



PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

HOUSTON, TEXAS



*Our mission is to know
and share the love of Jesus Christ*

CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2019

9:30 PM | CELEBRATION OF CAROLS

10:00 PM | CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE I

6221 MAIN STREET | HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030 | 713.529.6196

PALMERCHURCH.ORG

Welcome to Palmer, where our mission is to know and share the love of Jesus Christ.

We are a community of Christians worshipping in the Episcopal tradition, which has its roots in the practices of the ancient Church. We are a congregation that values not only eternal answers but also important questions. You are part of the great “We” that begins the Nicene Creed in this service, and we are grateful for your presence and your prayers. You are surrounded by the love of Jesus here this evening.

Receiving Holy Communion

If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition, you are invited to receive communion with us after the Breaking of the Bread. The bread will be placed in your outstretched hands. Those who require either grape juice or gluten-free bread and wine should let the minister of communion know. Due to current COVID-19 protocols, when the chalice of wine comes to you, you may only carefully dip the bread in it or decline it.

Receiving a Blessing

If you are not a baptized Christian, or your Christian tradition does not allow you to receive communion with us, we encourage you to come forward at the time of communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as someone approaches with the bread, and that person will know to give you a blessing instead of communion. In this way, everyone can participate in this part of the service.

Seeking Baptism

If you have never been baptized and desire to be immersed in grace and forgiveness as a follower of Jesus, please speak with a member of the clergy or someone at the Welcome Table after this hour of worship. It would be a joy to baptize you as a Christian here at Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church.

Cover Art by Roger Hutchison

A CELEBRATION OF CAROLS

Introit: Hodie Christus natus est

David Ashley White

*Hodie Christus natus est
hodie Salvator apparuit:
hodie in terra canunt Angeli,
laetantur Archangeli:
hodie exsultant justi, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluja.*

Today is Christ born;
today the Savior has appeared;
today the Angels sing,
the Archangels rejoice;
today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

Hymn 78 "O little town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1-3, 5)

Forest Green

Unison or harmony

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 - bid with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

When Jordan hush'd his waters still,
 And silence slept on Syon's hill,
 When Bethlem's shepherds through the night,
 Watch'd o'er their flocks by starry light.

Lo! Swift to every startled eye,
 New streams of glory fire the sky,
 Heav'n's azure gates are oped to pour
 Its armies on the midnight hour.

On wheels of light,
 On wings of flame,
 The gratulating myriads came;
 High heav'n with songs of triumph rung,
 While loud they struck their harps and sung.
 'To God the Lord of power and might,
 Be glory in the highest height,
 For peace on earth proclaimed agen,
 And tidings of good-will to men, Amen.

Hymn 105 "God rest you merry, gentlemen"

God Rest You Merry



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
 and un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Anthem: *Angelus ad Virginem*

arr. Sir David Willcocks

*Angelus ad virginem subintrans in conclave,
Virginis formidinem de mulces inquit, "Ave!
Ave, regina virginum; coeli terraeque Dominum
Concipies et paries in tacta salutem hominum;
Tu porta coeli facta, medela criminum"*

*"Quomodo conciperem quae virum non cognovi?
Qualiter infringerem quod firmamente vovi?"
"Spiritus Sancti gratia perfici et haec omnia;
Ne timeas, sed gaudeas, segura
Quod castimonia manebit inter pura Dei potentia."*

Gabriel, from heaven's king
Sent to the maiden sweet,
Brought to her blissful tidings
And fair 'gan her to greet.
'Hail be thou, full of grace aright!
For so God's Son, the heaven's light,
Loves man, that He a man will be and take
Flesh of thee, maiden bright,
Mankind free for to make
Of sin and devil's might.'

Gently to him gave answer
The gentle maiden then:
'And in what wise should I bear
Child, that know not man?'
The angel said: 'O dread thee nought.
'Tis through the Holy Ghost that wrought
Shall be this thing whereof tidings I bring:
Lost mankind shall be bought
By thy sweet childbearing,
And back from sorrow brought.'

*Ad haec virgo nobilis respondet inquit ei:
"Ancilla sum humilis omnipotentis Dei.
Tibi coelesti nuntio, tanti secreti conscio,
Consentiens, et cupiens videre
Factum quod audio; parata sum parere, Dei consilio."*

*Eia mater Domini, quae pacem redidisti
Angelis et homini, cum Christum genuisti;
Tuum ex ora filium ut se nobis propitium
Exhibeat, et debeat, peccata:
Prestans auxilium vita frui beata Post hoc exilium.*

When the maiden understood
And the angel's words had heard,
Mildly, of her own mild mood,
The angel she answered:
'Our Lord His handmaiden, I wis,
I am, that here above us is:
And touching me fulfilled be thy saw;
That I, since His will is,
Be, out of nature's law
A maid with mother's bliss.'

Filled full of charity,
Thou matchless maiden-mother,
Pray for us to him that He
For thy love above other,
Away our sin and guilt should take,
And clean of every stain us make
And heaven's bliss, when our time is to die,
Would give us for thy sake;
With grace to serve him by
Till He us to him take.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 94 “While shepherds watched their flocks by night” (verses 1-3, 6)

Winchester Old

Descant

2 “Fear not,” said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;
6 “All glo - ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

1 While shep - herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground,
2 “Fear not,” said he, for might - y dread had seized their trou - bled mind;
3 “To you, in Da - vid’s town, this day is born of Da - vid’s line
4 “The heaven - ly Babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played,
5 Thus spake the ser - aph, and forth - with ap - peared a shin - ing throng

2 “Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
6 good will hence - forth from heaven to men be - gin and nev - er cease.”

1 the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo - ry shone a - round.
2 “Glad tid - ings of great joy I bring to you and all man - kind.
3 the Sa - vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
4 all mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in a man - ger laid.”
5 of an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song:

6 “All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”

Anthem: *Quem vidistis*

George Malcolm

Quem vidistis, pastores, dicite,
annuntiate nobis, in terris quis apparuit?
R. Natum vidimus et choros angelorum
collaudantes Dominum, Alleluia.

Dicite, quidnam vidistis?
et annuntiate Christi nativitatem.
R. Natum vidimus et choros angelorum
collaudantes Dominum, Alleluia.

Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto

Whom did you see, shepherds, say, tell us
who has appeared?
R. We saw the child new-born and choirs of angels
praising the Lord, alleluia.

Pray say, what did you see?
And tell us of Christ’s nativity.
R. We saw the child new-born and choirs of angels
praising the Lord, alleluia.

Hymn 102 "Once in royal David's city" (verses 1, 2, 5, 6)

Irby

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 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Anthem: *Love divine, all love's excelling*

Howard Goodall

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heav'n to earth come down,
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesu, thou art all compassion, pure unbounded love thou art;
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.
Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.
Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive;
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above;
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.
Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory, till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

CHORAL EUCHARIST: RITE I

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn 83 "O come, all ye faithful" (verses 1-3, 6)

Adeste fideles

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

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

Hymn 96 "Angels we have heard on high"

Gloria

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 Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96 (*verses 1-4, 11, 12*)

Plainchant

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth
Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods
Let 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.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus.

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

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 87 “Hark! the herald angels sing”

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Kejram
 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, *Rector*

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant We believe in one God,
People 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 worshipped 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.

Prayers of the People

Reader Celebrating the birth of Christ, the Morning Star, who brings grace and salvation to all, let us place before God our needs and those of the whole world.

For the church here and throughout the world, that our worship and praise may give glory to God, and that our witness and ministry may promote peace on earth. Morning Star,

People **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

Reader For peoples of every race and nation, that the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace may encourage a new birth of righteousness and justice. Morning Star,

People **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

Reader For those bowed down by injustice or despair, that the power of God and the zeal of God's servants may break the rod of oppression and lift the yoke of life's burdens. Morning Star,

People **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

Reader For refugees and aliens, for homeless people and unwed mothers, that in them we may see the image of Mary and Joseph, and recognize the face of Christ. Morning Star,

People **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

Reader For family and friends near and far, for the hospitalized and homebound, that the good news of Christmas may be for all who are dear to us the end of darkness and fear and the dawn of light and joy. Morning Star,

People **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

Reader For those gathered in worship here, that by the grace of Christ's coming we may live upright and godly lives, and bear witness to our blessed hope for the Savior's glorious return. Morning Star,

People **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

Reader For those who have died in Christ, that the Savior whose appearing they longed for may gladden them with the vision of heaven's glory. Morning Star,

People **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

The Celebrant adds this concluding Collect

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth thine unending day upon us who watch for thee, that our lips may praise thee, our lives may bless thee, and our worship in this season of Christmas may give thee glory; through Jesus Christ, the Morning Star. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant says this or another sentence of Scripture to begin the Offertory.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. *Psalms 96:8*

Those who have brought with them an offering are invited to place it in the offering plate that will be passed in the pews. Others are invited to make their financial contributions online at palmerchurch.org/give or by texting the key word "Palmer" and the dollar amount (for example, Palmer 100) to 73256 or by using this QR code.



Offertory Anthem: *Sleeps Judea fair*

Hugh MacKinnon

Sleeps Judea fair,
Bides the Christ Child there:
Shepherds, haste ye! flocks forsaking,
Swift your way to Him be taking,
Babe, of Israel's prayer,
Babe of Israel's prayer.

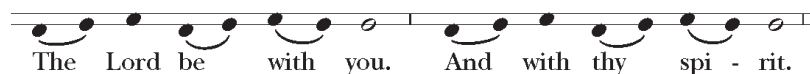


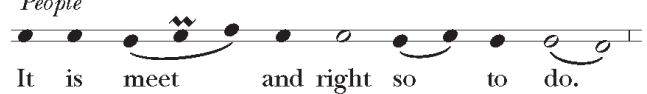
Christ from God is come,
Choosing earthly home:
Royal pomp and splendor never,

But with love which naught can sever,
He will heal the dumb;
Christ from God is come.

Lowly bend the knee,
Thou from sin set free:
Let the Christ Child, meekly smiling,
Infantwise, all woe beguiling,
Grant His grace to thee,
Grant his grace to thee!

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
 Praise him, all creatures here below;
 Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
 Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

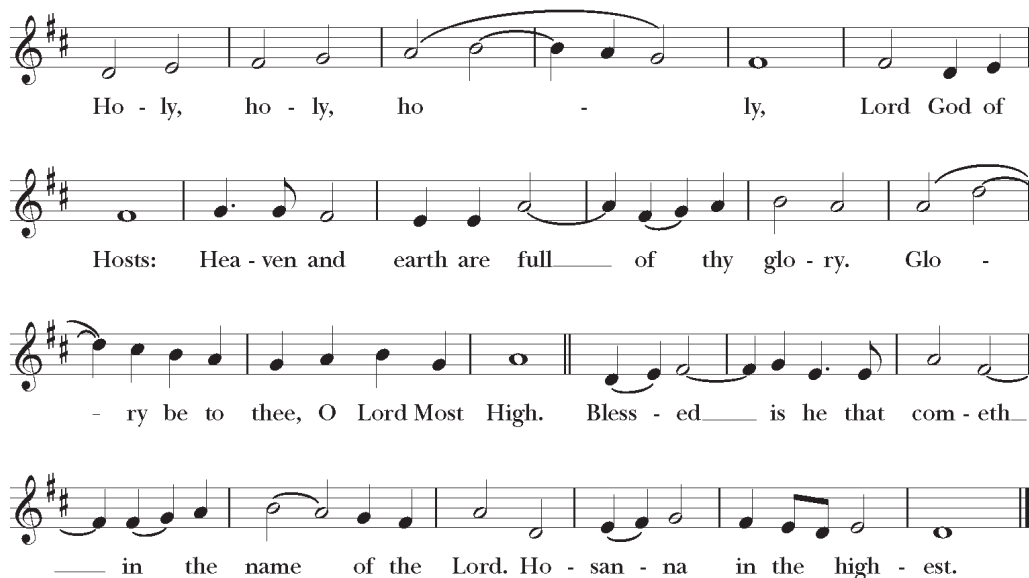
<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
	
<i>Celebrant</i>	<i>People</i>
	
	
	

It is very meet, right and our bounden duty, that we should at all times and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying,

Sanctus (Hymnal S-114)

Willan



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
 Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
 - ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant Our Father,
People **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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem: Agnus Dei (Hymnal S-158)

Willan



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have
mer - cy up - on us. O Lamb of
God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
world, grant us thy peace.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

Communion Music

Anthem: *Little Jesus sweetly sleep*

Leo Sowerby

Little Jesus, sweetly sleep, do not stir;
We will lend a coat of fur,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
See the fur to keep you warm,
Snugly round your tiny form.

Mary's little baby, sleep, sweetly sleep,
Sleep in comfort, slumber deep;
We will rock you, rock you, rock you,
We will rock you, rock you, rock you:
We will serve you all we can,
Darling, darling little man.

Anthem: *Still, Still, Still*

arr. Norman Luboff

Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow.
For all is hushed,
The world is sleeping,
Holy Star its vigil keeping
Still, still, still
One can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.
The night is peaceful all around you,

Close your eyes,
Let sleep surround you
Sleep, sleep, sleep
'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream
Of the joyous day to come.
While guardian angels without number
Watch you as you sweetly slumber
Dream, dream, dream
Of the joyous day to come.

Hymn 109 "The first Nowell the angel did say" (verses 1-3, 6)

The First Nowell

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 to the 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 re - v - 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

The congregational candles will be lit at this time. Acolytes will bring lighted tapers down from the chancel and light the candles from the ends of each pew. Please share that light with your neighbors, carefully tipping the unlit candle over to light from an upright, lit candle. Everyone is invited to kneel when the organist begins playing the introduction to the carol Silent Night. Those who are able may remain kneeling for the prayer after communion.

Hymn 111 "Silent night"

Stille Nacht

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

After communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant Almighty and everliving God,

People we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Celebrant gives the festal blessing:

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your hearts with the light of his holiness. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 100 "Joy to the world!"

Antioch

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
as the curse is found, far as the curse is
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
3 far as the curse is found, far
4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
peat the sound - ing joy,
as the curse is found,
won - ders of his love,

DEDICATION

The high altar candles for Christmas Eve are given
in loving memory of Peter Lewis Chapman
by Martha, Matthew, and Henry Chapman.

MUSICIANS

Dr. Brady Knapp, *Director of Music*

David Ashley White, *Composer-in-Residence*

Ken Cowan, *Organist and Artist-in-Residence*

Ben Henderson, *Associate Organist*

The Palmer Adult Choir