

CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP

DECEMBER 25, 2025
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 112 (The Hymnal 1982 Words: Christina Rossetti Music: Cranham, Gustav Theodore Holst)

In the bleak midwinter




1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim throng - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 the Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

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 A)*

- Celebrant* The Lord God is both sun and shield; God will give grace and glory. In the house of our God, let us pray, “Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer.”
- Leader* We give thanks for your Church, O God. Bless it with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places. May we be made happy in the knowledge of the hope to which we are called. *Silence.* Lord God of hosts,
- People* **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* We give thanks for this nation, O God. Give to our leaders a spirit of wisdom. Deliver them from selfish ambition and give all the people a heart for your children, especially those little ones born into poverty. *Silence.* Lord God of hosts,
- People* **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* We give thanks for your creation, O God. Where there is desolation, bring forth springs of clean water. Where your creatures are without a place, may they find a place with you. *Silence.* Lord God of hosts,
- People* **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* We give thanks for this city, O God. Set us on a straight path where we shall not stumble. Bring new life to languishing areas. *Silence.* Lord God of hosts,
- People* **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* We give thanks for all those in our lives, O God. We pray especially for those who know weeping and tears. Turn their mourning into joy, comfort them and give them gladness for sorrow, especially for *[insert prayer list here.]*. *Silence.* Lord God of hosts,
- People* **Hear our prayer.**
- Leader* We give thanks for the saints at rest, O God. Gather them into your great heavenly company. May they enjoy forever the riches of your glorious inheritance among the saints. *Silence.* Lord God of hosts,
- People* **Hear our prayer.**
- Celebrant* 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.**

*When invited,
please offer your
prayer concerns
aloud.*

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 *(Words: Anonymous Music: James R. Murray)*

Mary borned a baby *Soloist: Waren Carr*

GIVE JOYFULLY THIS SEASON

During the offertory, a collection is gathered as we look to give back to God in thanksgiving for all the blessings in our life. Please remain seated during the Offertory to enjoy the anthem. You are invited to take advantage of the following options for giving electronically: Scan the QR codes below to donate through Venmo, Zelle, or our church database. Detailed information is available on the “Giving” tab of our website, slechurch.org.



venmo



zelle



realm

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

HYMN 101 (Hymnal 1982 Tune: Cradle Song)

Away in a Manger

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Thank you to all who help make our services meaningful.

SERVERS:

Verger: Godfrey Gregg

Worship Assistant: Martha Thalheimer

Virtual Verger: Stevie Tryson

Readers: Denise Price, Matthew Price, Steph Borsi, Stevie Tryson

Ushers: Maia Davis, Lettie Teague

FLOWER GUILD:

Tim Mannion, Gordon Frey, Martha Thalheimer, Jana Cardoza, Cathie Mazza, Susie Patterson

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 *(The 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 115 *(The Hymnal 1982 Words: William Chatterton Dix Music: Greensleeves)*

What child is this

Unison or harmony



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds
 guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
 bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

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 109 *(The Hymnal 1982 Words: English carol Music: 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
3 And by the light of that same star
4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
3 three wise men came from coun - try far,
4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
2 and to the earth it gave great light,
3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
4 and there it did both stop and stay
5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
3 and to fol - low the star where - ev - er it went.
4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is simple and repetitive, with the lyrics 'No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well, born is the King of Is - ra - el.' written below the notes. The first four measures are identical, each containing the words 'No - well,'. The fifth measure begins with 'born' and continues with 'is the King of Is - ra - el.' across the remaining measures. The music is a simple harmonic setting with a steady rhythm.

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

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.