

ST. GEORGE'S ON-THE-HILL ANGLICAN



Christmas Eve 2020 | 4:00pm

Wherever you may be this evening, we invite you to light a candle – a reminder that Christ, who is the hope of the world, is with us, always.
If you have a crèche/nativity scene in your home, you may wish to participate in the Christmas story by placing the figures in the scene at the appropriate times, as indicated online and in this leaflet.
At communion, whether alone or with family, you may wish to eat/share bread and wine or some other food and drink, as an Agape Feast - a communal meal shared among Christians.
The name comes from "agape", a Greek term for 'love' in its broadest sense.

Processional Carol: *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

CP #118

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
Come and behold him, born the king of angels; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God of God, Light of Light, lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten not created: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God in the highest: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Christmas Gathering & Greeting

Presider: "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord.

All: Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

Presider: From eternity to eternity you are God,

All: and now we see you as a newborn child.

Presider: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Christmas Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

God, our heavenly Father, whose Word has come among us in the Holy Child of Bethlehem, may the light of faith glow in our hearts and shine in our words and deeds; through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Carol: Joy to the World

CP #154

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive the King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns: let us glad songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.

The Christmas Story

The Christmas Story is told through story and song; verses needed are below.

You may wish to participate at home with your own crèche.

As "O Little Town of Bethlehem" is sung, the animals are placed in the crèche.

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

As "Once in Royal David's City" is sung, Mary and Joseph are placed in the crèche.

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

As "Away in a Manger" is sung, Baby Jesus is placed in the crèche.

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

As "Shepherds in the Field Abiding" is sung, the shepherd and angels are placed around the crèche.

Shepherds in the field abiding, tell us, when the seraph bright
Greeted you with wondrous tiding, what you saw and heard that night.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!

As "We Three Kings of Orient Are" is sung, the magi from the East are placed around the crèche.

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts, we traverse afar:
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.
O Star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy Perfect Light.

As "Silent Night" is sung, stars are placed around the crèche.

Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night! Holy night! Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Prayers of the People: The Litany of Christmas

- Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Loving God, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy night, there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy night, Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**
- Leader: In this holy night, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,
- People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: In this holy night, the angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world. Holy God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: In this holy night, shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the good news of Jesus. Holy God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: In this holy night, strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: In this holy night, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: In this holy night, Christians the world over celebrate Jesus' birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God,

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Gracious God, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider: The angels proclaimed the birth of Jesus, saying, "Peace on Earth and good will toward all." May the peace of Christ be with you!

All: And also with you!

Carol during the Preparation of the Gifts: *The First Nowell*

CP #139

The first nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain: Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star, shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain.*

And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. *Refrain.*

This star drew nigh to the north-west; o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
And there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain.*

The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Prayer Over the Gifts

The Eucharistic Prayer

Presider: Let us gather at God's table.
Grown-ups, are you here? Say Amen.

Grown-ups: Amen.

Presider: Children, are you here? Say Amen.

Children: Amen.

Presider: For the saints who are with us, say Amen.

All: Amen.

Presider: With all God's creation, say Amen.

All: Amen.

Presider: God most loving, God most wonderful, When there was nothing, you began creating everything in beauty and goodness. When Miriam saved her brother Moses, they endured to lead their people Israel to freedom; when Samuel heard God's voice in the night, he said "yes" and became God's helper; when Mary heard the angel's call, she joined with you and turned the world upside down; and so with all God's children the whole creation sings this song of joy:

**All: 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.**

Presider: God most loving, God most wonderful, when the world needed you, you came as Jesus, the child of our hope; when he was twelve, Jesus explained the Bible to the teachers in the temple; when he was a grown-up, he brought the children close to him. When children got sick, he came to them and made them better; when people were hungry, a boy offered his bread and fish so Jesus could feed them; because you love us, you call us into a circle of friends. On the night before he died, Jesus had supper with friends, took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and shared it with them, saying: Take and eat; this is bread for the journey—my body, given for you. Do this to remember me. After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with them saying: This is the cup of blessing—my blood, shed for you and for all people. Do this to remember me. As we remember Christ's dying, let the people say Amen.

All: Amen!

Presider: As we celebrate Christ's rising, let the people shout Amen.

All: Amen!

Presider: As we look for Christ's coming again, let the people sing Amen!

All: Amen!

Presider: God most holy, God most motherly, pour out your Spirit upon this bread and wine so we may become a community of love, joy, and friendship. May we taste and see your gift of life, shared at this table, shared with the world, here and everywhere, now and always, and let all the people say Amen.

All: AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: Joining our prayers together, let us pray as Christ has taught us:

All: 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

Presider: We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All: God here with us, light all around us, bring us to light and life.

Presider: These are the gifts of God, for us, the children of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Music During Communion

At this time, whether alone or with family, you may wish to eat/share bread and wine or some other food and drink, as an Agape Feast - a communal meal shared among Christians.

The name comes from "agape", a Greek term for "love" in its broadest sense.

Carol: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

CP #140

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, to all good will from heaven's most gracious king!"
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold:
When the new heaven and earth shall own the Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song which now the angels sing.

Prayer after Communion & Doxology

Presider: Glory to God,

All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God, from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus. Amen.

The Blessing

Recessional Carol: Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,
Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,
Pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

The Dismissal

Presider: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

Merry Christmas!



St. George's on-the-Hill Anglican Church

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