

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 25, 2023
10:00AM



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
73 S. FULLERTON AVENUE, MONTCLAIR, NJ
973-744-6220 SLECHURCH.ORG

"Joyfully seeking and serving Christ"

Please stand as you are able and join in singing.

HYMN 100 *(The Hymnal 1982 Words: Isaac Watts Tune: Antioch, George Frideric Handel)*

Joy to the world

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

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

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

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

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

OPENING ACCLAMATION *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 355)*

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

People **And blessed by God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 355)*

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

Please stand as you are able and join in singing verse 1.

HYMN 96 *(The Hymnal 1982 Words: French carol Music: Gloria)*

Angels we have heard on high

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.

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

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 213)*

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People **And also with you**

Celebrant Let us pray.
Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Please be seated for the readings

THE FIRST LESSON

A reading from the book of Isaiah (52:7-10)

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

We will say the appointed Psalm alternately by verse.

PSALM 98 *(St. Helena Psalter)*

Sing a new song to God, *
who has done marvelous things.

With your right hand, O God, and your holy arm, *
you have won for yourself the victory.

You have made known your victory; *
your righteousness have you openly shown in the
sight of the nations.

You remember your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

Shout with joy to God, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

Sing to God with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets and the sound of the horn, *
shout with joy before God who reigns in majesty.

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before God,
who will come to judge the earth.

God shall judge the world in righteousness *
and the peoples with equity.

THE SECOND LESSON

A reading from the book of Hebrews (1:1-12)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

For to which of the angels did God ever say,

‘You are my Son;
today I have begotten you?’

Or again,

‘I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son?’

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

‘Let all God's angels worship him.’

Of the angels he says,

‘He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire.’

But of the Son he says,

‘Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;

therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.’

And,

‘In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

they will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like clothing;

like a cloak you will roll them up,

and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,

and your years will never end.’

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able and join in singing verses 1&2 before the Gospel and verses 3&4 after the Gospel.

HYMN 105 (The Hymnal 1982 Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: God Rest You Merry)

God rest you merry, gentlemen



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



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



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



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



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

Keyborad and guitar should not sound together.

Words: London carol, 18th cent.; Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. Music: *God Rest You Merry*, melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944) Copyright © The Church Pension Fund. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John (1:1-14)
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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 a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY *The Rev. John A. Mennell*

A period of silence will follow, then please stand as you are able.

THE NICENE CREED *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 358)*

Celebrant Let us stand together with Christians throughout the centuries and
throughout the world today, to affirm our faith
in the words of the Nicene Creed

All **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.
Who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
Who 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 *(Planning for Rites and Rituals Year B)*

Leader Welcome! Let your presence among us be reflected in our lives.

People **Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.**

Leader With the gift of angel song and joyful spirits, we rejoice at your coming among us. Sustain us, your people, with joy deep in our hearts. Give our bishops, priests, deacons, and all our faithful leaders a renewed sense of purpose and direction, that they may lead us in the way you would have us go.

People **Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.**

Leader Give the leaders of the nations an urgency for peace and brotherhood, that the world you entered be blessed by good tidings.

People **Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.**

Leader Shower people throughout the world with your blessings of beauty and purpose, freedom and plenty.

People **Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.**

Leader Open our hearts to the needs of those around us who are hungry or lonely, who struggle with the burdens of living, whose spirits are restless for you, especially for *[insert prayer list here.]*

People **Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.**

Leader Make whole those who suffer today with illness, with anxiety, with despair. May we care about them and care for them as our brothers and sisters.

People **Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.**

Leader Make whole those who suffer today with illness, with anxiety, with despair. May we care about them and care for them as our brothers and sisters.

People **Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.**

The Celebrant offers a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 360)*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Celebrant and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

Do you hear what I hear (*Gloria Shayne Baker*), soloist *Kelly Wenz*

During the offertory, a collection is gathered as we look to give back to God in thanksgiving for all the blessings in our life. As stewards of our gifts of treasure this opportunity to give back allows the church to continue its work in the world serving those in spiritual, emotional, and financial need.



When attending in person, we appreciate your remaining seated during the Offertory to enjoy the anthem. As you enter or leave the church, you may place your donation in the box labeled "Church Donation Box" at the back of the center aisle, or take advantage of the following options for giving electronically: Scan the QR code to the right; Text ("ThanksB2God" to 73256); Zelle (donate@slechurch.org); Venmo (@Saint-Lukes). Detailed information is available on the "Giving" tab of our website, slechurch.org.

*Please join us by sharing your abundance and pledging for 2024.
Our goal is \$525,000 and full participation.*



Make your pledge on the website at slechurch.org or by scanning the QR code. If you wish to discuss your pledge, reach out to our campaign co-chairs

Amy Lui Abel and Chelle Carter-Wilson at stewardship@slechurch.org.



Please stand and join in singing the refrain through twice as the gifts are brought forward.

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

HYMN 109 (*The Hymnal 1982 Words: English carol Music: The First Nowell*)

The first Nowell

Refrain

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

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Eucharistic Prayer B, Book of Common Prayer, p. 367)*

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.**

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God 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 human 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:

SANCTUS *(Hymnal 1982, S125 Composer: Richard Proulx)*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues, you may stand or kneel

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, our Savior. For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate Son from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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 God,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection
We await his coming 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 Mary and 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 God, now and for ever.

All

AMEN!

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 364)*

Feel free to pray in whatever language and words that bring you closer to God.

Celebrant

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

All

| | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Our | Mother | who art in heaven, |
| | Father | |
| | Creator | |
| | 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. | |

BREAKING OF THE BREAD *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 364)*

Celebrant

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

INVITATION *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 365)*

Celebrant

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts, by faith, with thanksgiving.

You will be guided when it is your turn to join the Communion line.

HYMN 79 *(The Hymnal 1982 Words: Phillips Brooks Music: St. Louis)*

O little town of Bethlehem



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 365)*

Celebrant

Let us pray.

All

**Eternal God, heavenly Being,
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.**

BLESSING *(Book of Occasional Services p. 23)*

Celebrant

May almighty God, who sent a Child 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 God's holiness.

All

Amen.

Celebrant

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

All

Amen.

Celebrant

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

All

Amen.

Celebrant

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.

Please stand as you are able and join in singing.

HYMN 99 *(The Hymnal 1982 Words: Afro-American spiritual Music: Go Tell It on the Mountain)*

Go tell it on the mountain

Refrain

Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and

ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that

Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their
2 The shep - herds feared and
3 Down in a low - ly

watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

Repeat Refrain

hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho - ly light.
 out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.
 God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

DISMISSAL *(Book of Common Prayer, p. 365)*

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia

People **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

POST POSTLUDE

Baby Jesus is Born (Garth Brooks, b. 1962)

All are invited to come forward and join in the joyful dance in celebration of Jesus' birth.

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 Authorized expansive language is used where practical throughout the liturgy.

WELCOME TO ST. LUKE'S

We are very glad that you are able to join us.

Please feel free to contact us through our website at slechurch.org.

ST. LUKE'S VESTRY & LEADERS

Wardens

Godfrey Gregg
Denise Price

Class of 2024

Susan Andersen
Stephanie Borsi
Alison Curtin
Patrick Rodriguez

Class of 2025

Shahri Griffin
Tim Mannion
Okey Okuzu
Martha Thalheimer

Class of 2026

Rochelle Carter-Wilson
Sean McDonald
Kayode Oyegbite
Stevie Tryson

Clerk

Alison Curtin

Treasurer

Patrick Rodriguez

Sexton

Bayron Jiménez

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Executive Director: Anne Mernin

Director of Kitchen Operations: Stacey Cooper

Financial & Grant Management: Kerry Giles

Administrative Support: Jennifer Pine

Enterprise Architect: Felice Bettenbender

Part-Time Shift Managers:
Maggie Rabelo & Deb Sharp