



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

CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24, 2020 7:00 PM | CELEBRATION OF CAROLS 7:30 PM | CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE I

6221 MAIN STREET | HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030 | 713.529.6196 PALMERCHURCH.ORG



The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard *Rector*

Dr. Brady Knapp Director of Music

Ken Cowan Artist-in-Residence

Courtney Daniell-Knapp Director of Children's Choirs

> Ben Henderson Associate Organist

David Ashley White Composer-in-Residence

Dustin Jesudason Director of Communications

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A CELEBRATION OF CAROLS

Introit: Hodie Christus natus est

Today Christ is 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 (1-3 &5) "O little town of Bethlehem"

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.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O Morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

Anthem "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 Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, Let steeple bells be swungen, And "Io, io, io!" By priest and people sungen How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Gerald Near

Gloria Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime Your matin chime, ye ringers, May you beautifully rhyme Your eve'time song, ye singers Gloria Hosanna in excelsis! Gloria Hosanna in excelsis! Forest Green

David Ashley White

Hymn 94 (1-3 & 6) "While shepherds watched their flocks by night"

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down, and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubled mind; "Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and all mankind."

Anthem "Quem vidistis"

"To you, in David's town, this day is born of David's line the Savior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign."

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

George Malcolm

Whom did you see, shepherds, tell us, proclaim to us: who has appeared on the earth? We saw the newborn child and choirs of angels praising the Lord. Tell of what you saw, and announce Christ's nativity. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

Hymn 105 "God rest you merry, gentlemen"

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay, remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day, to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray:

Refrain:

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same: how that in Bethlehem was born the son of God by name. *Refrain* "Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright; this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright, to free all those who trust in him from Satan's pow'r and might." *Refrain*

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and charity each other now embrace; this hold tide of Chistmas doth bring redeeming grace. *Refrain*

God Rest You Merry

Winchester Old

arr. David Willcocks

Irby

Anthem "Unto us is born a Son"

Unto us is born a Son, King of quires supernal; See on earth his life begun, Of lords the Lord eternal, Of lords the Lord eternal.

Christ, from heaven descending low, Comes on earth a stranger; Ox and ass their owner know, Becradled in the manger, Becradled in the manger.

This did Herod sore affray And grievously bewilder, So he gave the word to slay, And slew the little childer, And slew the little childer. Of his love and mercy mild This the Christmas story; O that Mary's gentle child Might lead us up to glory, Might lead us up to glory!

O and A, and A and O, Cum cantibus in choro, Let our merry organ go, Benedicamus Domino, Benedicamus Domino.

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

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.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; for that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round, we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround: Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

CHORAL EUCHARIST: RITE I

The Word of God

Processional Hymn 83 (1-3 & 6) "O come, all ye faithful" Adeste fideles O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; come, and behold him, born the King of angels; glory to God, glory in the highest; Refrain Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord. Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; God from God, Light from Light eternal, Refrain lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only begotten Son of the Father; Refrain

CelebrantBlessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.PeopleAnd 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 (1 & 4) "Angels we have heard on high"

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo. See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. *Refrain* Gloria

The Collect of the Day

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd with thy spirit.CelebrantLet 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

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.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

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

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.

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.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Anglican Chant

Sequence Hymn 87 "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!

Refrain 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 the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth. Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain*

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-20

PriestThe Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.PeopleGlory 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.

PriestThe Gospel of the Lord.PeoplePraise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, *Rector*

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant People	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 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

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, Fill our hearts with light divine.

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,

Fill our hearts with light divine.

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

Fill our hearts with light divine.

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

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

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

The Celebrant adds this concluding Collect

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory anthem: In the bleak midwinter

In the bleak midwinter Frosty wind made moan, Earth stood hard as iron, Water like a stone; Snowhad fallen, snow on snow, Snow on snow, In the bleak midwinter, Long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, Nor earth sustain; Heaven and earth shall flee away When He comes to reign. In the bleak midwinter, A stable-place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ. Enough for Him, whom cherubim Worship night and day, A breastful of milk, and a manger ful of hay; Enough for Him, Whom angels fall down before, The ox and ass and camel which adore.

> What can I give Him, Poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet what I can, I give Him Give my heart.

The Doxology (Hymn 380, verse 3)

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. Old 100th

Celebrant Celebrant

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

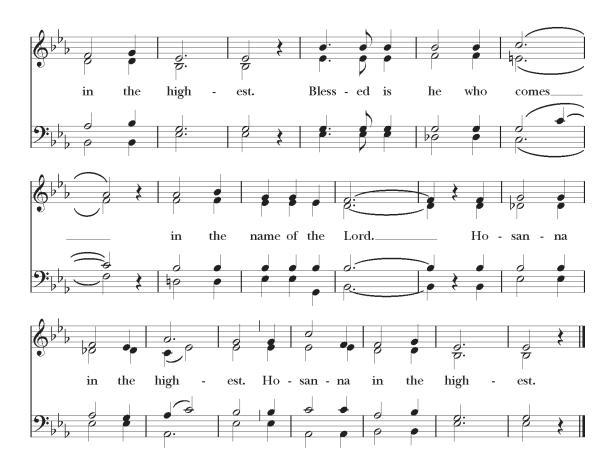
Harold Darke

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

Schubert





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,

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, 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.



The Peace

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd with thy spirit.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The term "Spiritual Communion" has been used historically to describe how a person, prevented for some serious reason from sharing in a celebration of the Eucharist, nonetheless shares in the communion of Jesus Christ. In making our communion spiritually, we are joining with Christians everywhere to be nourished by the one who tells us, "I am the Bread of Life."

My Jesus,

I believe that you are present in this Sacrament.

I love you above all things, and I desire to receive you today. Since I cannot at this moment receive you in bread and wine made holy food, come spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you. Never let me be separated from you. Amen.

Communion Music

Anthem: Sweet was the song the Virgin sang

Sweet was the song the Virgin sang, When she to Bethlem Juda came And was delivered of a son, That blessed Jesus hath to name: "Lula, lula, lullaby."

"Sweet babe," sang she, "My son, and eke a savior born, Who hast vouchsafed from on high To visit us that were forlorn: Lula, lula, lullaby."

"Sweet babe," sang she, And rocked him sweetly on her knee. Andrew Carter

Stille Nacht

Hymn 111 "Silent night"

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. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, 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. Jesus, 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 heart with the light of his holiness. Amen.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. Amen.

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

CelebrantLet us go forth in the name of Christ.PeopleThanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 100 "Joy to the world!"

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

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.

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

Postlude: Finale from "Variations on Adeste Fideles"

Gaston Dethier

Christmas Dedications GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In Loving Memory of our Grandparents, Herb and Norine Smith, Tom and Katherine Van Arsdel, Al and Bertha Pace, and Charles and Shirley Goff, and in Thanksgiving for our children, Katie and John. *by Tom and Kristie Van Arsdel*

In Loving Memory of Woody Woodward by Marie Woodward

In support of the Rice service drive-in and with wishes for a holy, merry 12 Days of Christmas to all! *by Denise Allen Zwicker*

In loving memory of Luke Altobelli by the Vaughan Family

In thanksgiving for my daughters Jillian and Nina, and my wonderful brother Charles and precious granddaughter Janie Mae; in loving memory of Felix & Martha Kutach, Bob and Tim Callaway, Bettie Bayes, Floyd & Janie Higginbotham, Alice Penz, Audrey Quast, Rob Rynearson, Charles Perry, Kate Hampton, Christopher Dupont, Charlotte Brashear, Matthew Wood, Robert Joe, Holly Anderson, David Elliot, Robin McCorquodale, Patrick Dennison, Robert Joe and Mary Kaye Zalesak; in thanksgiving for all the parishioners' generous donations and help installing Palmer Christmas 2019; in memory and thanksgiving for my partnership with Michael Callaway, my Mr. Christmas, and his wonderful gift of unconditional love by Dennis Kutach

To the glory of God and to the glory of the Christmas Season and in loving memory of Eileen and Dr. Joseph Colquhoun. *by The Colquhoun and Zadrow families*

For our Palmer family that we miss and love *by Suzanne And Jim Miller*

In loving memory of our parents by Joan and Fritz Glover

Given to the glory of God and in memory of Frank Lagotic, James and Cynthia Neville, Mary Fonda, and Joseph and Florence Gaudio. *by Shannon and Jason Westin*

In celebration of and thanksgiving for Anna, Nick, and Freida In memory of Calvin, Coolidge, Jack, Jim, Lili, Sally, and Sue; in thanksgiving for the Palmer community *by Connie & John Wallace*

In celebration of Roberta & Howard Morris, Vivian & William Spoede, and Hilda Smith *by Libby Spoede*

Wishing a merry Christmas to our Palmer family *by Tom and Linda Shelton*

In grateful thanksgiving for our Goddaughters Zoe Roopnarine, Molly Farrell, Joanna Crane, and Eliana Browns, and in loving memory of Roland and Falma Beardsley, Richard and Opal Browns, Cecil and Dot Collins, Robert and Mervin Mashburn, and Howard and Myrtle Parks *by Scott and Ansley Browns*