Cheyenne Lovellette, *Office Staff*  
office@holycommunion.net

Mary Chapman, *Director of Music*  
mchapman@holycommunion.net

Connor Scott, *Organist*  
cscott@holycommunion.net

Jerome Harris, *Sexton*

### Vestry

Scott Ferguson, *Sr. Warden*

Susan Norris, *Jr. Warden*

Brian Barnhart, *Interim Treasurer*

Angela Burroughs-Kelly, *Secretary*

Earl Bonds, Mary Haggerty, Burt Mayfield,

Shirley Mensah, Rebecca Rugen, Mark Willingham

**www.holycommunion.net**  
**@HolyCommUCity**