

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

## Christmas Eve 2025

4:00 p.m. Service

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- *We welcome Elias Doyle, trumpeter, to today's service* -

**Processional Carol: CP #118** O Come, All Ye Faithful

AS YOU ARE ABLE, PLEASE STAND

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 AND GREETING

#### The Christmas Proclamation

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 Prayer for Christmas Eve

**Carol: CP #154** Joy to the World

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.

PLEASE BE SEATED



## THE CHRISTMAS STORY

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

***As "O Little Town of Bethlehem" is sung, children place the animals 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, children place Mary and Joseph 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, children place Baby Jesus 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,  
children place the shepherds and the angels around the crèche.***

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

***As "We Three Kings of Orient Are" is sung,  
children place the magi from the East 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, all children (accompanied by parents, if needed)  
are welcome to come and place stars 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.

***As "Silent Night" concludes, all children return to their families.***



## The Prayers of the People: The Litany of Christmas

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

*Please respond to the petition "Holy God" with "hear our prayer."*

**Leader:** 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 Christ be always with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Offertory Hymn: CP #143** Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

You who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

*Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.*

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light: *Refrain.*

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;  
Seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star: *Refrain.*

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,  
Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear: *Refrain.*

Though an infant now we view him, he shall fill the eternal throne,  
Gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down: *Refrain.*

## THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

### Prayer over the Gifts

#### The Eucharistic Prayer

**Presider:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

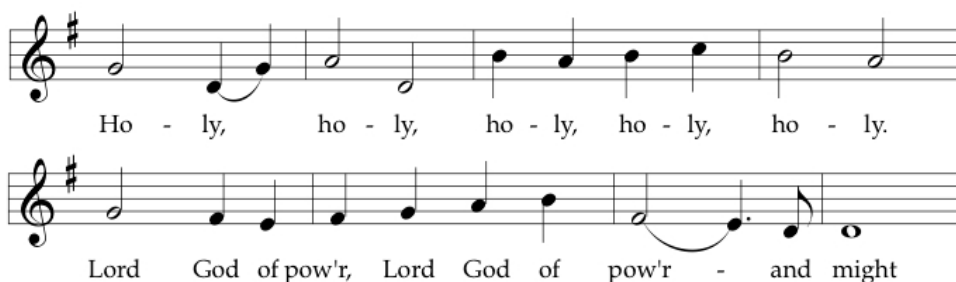
**Presider:** Lift up your hearts.

**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 acclaims the life-giving power of God in the story of salvation and calls on us to join all creation in the song of the angels. We then sing verses 1-2 of the Sanctus as follows:*



1. Hea - ven and earth are filled this night with glo - ry Ho -  
 2. Bless - ed is he who comes this night in God's name: Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - ly Lord!  
 san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed are you!

*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 and strengthen us, the Church, until we come to share the joys of heaven. 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**

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

**Song for the Breaking of the Bread**

O Lamb of God, you take a - way, you take a - way the  
 sin - - - of the world, 1. Lord have  
 2. Lord have  
 3. Give us your  
 mer - cy, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord.  
 mer - cy, have mer - cy up - on us, Lord.  
 peace, O give us your peace, Lord.

*Music: Carl Orff  
 Carmina Burana*

## 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.*

## Carols during Communion

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

### **Carol: CP #140** *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear*

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.

### **Carol: CP #137** *What Child Is This*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?  
*This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. *Refrain.*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him.  
The King of kings salvation brings; let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain.*

### **Carol: Ding, Dong, Merrily on High!**

Ding dong, merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing;  
Ding dong, verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.  
*Gloria, hosannah in excelsis! Gloria, hosannah in excelsis!*

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,  
And io, io, io, by priest and people sung. *Refrain.*

Pray ye dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;  
May ye beautifully rhyme your evetime song, ye singers. *Refrain.*

## 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

**Recessional Carol: CP #138** 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."*

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

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! *Refrain.*

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. *Refrain.*

### The Dismissal

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

All: **Thanks be to God!**

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