

ST. GEORGE'S ON-THE-HILL ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Epiphany of the Lord
Sun, January 5, 2025, 10:30am Eucharist

The crèche (nursery) is downstairs and is available for use by parents with babies and toddlers.

Welcome & Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather with song and prayer as the People of God

Opening Hymn: #370 Songs of Praise the Angels Sang

PLEASE STAND

1. Songs of praise the angels sang, heaven with alleluias rang
When creation was begun, when God spoke and it was done.
2. Songs of praise awoke the morn when the Prince of Peace was born;
Songs of praise arose when he captive led captivity.
3. Heaven and earth must pass away; songs of praise shall crown that day.
God will make new heavens and earth; songs of praise shall hail their birth.
4. And shall Christians fail to sing till on earth Christ come as King?
No, the church delights to raise psalms and hymns and songs of praise.
5. Saints below, with heart and voice, still in songs of praise rejoice,
Learning here, by faith and love, songs of praise to sing above.
6. Hymns of glory, songs of praise, Father, unto you we raise.
Jesus, Saviour, living Word, with the Spirit be adored.

Welcome & 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.

Gloria in Excelsis (Tune: Iris)

Glory be to God in heaven, peace on earth in all our days!

King and Lord, almighty Father, praise and blessing now we raise:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Lamb of God, O Lord most holy, Jesus, take our sins away;

You are seated with the Father, hear our voices as we pray:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Jesus, you are Lord and Saviour, you alone the Holy One,

With the Holy Spirit blessed and the Father on the throne.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Collect for Epiphany

Presider: Eternal God, who by a star led wise ones to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

We read and respond to God's message in scripture

PLEASE BE SEATED

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

Read by Bob James

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Psalm 72:1-7, 1-14 *(Tune: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing)*

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

Give the king your justice, Lord; share it with your royal son.

May he justly rule your folk and give justice to the oppressed.

May the land be prosperous; may the hills know righteousness;

May he be fair to the poor, help them but oppressors crush.

May he be fair to the poor, help them but oppressors crush.

May the rulers of far lands bring their gifts unto the king.

May all kings bow down to him; may the nations all serve him.

For he heeds the needy's call, helps the poor and helpless ones.

He takes pity on the weak and he saves the poor ones' lives.

He redeems from violence; precious is their blood to him.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

Read by Ceceile Dennis-Arthurs

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Ephesus.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers

and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Gospel Acclamation

PLEASE STAND

Cantor: *People:*

1. Hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah! Hal-le, ha-le-lu-jah!

Hal-le-lu-jah, ha-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah!

Hal-le-lu-jah, ha-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah! repeat v.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sermon: Fr. Andrew

(After the sermon, please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Prayers of the People

Led by Bob James

Leader: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Loving God, in this holy season 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 season, 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 season, 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 season, 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 season, 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 season, 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 season, 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 season, 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 season, 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: In this holy season, 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.

And now, gathering all our prayer into one, we pray as Jesus taught us:

All: 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 Peace

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

(We encourage you to share a sign of peace with those around you as you are comfortable.)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

We share God's banquet of love for this community of faith

Offertory Hymn: CP #148 See Amid the Winter's Snow

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

1. See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years!
Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

2. Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies,
Who enthroned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim.
Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.
3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? *Refrain.*
4. "As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels, singing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Saviour's birth." *Refrain.*
5. Sacred infant, all divine, what a mighty love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this! *Refrain.*

Prayer Over the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

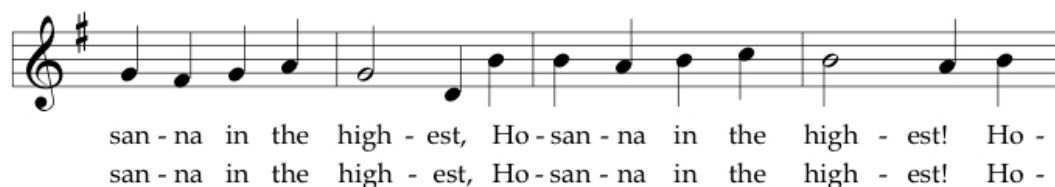
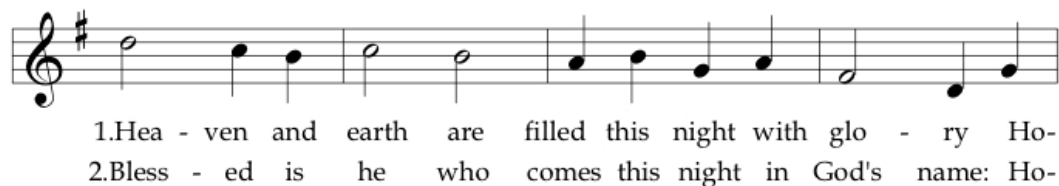
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Presiding Celebrant will begin the Eucharistic Prayer by either singing or saying the preface to the prayer. The preface will conclude with the words "to proclaim the glory of your name."

We then sing verses 1-2 of the Sanctus as follows:





The Presiding Celebrant recounts God’s continuing love in the history of humanity and in the sending of his son, Jesus Christ. We join Jesus as he celebrates his Last Supper and acclaim his giving of himself in the gifts of bread and wine. After the words over the cup and the elevation of the chalice, we sing:

People: (sing) **Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Glory to you!**

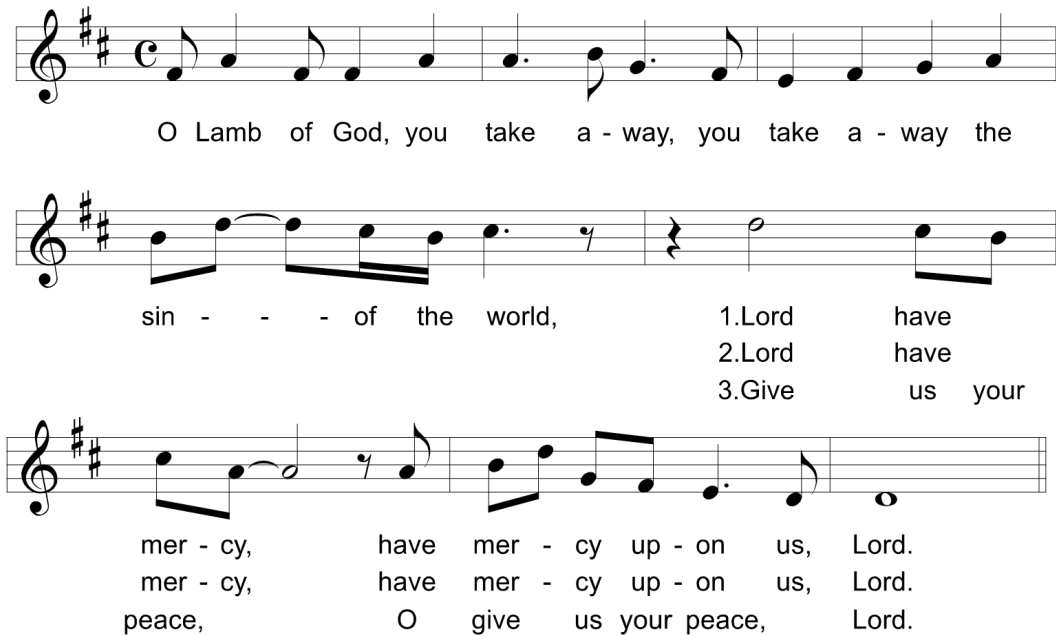
The Presiding Celebrant calls on the Holy Spirit to bless the gifts and strengthen us until we come to share the joys of eternity. We praise God’s endless love and at the elevation of the bread and cup we sing:

People: (sing) **Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Amen!**

The Breaking of the Bread #6

Presider: We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
All: God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

Song for the Breaking of the Bread



*Music: Carl Orff
Carmina Burana*

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Communion

PLEASE BE SEATED

All who seek God in Christ are welcome to receive the sacrament of holy communion. If you would prefer a blessing, simply fold your arms across your chest to indicate this. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Music During Communion
Of Eternal Love Begotten

arr. H. Willan

Prayer after Communion & Doxology

PLEASE STAND

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: #570 Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace;
O refresh us, O refresh us,
travelling through the wilderness.
2. Thanks we give and adoration
for the gospel's joyful sound;
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound;
may your presence, may your presence,
with us evermore be found.

Dismissal

Postlude

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