

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD:  
**CHRISTMAS EVE**

24 DECEMBER 2020



**CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER**  
LUTHERVILLE, MARYLAND

## **WELCOME TO THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMFORTER**

At CHC each person is cherished as a child of God. We invite you to find refreshment of every kind here, and we hope that you will allow our faith-based community to offer you a spiritual home today and every day. Everyone is welcome at God's Table, and everyone's voice is essential to share the Good News about God's love in Christ.

If you would like to learn more about the Episcopal Church, or how you can become a member of Holy Comforter, please visit [www.holycomfortermd.org](http://www.holycomfortermd.org) or on Facebook.

130 West Seminary Avenue  
Lutherville, Maryland 21093  
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[www.holycomfortermd.org](http://www.holycomfortermd.org)



## **Our Vision**

***We are a visible community hub  
for people seeking an experience of faith and mystery  
in a safe, profoundly-inclusive space.***

***We offer an ever-expanding embrace to everyone  
and provide leadership on issues facing our community.***

***We engage people's creativity  
in new and traditional experiences  
that celebrate the spiritual journey of people of all ages.***

**Join us on the journey.**

## **ABOUT THIS SERVICE**

The celebration of Christ's coming among us at Christmas—the incarnation—is one of the two highest holidays of the Christian year, along with the celebration of his resurrection on Easter..

In the Book of Common Prayer, Christmas Day is one of the seven principal feasts. The Christmas season lasts twelve days: from Christmas Day until January 5, the day before the Epiphany.

Christmas is much more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth: it reminds us of the central truth of "the Word became flesh and lived among us" (John 1:14), fulfilling the prophecy that "the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel -God is with us." (Isaiah 7:14)

Sources: The Book of Common Prayer, An Episcopal Dictionary of the Church

## **O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL**

The traditional opening hymn for Christmas Eve is *O Come All Ye Faithful* –a hymn which invites the faithful to come and adore Christ the newborn King. While this year, we are not physically gathered together to celebrate the miracle which is the incarnation, we still come together in new and different ways.

The six stanzas of this hymn represent the various traditional parts of this service. How we gather together to rejoice in the Greatness of God and proclaim Christ's triumphant birth. The way we continue to seek God's blessing upon us and how we become joined with Christ through the Eucharist.

Christmas this year will be different. But still we can be joyful and triumphant. We still come and adore him, Christ the Lord.

# O, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL


WELCOME

The Reverend Chris Tang and Henry Boutilier


HYMN

"O, COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"


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



*"Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel", and all the little angels who were hiding behind the front pew jumped up holding star wands. Some "appeared" too soon, some needed lifting by the supervising adults and some halos were falling off. All the elements for a magical moment. Pure Christmas innocence and joy."*

*- Beth Avil*

*"I remember Bruce Zwicker volunteered to be the back end of the camel costume in the Christmas Pageant. As the donkey came down the aisle, he shook the tail and swayed the camel's back side rhythmically to the hymn 'We Three Kings of Orient Are'. The congregation loved it!"*

*- Sue Willis*



**ACCLAMATION**

*Celebrant* The glory of the Lord has been revealed:

*All* ***And all people shall see it together.***

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*All* ***And also with you.***

***Most merciful and loving God, you have made this night holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the Celebration of this Christmas season, and may also rejoice forever as your adopted sons and daughters, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**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. Amen.**

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Gloria

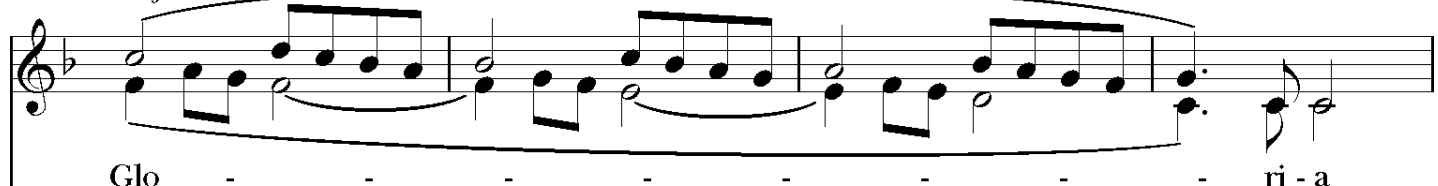


1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

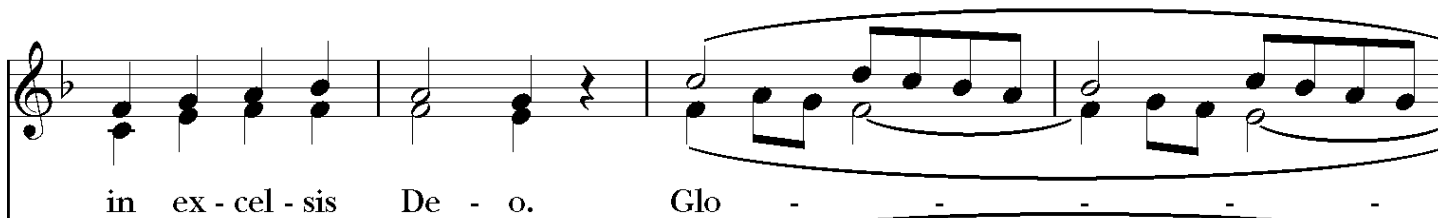


and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

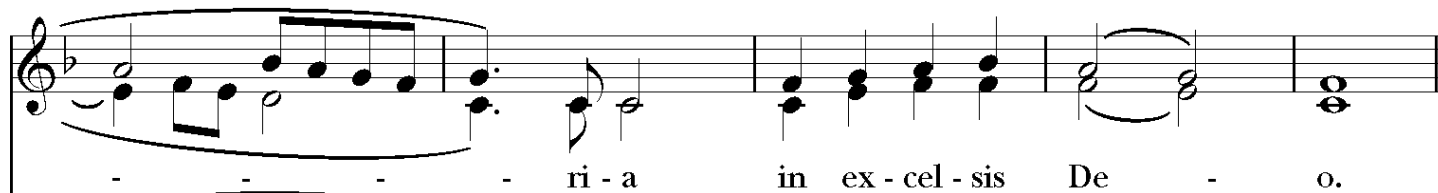
*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a



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



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

"Since 1998 my son John took our family out to dinner on Christmas Eve every year at 4:30PM. In 2018 when Madison and I started attending Holy Comforter, my son moved our Christmas eve dinner to 6:30PM, so that way our family could attend the Christmas pageant to see Madison in the play. Afterwards we went to our dinner and to my apartment to exchange and open gifts. This year we will continue our Christmas Eve tradition, it will just be a virtual tradition."

-Mary Jane Haupt



## LIGHT FROM LIGHT ETERNAL

A READING THE BOOK FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People

**Thanks be to God.**



*"When I was in college and joined the choir for Christmas Eve Service. I would start the service by singing the first verse of Once in Royal David's City from the balcony, the choir would process in and then I would sneak into the choir loft and join them. Mom always saved a space for me. I get super nervous about singing solo's and singing in parts, so Mom would start goofing off a bit to make me laugh. We got in trouble several times, for giggling during the service."*

*- Jen Otero*

# HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

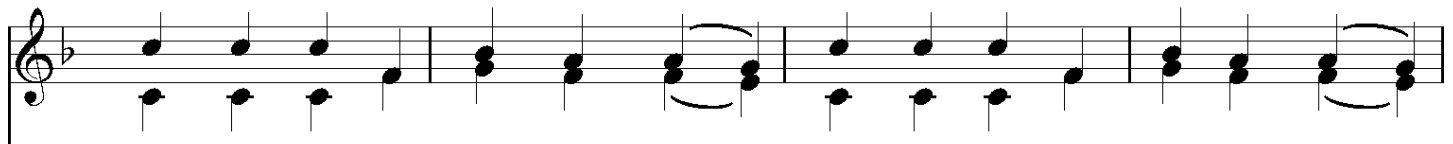
Mendelssohn



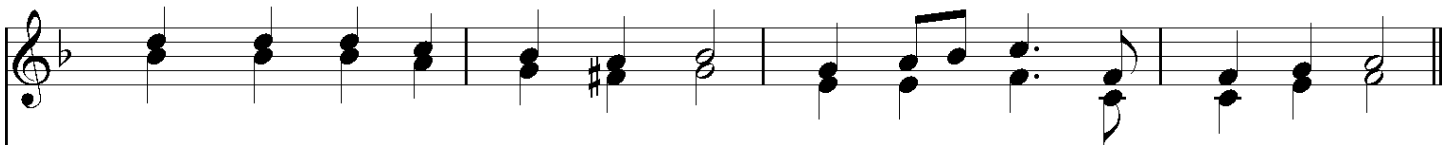
1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



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.

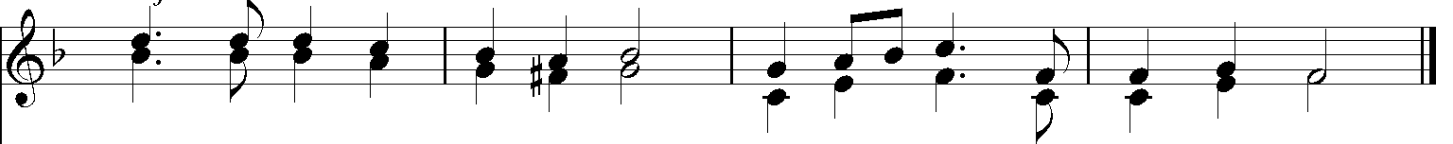


Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



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!

## Refrain



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



*"I remember my Mom and the flower guild spending days getting the church ready. It was always beautiful and all the candles made it feel so special. Mom would always tell people not to bump the candles along the middle because the glass globes were always so hard to clean due to the melted glass on them."*

*-Andy Nixon*



## SING CHOIRS OF ANGELS

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE

Luke 2:1-14

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

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!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

*"My daughter Jennifer played Mary in the Christmas Pageant for four straight years, because she was the only girl who would hold Joseph's hand" .*

*- Bill Pheil*

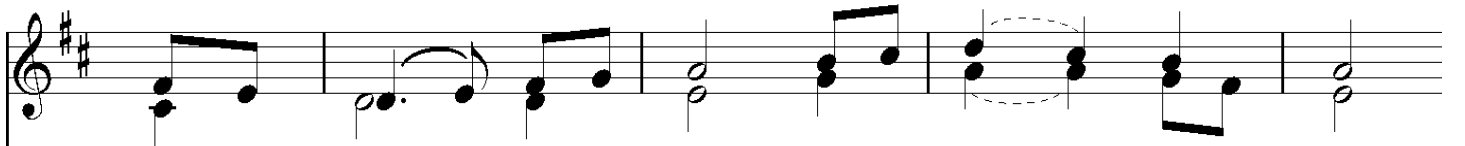


# SEE HOW THE SHEPHERDS

HOMILY The Reverend Chris Tang

THE FIRST NOWELL

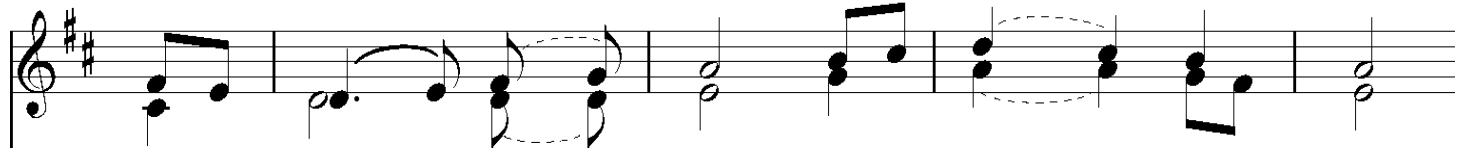
The First Nowell



1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
2 They look - ed up and saw a star



1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,



1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
2 and to the earth it gave great light,

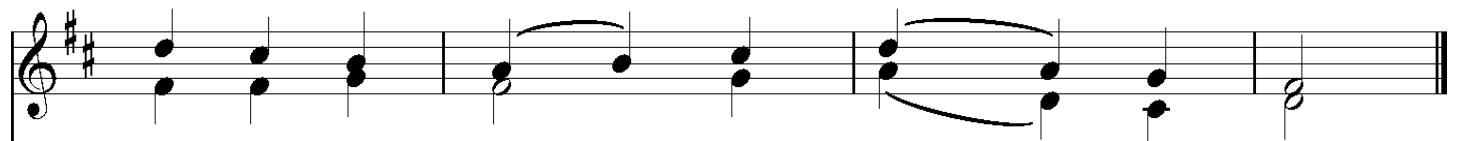


1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.  
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.

*Refrain*



No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,



born is the King of Is - ra - el.

# WHO WOULD NOT LOVE THEE, LOVING US SO DEARLY

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Incarnate God, your angel host announces that peace is born among us, embodied in frail flesh. With confidence in the power of that miracle, we bring you our prayers for the church and the world, responding “Come now, O God of love.”

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor will bring wholeness and healing to all who are afflicted with illness and disease, particularly Coronavirus, we invite God’s presence saying:

***Come now, O God of love.***

That as the Magi brought gifts to the new-born King, in this time of gift-giving, you would enrich our lives to be offerings of hope to those who are grieving, we invite God’s presence saying:

***Come now, O God of love.***

That as you entered the world in the poverty of the stable, you would instill in us the courage to dismantle the barriers that separate rich from poor, so that we may build together the just world you intended, we invite God’s presence saying:

***Come now, O God of love.***

That as you brought individuals together in the fullness of your love, you would inspire us to expand our own community, stretching out our arms of love to those alone, those discouraged and those in need, we invite God’s presence saying:

***Come now, O God of love.***

That as you brought joy into the world, you will continue to bring joy into our lives, allowing us to give thanks for the creation around us, for our families, friends and community, for doctors and nurses, for teachers and ministers, for everyone you inspire to make the world a better place, we invite God’s presence saying:

***Come now, O God of love.***

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night may be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us, knitting your people into shared life for all eternity, we invite God's presence saying:

***Come now, O God of love.***

Light of life, you came in flesh, born into human pain and joy, and gave us power to be your children. Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us. Fill us with your light, that as we walk in the way of peace, we may join our voices with heaven and earth in singing songs of gladness. In your holy name we pray. ***Amen***

## **THE PEACE**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

May the Peace of the Newborn King be always with you.

*People*

***And also with you.***

*"One of my dearest memories of Christmas Eve service was my Dad's last Christmas before he passed away the following year. I went to the evening service with just my Mom and Dad. The rest of my family didn't come with me. The Church was beautiful with all the candles lit in the evening. I will always remember that night with my mom and dad."*

*- Robin Rouse*



# WORD OF THE FATHER, NOW IN FLESH APPEARING

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Celebrant* 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 God thanks and praise.***

*Celebrant* It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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:



*"If you're single as I am without family nearby, Christmas Eve could be a bit lonely; but it never is because I have Holy Comforter. The darkness and cold of the winter night is quickly dispelled when I enter the candlelit chapel, and I'm greeted by members of my CHC family. Especially on this night, my faith family reaffirms for me that they are truly a reflection of God's boundless love for us all."*

*- Sandy Benson*

SANCTUS S130

Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
 might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. 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.

*Celebrant* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

***Christ has died.***

***Christ is risen.***

***Christ will come again.***

*The Celebrant continues*

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 has taught us we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

***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.*

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*If you picked up Communion, we invite you to share in the Holy Communion at this time.  
Pickup is available on Christmas Eve between 3 and 5PM.*

## PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

***Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you into my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Let me never be separated from you. Amen.***

*"It is not surprising that Christmas Fellowship events are at the top of my list of special Holy Comforter memories. I remember the wonderful Ladies Advent Teas we had with beautiful table settings and delicious tea sandwiches and desserts. Sure miss those times."*

*-Carol Franz*



## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant and People*


***Almighty and everliving God,  
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food  
of the most precious Body and Blood  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;  
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries  
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,  
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.  
And now, Father, send us out  
to do the work you have given us to do,  
to love and serve you  
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.  
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.***

*When I was growing up, we always went to the 4 PM Pageant. One year when I was in high school, my Dad announced that he thought it was time for us to go to the grown-up service. My sister started yelling that she needed to see the camel; my mom said that this was the only time she saw some people each year. But my dad still wanted us to go to the late service. The decision was made when my grandmother said, 'The 4 pm is where the kids are, and the kids are what makes it Christmas.'*

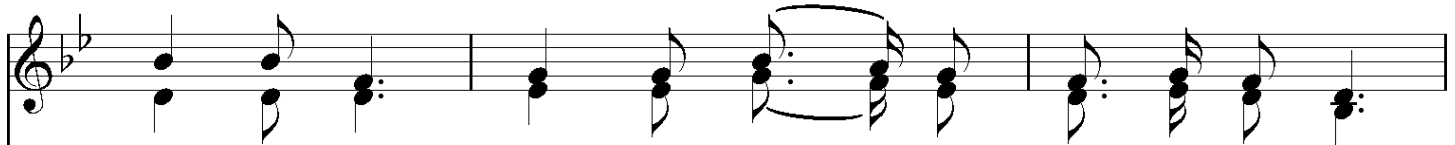
*-Will Shaw*

## 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.



*"I can't restrain it to one memory but the many when the lights are lowered and Silent Night is sung. Always an emotional time that imparts the true meaning of Christmas. Always away now at Christmas, but remember this special moment on Christmas Eve. God bless us, each and every one!"*

*- Tom Simpson*

*"And the bells....we rang bells for 6 years,  
I think we were pretty good. We practiced  
every Thursday, we rang Silent Night  
every Christmas Eve."*

*- Martha Hervey*



## JOHN 1:1-5,14

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.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

## THE BLESSING

## THE DISMISSAL

*The Deacon dismisses the people and the people respond.*

*Deacon* Holy People of God, take the Good news that Christ is born to all the world.

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**



*"My grandson Mike was a sheep. Except he kept insisting he wanted to be a pig. We kept trying to explain that there were no pigs in the manger. So finally he was dressed in his sheep costume and was at the manger. I don't remember if he oinked or not, but he probably did."*

*- Nor Rysticken*

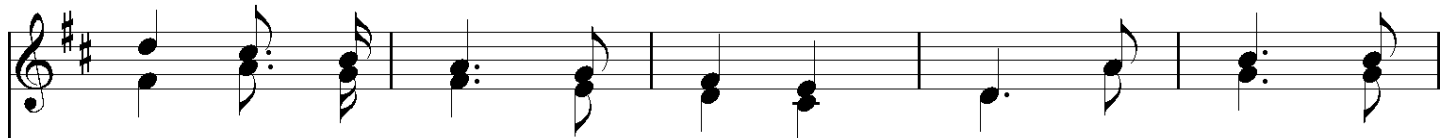


*"The songs, the scenery, the people, and the liturgy made me feel loved and cared for. Such very special memories"*

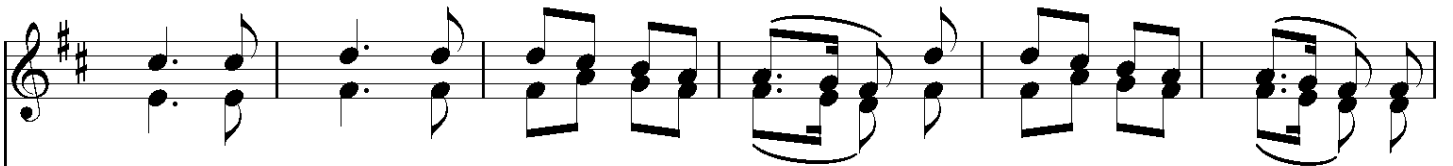
*- Bev Simpson*

JOY TO THE WORLD

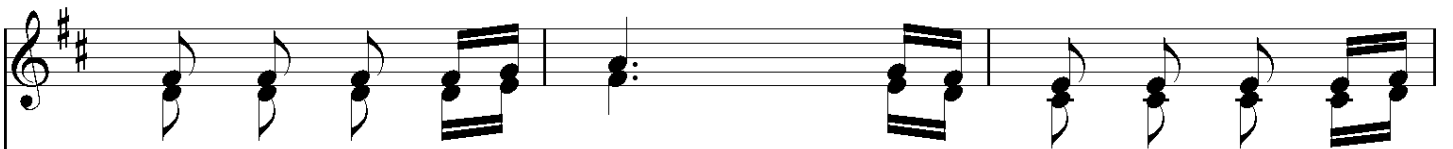
Antioch



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  
 repeat 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



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.

## PARTICIPANTS IN THIS SERVICE

Celebrant:	The Rev. Chris Tang
Associate Priest:	The Rev. William Bell
Deacon:	The Rev. Jo Leslie
Verger:	Will Shaw
Organist:	Susan Weisman
Acolyte:	John O'Brien
Prayer Leaders:	Wendy Hauck, Denise Noll, Bev Simpson
Recollections:	Nancy Peper, Peter Hawley, Denise Noll
Reader:	Sandy Benson
Flower Guild:	Wendy Hauck, Suzy Beck, Finley McGinty, Will Shaw
Violin:	Johnny Benson
Singers:	Pat Streett, Steffy Sabino, John Weisman, Connie Bailey, Kerry Holahan, Ben Hawker, and the Congregation of Holy Comforter

### **Flowers in the church and chapel are given to the glory of God by:**

- ✧ *Camille Eiden, in memory of her parents, Joseph and Ruth Eiden.*
- ✧ *Jeanie Gore, in memory of Ev & John Horst, Johnny Horst, and Ken Gore.*
- ✧ *Rita Ridgely, in memory of deceased family members, especially George Ridgely and Ann Lenderking, and in thanksgiving for family, friends, and the CHC Compline services.*

*"The Flower Ladies and Gents add to the experience of Christ in Worship. We add to God's message in living color and beauty. We laugh, cry, and work hard in the name of our maker. The Guild includes children, beginners and experts to bring "Christmas Glory" to families, the community, our Church and Chapel."*

*-Barbara Bull*



**Church of the Holy Comforter**  
**130 West Seminary Avenue**  
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## Giving to Holy Comforter

When uncertainty strikes, often times we turn our attention towards the church. The church is a place of support, a place of family, a place of comfort. Even though we may not be in the buildings, the church continues. Just as the church continues, so do the church's expenses.

We would encourage everyone to continue to give at whatever level they feel comfortable and appropriate at this time. There are a variety of ways to give.

Please visit [holycomforter.org/giving](https://holycomforter.org/giving) for more information on multiple options for giving to Holy Comforter.

We are actively working on plans for 2021. If you have not received our stewardship mailing and would like one, please contact the church office. Please return your pledge information for 2021 as soon as possible to the church office.

As Chris+ quoted a parishioner recently: "At this time it is not smart to buy stock but it is always a good idea to invest in love."

We pray that we will soon be back together physically, but until then we can still "Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God."

If you have any questions, please contact the church office (410-252-2711) or any member of the Vestry.

### **Weekly Online Offerings from The Church of the Holy Comforter**

Virtual Sunday Worship - YouTube (available each week at 8AM

Zoom Compline - Tuesdays and Thursdays 730 pm

### **Upcoming Holy Days 2021**

*Please check our website often for updates.*

- Wednesday, February 17th - Ash Wednesday
- Sunday, March 28th - Palm Sunday
- Thursday, April 1st - Maundy Thursday
- Friday, April 2nd - Good Friday
- Saturday, April 3rd - The Great Vigil of Easter
- Sunday, April 4th- Easter Sunday

To receive updates and news by email, subscribe at:

<https://holycomfortermd.org/enews-signup/>

## Make Christmas A Verb

For many, the gifts are the be-all and end-all:  
the big screen, the tablet, the Barbie and Ken doll.  
For me, gifts I get are like ice in the sun.  
I cannot recall them. No, not even one.

How did I find a true way to remember  
the import of each twenty-fifth of December?  
The quest to acquire is an urge one can curb.  
The lesson I learned was: make Christmas a verb.

Knock on the door of your neighbors who deal  
with aging and loneliness. Bring them a meal.  
If you have means and you live in fine fettle,  
drop off some greens in that little red kettle.

Visit our vets who are hurt and express  
your thanks for their service as they convalesce.  
Deliver to others a luminous glow.  
The gifts you will cherish are those you bestow.

Mark F. Stone

