

# Christmas Eve

A Service for Families and Children



5:00 p.m. - 24 December A.D. 2018

**Episcopal Church of the Ascension**  
205 South Summit Ave. · Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877  
Phone: 301.948.0122      [www.ascensionmd.org](http://www.ascensionmd.org)

Prelude

Manger Medley,  
Arr.. Mark Hayes

Hymnal 1982 #83, vs. 1, 3 and 6

O come, all ye faithful

Opening Prayer

Let us love God with our hearts  
*People:* **and our neighbors as ourselves.**  
 Let us love God with our minds.  
*People:* **and our neighbors as ourselves**  
 Let us love God with our strength  
*People:* **and our neighbors as ourselves.**

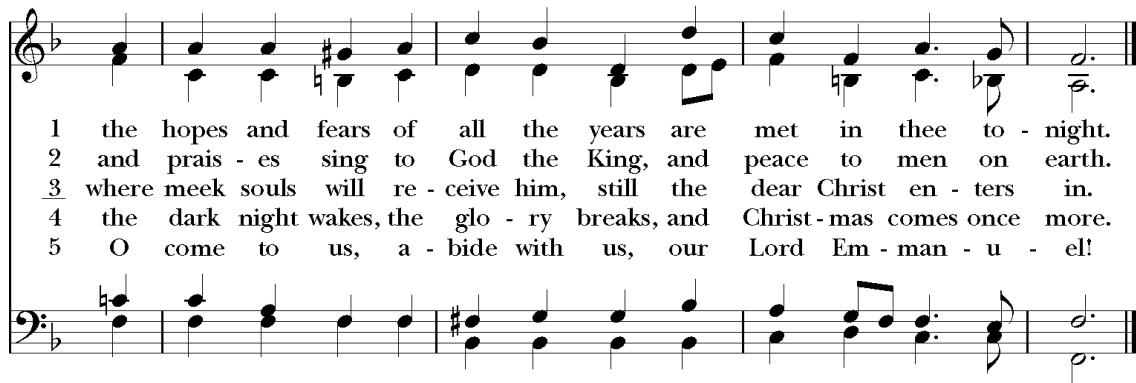
Hymnal 1982 #79, vs. 1, 2, 3 and 5

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 Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. All went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guest-room. Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, "Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors." When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, "Let's go right now to Bethlehem and see what's happened. Let's confirm what the Lord has revealed to us." They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

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

## Christmas Story

**The Affirmation of Faith  
Priest and People**

You, O God, are supreme and holy,  
You create our world and give us life.  
Your purpose overarches everything we do.  
You have always been with us.  
You are God.  
You, O God, are infinitely generous,  
Good beyond all measure.  
You came to us before we came to you.

You have revealed and proved  
Your love for us in Jesus Christ,  
Who lived and died and rose again.  
You are with us now.  
You are God.  
You, O God, are Holy Spirit.  
You empower us to be your gospel in the  
world.  
You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.  
You are our God. We worship you.

**Prayer Time**

We thank God for what we have and ask God for what we want.

**The Peace**

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

**Offertory**

*While the altar table is prepared, we pass the offering plates and sing.*

**Hymnal 1982 #99**

**Go tell it on the mountain**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord is here.

People: **God's Spirit is with us,**

Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is good for us to always give thanks to you, Lord God, creator of heaven and earth. So we praise you, singing with all the angels of heaven this hymn to you:

*After the preface, all sing together:*

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Go tell it on the mountain'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and' are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes.

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.

On the night before he died, Jesus gathered his friends together to share a meal. Before they ate, he lifted up the bread and wine to God and gave thanks. He thanked God for making the wheat for the bread and the grapes for the wine. After he gave thanks for the bread and the wine, Jesus took the bread and broke it into pieces—one piece for each of his friends.

Then Jesus gave the bread to his friends, and when he did he said, “Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this to remember me.” Jesus wanted his friends to remember him whenever they ate bread together.

Next Jesus shared the cup of wine with his friends. He said to them, “Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood shed for you. Whenever you drink it, do this to remember me.” Jesus also wanted his friends to remember him when they drank wine together.

That night at Jesus’ last meal before he died, he asked his friends to remember him. Today, we also remember Jesus as we share bread and wine together. We remember Jesus died on the cross and we also remember he rose from the grave.

We remember this mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.  
Christ has risen.  
Christ will come again.**

At dinner that night Jesus made a promise to his friends. He said, "I will never leave you alone. I will send God's Holy Spirit to fill your hearts and your minds." Jesus makes that same promise to us today. Jesus helps us and is with us in everything we do and everywhere we go.

So, today, we ask the Holy Spirit of God to touch this bread, this cup, and our own hearts so we may remember Jesus just as his friends did at that dinner long ago. Blessed Trinity, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, we give you praise and glory now and forever. **AMEN.**

*The prayer finishes with the Lord's Prayer:*

**Our Father in heaven,  
holy is your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us  
as we forgive others.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*Silence is kept as the priest breaks the bread*

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

*People:* **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

*All are welcome to receive communion. If you do not wish to receive, cross your hands over your chest and the priest will give you a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are also available. Make your need known to the Clergy by holding up three fingers. If you wish to learn more about baptism, please speak to one of the clergy. After receiving the bread and wine, or a blessing, you may return to your seat.*

## The Prayer After Communion

We thank you, Lord, for this life.  
We thank you for this holy food.  
Strengthen us for your service.  
And be with us always. *Amen.*

## The Blessing

*Priest:* Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road, and may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon us today and remain with us always.

Hymnal 1982 #100, vs. 1, 2, 4

Joy to the world!

Postlude

Joy to the world,

Arr. Joseph M. Martin

## The Dismissal

Priest or Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



ORGAN/PIANO: Andrew Kullberg

*Donors of Christmas Flowers in memory or honor of loved ones,  
may pick up a booklet on the table in the hallway.*

## Leadership at Ascension

### *Clergy*

The Rev. Javier García Ocampo, *Priest in Charge*

The Rev. Nan Hildebrand, *Pastoral Associate*

The Rev. Eugene Wright, *Deacon*

### *Musicians*

Andrew Kullberg, *Minister of Music*

Jesse Velazquez, *Spanish Service Music Director*

The Ascension Choir

### *Wardens*

Betsy Hasegawa, *Senior Warden*

Zadinga Ogada, *Junior Warden*

### *Vestry*

2019: Rose Buck, Zadinga Ogada, John Pruessner

2020: Gordon Donnelly, Meredith Horan, Luis Pedron

2021: Susan McLaughlin, Berenice Rodriguez, Robert Waters

Danielle Allen, *Clerk of the Vestry*

Avin Lalmansingh, *Treasurer*

### *Ministry Area Leaders*

Megan Didavi, *Christian Formation for Children*

Angie Hight-Walker, *Christian Formation for Youth*

Ted Bedell, *Facilities*

Avin Lalmansingh, *Finance*

Paul Boynton, *Mission*

Javier Ocampo/Nan Hildebrand, *Pastoral Care*

Jean Cohn, *Personnel*

Curt Lindsay/Gary McLaughlin, *Worship*

### *Delegates to Diocesan Convention*

Mardia Dennis, Gary McLaughlin, Sue Snay

Alternate: Fredy Diaz

### *Staff*

Lin Keene, *Parish Administrator*

Eleni Hailu, *Media Specialist*



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