

# CHRISTMAS



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24, 2020

A COMBINED CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

ST. MARY'S, LOMPOC | ST. MARK'S-IN-THE-VALLEY, LOS OLIVOS | ST. PETER'S, SANTA MARIA

**Prelude** *Carol of the Bells*

*Music by M. Leontovich, arr. Mark Hayes*

BEVERLY STAPLES, PIANO

with **Images of Christmas** in our parishes

**Welcome**

**The Collect of the Day**

*Leader* O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

*All* **Amen.**

**First Reading**

*Isaiah 9:2-7*

TOM GERALD, reader

*Reader* A Reading from the Book of the Prophet 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 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* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 98

CALEB CASSIDY WITH ROAN, LILA, AND MAIRIN CASSIDY AND FRIENDS, *readers*

- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the Lord a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- <sup>2</sup> **With his right hand and his holy arm \***  
**has he won for himself the victory.**
- <sup>3</sup> The Lord has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- <sup>4</sup> **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \***  
**and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**
- <sup>5</sup> Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- <sup>6</sup> **Sing to the Lord with the harp, \***  
**with the harp and the voice of song.**
- <sup>7</sup> With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- <sup>8</sup> **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \***  
**the lands and those who dwell therein.**
- <sup>9</sup> Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- <sup>10</sup> **In righteousness shall he judge the world \***  
**and the peoples with equity.**



## Second Reading

*Titus 3:4-7*

ANNE LATHOUWERS, *reader*

Reader A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All **Thanks be to God.**

## Hymn *O come, all ye faithful*

Hymnal 83

- <sup>1</sup> 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.*
- <sup>5</sup> Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
- glory to God,  
glory in the highest;
- Refrain*
- <sup>6</sup> Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;
- Refrain*

## The Gospel, The Story of Christmas (based on Luke 2:1-20)

In those days an order went out from the king, Caesar Augustus, that everyone in the world should be taxed. And so each person went to their own city to be counted.

So Joseph went from Nazareth to Judea, to the town of Bethlehem, the City of the ancient Jewish king David, because he was of the house and family of David. He went with Mary, who was to be his wife, who was carrying a child by the power of the Holy Spirit.

And while they were there in Bethlehem, the time came for the baby to be born. And so Mary gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths, and laid him in a manger in a stable, because there was no room for them in the inn.

On a hillside near town, some shepherds were in the fields watching their sheep through the night. Suddenly, an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the sky was filled with God's glory.

The shepherds were all very afraid. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy, good news for all people. Today, in Bethlehem, a baby has been born who is a savior – Christ the Lord! And this will be a sign for you - you will find the baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

Then suddenly, the sky was filled with angels singing, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and peace to all people on earth!"

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and soon found the stable.

There in the manger lay a tiny baby. They told Mary and Joseph what they had seen and heard that night, and Mary and Joseph shared their amazement.

Mary listened very carefully and cherished all these things in her heart. The shepherds went back to their sheep on the hillside, singing God's praises for everything had been as the angel had said.

## Christmas Reflections on the Gospel

THE REV. CANON MICHAEL CUNNINGHAM, ST. MARY'S, LOMPOC

THE REV. RANDALL DAY, D.MIN., ST. MARK'S-IN-THE-VALLEY, LOS OLIVOS

THE REV. DR. PETER KANG, ST. PETER'S, SANTA MARIA

## Anthem Love Came Down at Christmas

Text Christina Rosetti Music John Rutter

SINGERS FROM ST. MARY'S, ST. PETER'S AND ST. MARK'S

NICHOLE DECHAINE, CONDUCTOR | BEVERLY STAPLES, ORGAN

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas,  
Star and angels gave the sign;  
Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, love divine;

Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?  
Love shall be our token,  
Love be yours and love be mine  
Love to God and all men,  
Love for plea, and gift and sign

## The Prayers of the People

St. Mary's

Courtney Tan, Paul Eustace, Jeanne Johnston, Alice Drus, Fr. Michael Cunningham, Amy Kohler Wellard, intercessors

Leader

And now...Now the angel has brought us good news of great joy,  
**Which shall be for all people.**<sup>1</sup>

All

Now the incarnation of God has arrived,<sup>2</sup>

Leader

**Sharing in the Divine Image.**

All

Now the grace of God has appeared,

Leader

**Bringing salvation to all.**<sup>3</sup>



## St. Mark's

*Polly Firestone Walker and David Walker, intercessors*

Leader Now the reality of heaven has arrived;  
All **We participate in its progress:**  
Leader Lifting the yoke of burdens,  
All **Breaking the rod of the oppressor,**<sup>4</sup>  
Leader Shining a great light into deep darkness,<sup>5</sup>  
All **Multiplying joy.**<sup>6</sup>  
Leader For Mary has given birth to her child,<sup>7</sup>  
All **And he is most wonderful and wise,**  
Leader Authoritative and kind,  
All **Powerful and peaceful.**<sup>8</sup>

*Terri and Vic Oneschuck, intercessors*

Leader And the spirit of that Child, that Authority,  
is born in our hearts,  
All **Empowering us to establish peace,**  
Leader Foster justice,  
All **And uphold righteousness in the earth.**<sup>9</sup>  
Leader We join with multitudes of angels,  
All **With fields and shepherds,**  
Leader With skies full of stars,  
All **With rejoicing and singing:**<sup>10</sup>  
Leader Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
All **And on earth, peace!**<sup>11</sup> **Amen.**

**Litany for the Child** by Litanist **Fran Pratt**,  
from her Patreon collections and her  
book *Call and Response, Litanies for  
Congregational Prayer*. Find out more  
about Fran and her work at  
[franpratt.com](http://franpratt.com). ©Fran Pratt Used with  
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1. Luke 2:10
2. Luke 2:11
3. Titus 2:11
4. Isaiah 9:4
5. Isaiah 9:2
6. Isaiah 9:3
7. Isaiah 9:6, Luke 2:7
8. Isaiah 9:6
9. Isaiah 9:7
10. Luke 2:20
11. Luke 2:14

## Meditative Reading

### *John 1:1-14*

THE REV. COURTNEY A.U. TAN

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## Hymn *Silent night, holy night*

Hymnal 111

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;

- Christ, the Savior, is born!
- <sup>3</sup> 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.

## **Christmas Blessing**

*Leader* 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.

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

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

*All* **Amen.**

**Hymns** *O Holy Night*

JOE ARDIZZONE, *vocalist and guitar*

tune *Cantique de Noël* \*

*Joy to the World*

NICHOLE DECHAINE, NATHAN KREITZER, *vocalists*

tune *Antioch*

BEVERLY STAPLES, *organ*

with **Christmas Greetings** from members of our parishes

**Thank you to all who contributed to this  
Christmas Eve service!**

**Gather on Zoom after the service?**

All who wish are invited to a brief Zoom gathering following this service to share live Christmas greetings and conversation.

**The Christmas Story video**

Produced by **Quinn Stacy** with help from **Carter Stacy**. Thanks to cast members: **Sam Ricci**, *Narrator*, **Lila** and **Mairin Cassidy**, **Oliver**, **Rowan**, and **Farran Conroy**, **Samantha Kang**, **Simon Kang**, **Willy Lovering**, **Courtney Tan**.



