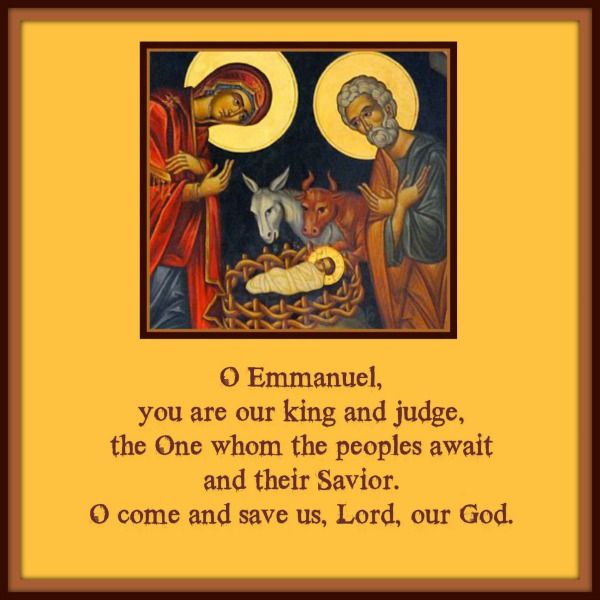
Candlelight Christmas Eve



*December 24, 2021, 5 p.m.*

Episcopal Church of the Nativity

San Rafael, California

*The church on the hill in Lucas Valley*

Merry Christmas and Peace to you!

*The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Rector*

*The Rev. Scott Sinclair, Assisting Priest*

*The Rev. Lynn Oldham Robinett, Assisting Priest*

*The Rev. Rebecca Morehouse, Deacon*

*Our service this evening begins in the candlelit church. We invite you to gather with us in quiet contemplation. If you are joining us on facebook live, begin by lighting your own candles and coming together for a moment of silent prayer.*

**Prelude *Intermezzo*  by Brahms**

*Dylan Snodgrass, Music Director*

The Word of God

**Entrance Rite**

**Entrance Hymn*O come, all ye faithful (Adeste fideles)*  (H 83)**

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**Opening Acclamation**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

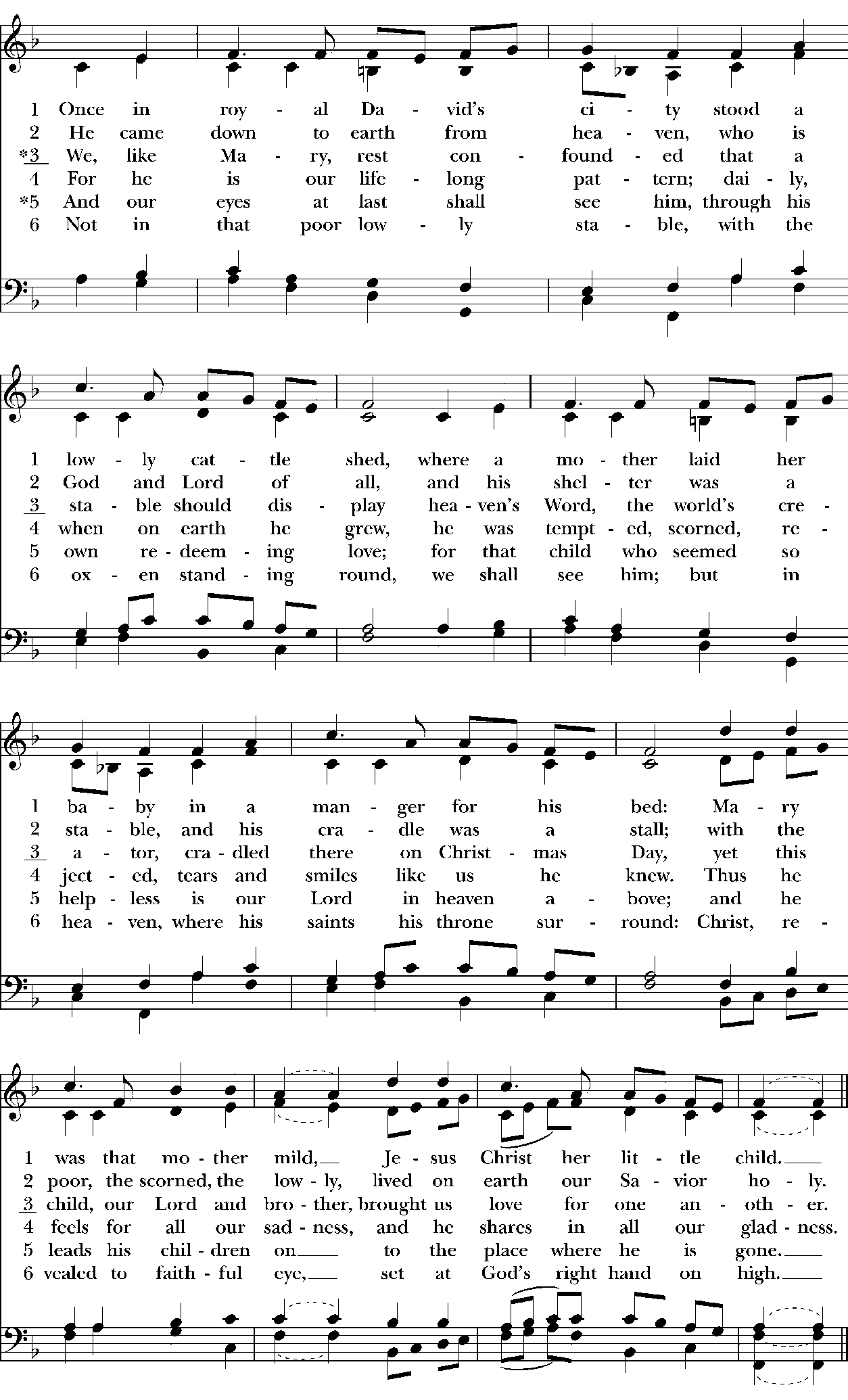
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|  | Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. |
| People | And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen. |

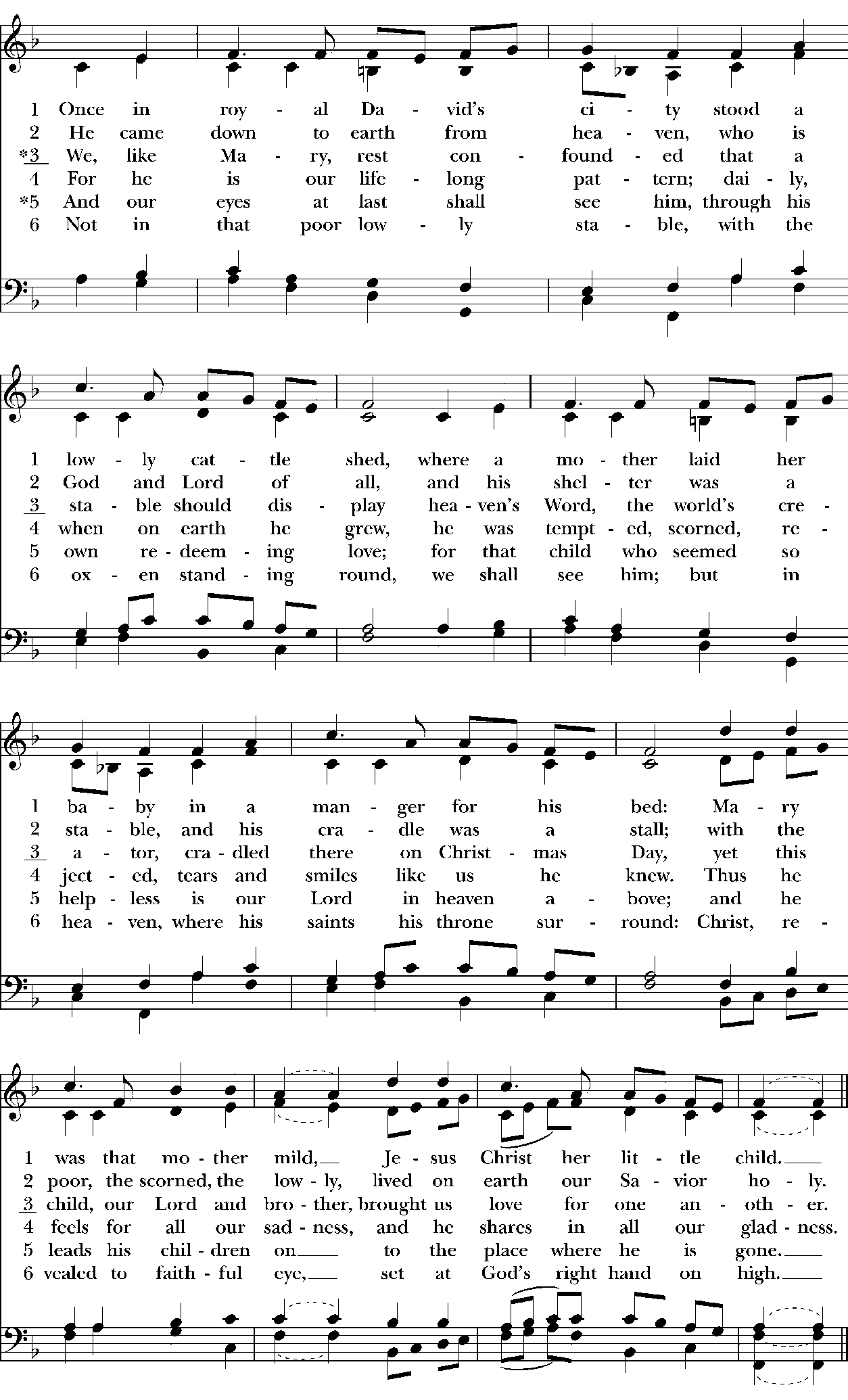
**Collect for Purity**

*The Celebrant may say*

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Opening Song of Praise** ***Once in Royal David’s City H102***





**The Collect of the Day**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Celebrant | God be with you. |
| People | And also with you. |
| Celebrant | Let us pray. |

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

**The Lessons**

**First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

2The people who walked in darkness  
  have seen a great light;  
 those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
  on them light has shined.  
 3You 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.  
 4For 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.  
 5For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
  and all the garments rolled in blood  
  shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
 6For 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.  
 7His 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.

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| --- | --- |
| Reader | The Word of the Lord. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

*Silence may follow.*

**Psalm: Psalm 96**

*Remain seated.*

1Sing to the Lord a new song; \*  
  sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.  
 2Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; \*  
  proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.  
 3Declare his glory among the nations \*  
  and his wonders among all peoples.  
 4For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; \*  
  he is more to be feared than all gods.  
 5As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
  but it is the Lord who made the heavens.  
 6Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
  Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!  
 7Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; \*  
  ascribe to the Lord honor and power.  
 8Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; \*  
  bring offerings and come into his courts.  
 9Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; \*  
  let the whole earth tremble before him.  
 10Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is King! \*  
  He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
  he will judge the peoples with equity.”  
 11Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
  let the field be joyful and all that is therein.  
 12Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
 before the Lord when he comes, \*  
  when he comes to judge the earth.  
 13He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
  and the peoples with his truth.

**Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

11The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, 12training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, 13while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. 14He 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.

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| Reader | The Word of the Lord. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

*Silence may follow.*

**Sequence Hymn*While shepherds watched their flocks by night (Winchester Old)* (H 94)**

*All stand.*

**

**

**Gospel: Luke 2:1-14**

*All stand.*

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| Deacon | The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. |
| People | Glory to you, Lord Christ. |

1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph 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. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And 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.  
  8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
 14“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
  and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

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| Deacon | The Gospel of the Lord. |
| People | Praise to you, Lord Christ. |

**Christmas Meditation  *The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding***

**Hymn*It came upon the midnight clear (Carol)*  (H 89)**

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**The Creed**

*All stand.*

We believe in one God,

the Father, the Almighty,

maker of heaven and earth,

of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,

eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light,

true God from true God,

begotten, not made,

of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven:

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

**The Prayers of the People**

*All remain standing.*

Rejoicing in God’s gift of gentle grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all on whom the light of Christ shines.

*A brief silence.*

Wonderful Counselor, you increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of your presence among us. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing its wonders. God of light,

**Hear our prayer.**

Mighty God, you broke the yoke of sin’s burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of light,

**Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or in need of your divine goodness and mercy, especially our members: Carissa, Marge, Juliette, Dan, Donna, Jim, Duane, Norma, Steve, Nancy, Jamie, and Margaret D And our families, friends, and neighbors; remembering especially: Katherine, Ed, John, Mary P., Les, Eric and Julie, Ronald and Emily, Polly, Sylvia, Robert B, Linda, Sarah, Rachelle, Abbey, Diane B, Ed M, Janet L., Jared, Denise Gina, Bill, Miles, Laurie, and Jan W. God of light,

**Hear our prayer.**

Prince of Peace, may your reign be known in all places of violence and unrest and grant resolution to conflicts throughout the world. And we remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. Pray for their souls and comfort for their families.

God of light,

**Hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered, either silently or aloud.

*Silence*

God of light,

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you were born to bring light, healing, peace, and justice into the world. Hear now our prayers and hasten the coming of your Heavenly Kingdom where with the Father and Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**The Peace**

*All stand.*

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

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**Announcements**

***December 25 Christmas Day service at 10 a.m.*** *In person and livestreamed on Facebook.*

***December 26 Quiet Holy Eucharist 10 a.m.*** *In person and livestreamed on Facebook.*

***January 2nd Christmas Festival of Lessons and Carols*** *(no Eucharist), in person and livestreamed on Facebook.*

**Offering** We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of Nativity pledges and plate today.  You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website, [www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

**Communion** All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another. (BCP 457).

The Holy Communion

**Offertory Sentence**

*The Celebrant says*

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High. Psalm 50:14

**Anthem *Twas in the Moon of Wintertime Jean de Breboeuf, Lyrics***

***French folk Melody (16th c.)***

**Anthem *Sussex Carol Arr. David Willcocks***

*Nativity Festival Choir, Directed by Fred Goff, Accompanied by Dylan Snodgrass*

**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Sursum Corda**

*The People remain standing.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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. |

**Proper Preface**

*Presider*

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;

You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;

And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

**Sanctus*S 125 Holy, holy, holy (Proulx)***

*Presider and People*

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**Words of Institution**

*The Presider continues*

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent;

you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage

and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life,

reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all

for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts

your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

*Presider and People*

Dying, you destroyed our death.

Rising, you restored our life.

Christ Jesus, come in glory!

**Epiclesis**

*The Presider continues*

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine

that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Mary and Joseph, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

*Presider and People*

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

**The Lord’s Prayer (BCP p. 363)**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*People and Celebrant*

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 forever. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**Fraction Anthem** ***Love came down at Christmas (Gartan)*  (h 84)**

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**Invitation**

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Distribution**

*All are welcome to participate in Holy Eucharist at today’s service. We will make one line up the center aisle to receive communion and you may then go back to your seats via the outer aisles to avoid crowding those who are waiting for communion.*

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [Amen.]

**Communion Hymn*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed (Cradle Song)* ( H 101)**

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*After Communion, the lights dim and candles are lit from the Christ candle and passed between us. If you are joining us by livestream consider putting a candle in your window this evening, sharing with your neighbors this symbol of Christ coming into the world.*

**Post Communion Hymn *Silent night, holy night (Stille Nacht)* (h 111)**Click to get the full file (Silent night, holy night 1 (Stave).tif):  (Stave)Click to get the full file (Silent night, holy night 2 (Stave).tif):  (Stave)Click to get the full file (Silent night, holy night 3 (Stave).tif):  (Stave)Click to get the full file (Silent night, holy night 4 (Stave).tif):  (Stave)

**Post-Communion Prayer**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Eternal God, heavenly Father,

you have graciously accepted us as living members

of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,

and you have fed us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace,

and grant us strength and courage

to love and serve you

with gladness and singleness of heart;

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Blessing**

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

The blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

**Post-Communion Hymn*Hark! the herald angels sing (Mendelssohn)* (H 87)**

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**Dismissal**

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|  | Let us go forth in the name of Christ. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

**POSTLUDE  *Christmas* by Tchaikovsky**

*Special thanks to our Festival Choir, our Guest Choir Director, Fred Goff, our Music Director, Dylan Snodgrass for their contributions for this service and to the Altar Guild for making the sanctuary beautiful for our in-person and livestreamed worship.*

***Christmas Greens and Pointsettias were given by:***

Gail Sanfilippo Duane Johnson Kathy Schlegel

Diana Singer Rev. Rebecca Morehouse Ruth Baney

Jane Hassinger

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