

# Grace Episcopal Church

*The Feast of the  
Nativity of our Lord*



Christmas Eve, December 24, 2025 - 6:00 PM

December 24, 2025  
The Christ-Mass  
The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Processional Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

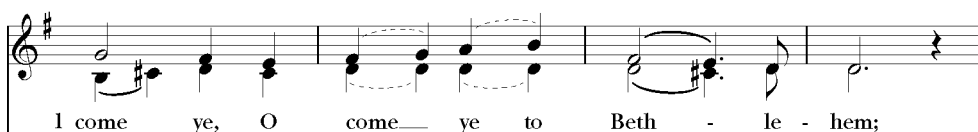
*Adeste fideles*  
*John Francis Wade*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O

3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —

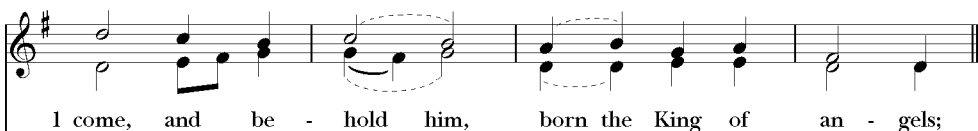
4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —



1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;

3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;

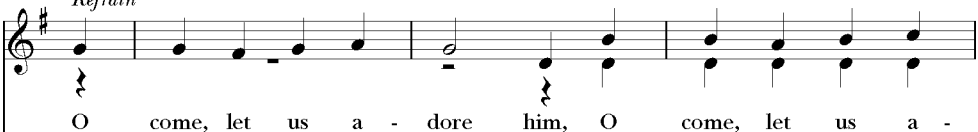


1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;

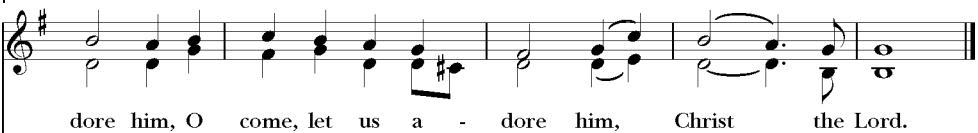
3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;

4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

*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*

# THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## *Gloria in excelsis Deo (Angels We Have Heard on High)*

*Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes*

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

## Christmas Pageant

**NARRATOR:** Welcome to Grace Church's Christmas pageant! The first part of our service this evening will be acted out by the Sunday School with help from some enthusiastic parents. You are invited to sing along with the hymns. Please sing along with the glorious Christmas hymns as Gerry plays the music. The words are in your bulletin.

Hear the words of the prophet Isaiah, and join with the faithful throughout the world who celebrate the coming of Light and Life with us.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

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.

### **Hymn: The First Nowell**

The first Nowell the angel did say,  
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

#### ***Refrain***

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star  
Shining in the east beyond them far,  
And to the earth it gave great light,  
And so it continued both day and night.

#### ***Refrain***

**NARRATOR:** God chose a young girl named Mary, who lived in the town of Nazareth in Galilee to be the mother of His Son. Mary was engaged to a

man named Joseph of the house of David. God sent His angel, Gabriel, to tell Mary that she has been chosen.

**GABRIEL:** "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will give birth to a child, a son, and you shall call His name Jesus . . . and of His Kingdom there will be no end."

**MARY:** "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord, let it be to me according to your word.

**NARRATOR:** At that time Emperor Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Roman Empire. Everyone then went to register himself, each to his own home town. Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to the town of Bethlehem in Judea. He went to register with Mary, who was going to marry him. Joseph was born in Bethlehem so he had to travel all the way from Nazareth. It was a long journey; Mary rode on a donkey because she was going to have a baby but Joseph had to walk. While they were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to have her baby.

Joseph and Mary were so tired from their long journey and had nowhere to stay. At last, a kindly Inn-keeper took pity on them and let them stay in the cave behind her inn where the animals were stabled. Mary gave birth that night and she had a baby boy. Joseph and Mary gave him the name Jesus but they didn't have a crib for him, so they wrapped him up in strips of cloth and laid him in the soft hay in the animals' manger.

### **Hymn: Away in a Manger**

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

**NARRATOR:** An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone over them. They were terribly afraid; but then the angel spoke:

**ANGELS:** "Don't be afraid, I am here with good news for you, which will bring great joy to all the people. This very day, in David's town, your Savior was born - Christ the Lord! And this is what will prove it to you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger."

**NARRATOR:** Suddenly a great army of heaven's angels appeared with the angel, singing praises to God:

### **Hymn: 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!

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 man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

**NARRATOR:** There were some shepherds in that part of the country who were spending the night in the fields, taking care of their flocks. The shepherds said to one another,

**SHEPHERD:** Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us.

**NARRATOR:** So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger.

**Hymn: 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.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

**NARRATOR:** Some men who studied the stars came from the East to Jerusalem and asked:

**BALTHAZAR:** Where is the baby born to be King of the Jews?

**Hymn: We Three Kings**

*(congregation sings vs. 1 & 5 and chorus each time.)*

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 lead-  
ing, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

**BALTHAZAR:** Born a King on Bethlehem's plain, gold I bring to crown  
him again, King for ever, ceasing never over us all to Reign. **(Chorus by all)**

**MELCHIOR:** Frankincense to offer have I: incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising, worship him, God Most High.  
**Chorus by all)**

**GASPAR:** Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume breathes a life of gathering gloom; sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying, sealed in the stone-cold tomb.

**(Chorus by all)**

**Sung by all:** Glorious now behold him arise, King and God and Sacrifice; heaven sings alleluia: alleluia the earth replies.

O star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright; westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light!

**NARRATOR:** They saw the child with his Mother Mary, and knelt down and worshipped Him. They brought out their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, and presented them to Him. The Magi said goodbye but they didn't go back to Jerusalem; they didn't trust King Herod. When they had seen the baby, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what they said to them. But Mary treasured all these things and pondered them in her heart. Today we can come to the Christ Child just as truly as the shepherds and the Wise Men did. God will give us that joyous fellowship with Him - lost so long ago.

### **Hymn: 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.

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,  
where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild;  
where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,  
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.



**NARRATOR:** This is the Christmas gift that God gives to you and to me and to everyone on earth. This is where our Christmas story ends, but it is not the end of the story. We know that Jesus' story continues to touch people of all backgrounds, just as it touched the people in Bethlehem and the Magi from far away. Jesus' story is a gift, not of gold nor wrapped in paper and bows, but of Light and life. The light that shone for the Magi shines for us still, guiding us towards Jesus, towards hope, towards new life. The famous **Radio City Music Hall Christmas Nativity** used to end with these words: "nineteen centuries have come and gone and today Jesus is still the central figure of the human race. All the armies that have ever marched; all the navies that have ever sailed; all the parliaments that have ever sat; and all the kings that ever reigned put together have not affected the life of mankind on earth as powerfully as that one solitary life."

~ **THE END** ~

**The Sermon**

**The Rev. Canon Kevin J. Moroney, PhD**

**The Nicene Creed** (*please stand*)

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 worshiped 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.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

**James Goonan, *Intercessor***

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation, especially: Brianna, Bruce, Cecilia, Diane, Dolores, Elizabeth, Eve, Gerry,

Gladys, James, Joanne, John, Joanie, Joseph, Julie, Kyle, Lora, Lynn, Lucy, Maria S., Maria D., Marye, Matt, Maureen, Nicholas, Paul, Peter, Pratik, Sandy, Sherman, Silvia, Stewart, Susan, Theresa, Tommy, Val, Walter Rodstrom, and those who are overwhelmed by extreme weather across the country, and the world, We also pray for those who continue to be affected by the war in Ukraine, for the Isreal and Gaza conflict, and all those who have been attacked or killed through acts of political and gun violence in this country. May the violence end and may we as a people learn to resolve our differences respectfully and peacefully.

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

*Hear our prayer.*

## **Confession of Sin**

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant and People:*

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against thee in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved thee with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in thy will, and walk in thy ways, to the glory of thy Name. **Amen.**

*The Celebrant continues:*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

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

*People:* And also with you.

## Offertory Hymn “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” *Carol, R.S. Willis*

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
2 Still through the clov - en they come with  
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the  
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly  
world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly  
pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;  
cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the  
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn  
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its  
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and  
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!  
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

## THE COMMUNION

### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

*People:* And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

## Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. \* Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made

flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

*We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;*

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons

and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **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

### *Agnus Dei*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

## The Communion

### Communion Hymn

### “Once in Royal David’s City”

*Text: Cecil Frances Alexander*

*Music: Henry John Gauntlett*



*Verse*

Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y  
He came down al to earth from heav - y  
And through all his won - drous child - hood  
And our eyes at last shall see him,

stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
he would hon - or and o - bey,  
through his own re - deem - ing love;

where a moth - er laid her ba - by  
and his shel - ter was a sta - ble,  
love for that watch child so dear ly and maid - en  
in a man - ger for his bed:  
and his cra - dle was a stall;  
in whose gen - tle arms he lay:  
is our Lord in heaven a - - - bove;

Ma - ry was that moth - er mild;  
with the poor chil - - - ly,  
Chris - tian leads that and meek all and must low - ly,  
and he on his all chil - dren be on

Je - sus Christ, her lit - tle child.  
lived on earth her Sav - ior ho - ly,  
mild, o the be - dient, as is he. gone.  
to the place where he is gone.

## Post Communion Prayer

*Let us pray.*

## Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## Hymn

## “Silent Night”

Gruber/Mohr

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.

## The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

## Closing Hymn

## “Joy to the World”

*Tune: Antioch, Handel*

*Issac Watts*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
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 -  
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  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his  
heaven and na - ture sing,  
peat the sound - ing joy,  
as the curse is found,  
won - ders of his love,

**Celebrant:** Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.



**Grace Episcopal Church**  
Est. 1849

**Leadership**

**The Rev. Canon Kevin J. Moroney, PhD**

***Priest-in-Charge***

**kevinjmoroney@gmail.com**

Eileen Marcus, *Senior Warden*

Joe Menon, *Junior Warden*

Karen Nani, *Secretary*

Sarah Menon, *Treasurer*

Melvin Aponte

Emilio Aponte

Bruce Weis

Gerry Hecht, *Musical Director*

Eileen Marcus, Melvin Aponte, *Acolytes*

Peter Klopfer, *Usher*

116 City Island Avenue, Bronx, NY 10464

718-885-1080 - [www.gracecityisland.net](http://www.gracecityisland.net)