

Christmas at St. Paul's



Christmas Choral Service

DECEMBER 24, 2024
9:00 PM CHRISTMAS EVE

Music of the Season

Hymn 104 – “A stable lamp is lighted”

“The Linden Tree Carol”

Noël Grand Choeur

“A Winter Carol”

Hymn 109 – “The first Nowell the angel did say”

Le Noël Languedocien

“Nativity Carol”

Joseph est bien Marie

Andújar

Old German tune arr. Reginald Jacques

Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier

Fred Gramann

The First Nowell

Alexander Guilmant

John Rutter

Claude Balbastre

ORDER OF SERVICE

The people are invited to stand

HYMN • 83, “O come, all ye faithful”

Adeste Fideles

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant The people who walked in darkness

People **have seen a great light.**

Celebrant For to us a child is born

People **to us a Son is given.**

Celebrant His name will be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

People **Glory to God in the highest and peace to his people on earth.**

CANTICLE: Hymn 96, “Angels we have heard on high” (v.1)

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of David's fragile house of hope and expectation: in the time of empires, your word is born to those who have no place and sung to those who watch in the wild; may his birth unsettle our world with hidden glory and untold peace; through Jesus Christ, the Child of Promise.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated

LESSON • Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah
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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God**


The Response

Psalm 96: 1-4, 11-12

Peter Hallock

The Refrain is first sung by the Choir and repeated by All, and then as indicated.

Organ: *Everyone:*



To us a child is born; to us a Son is giv-en.

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth. Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day. **Antiphon**

Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples. For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods. **Antiphon**

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein. Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth. **Antiphon**

EPISTLE • Titus 2:11-14

Lector A reading from the Letter to Titus.
For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people are invited to stand

GRADUAL HYMN • 91, "Break forth, O beauteous heavenly light"

Ermuntre dich

Please remain standing

HOLY GOSPEL • Luke 2:1-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

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

Celebrant 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!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

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

Please be seated.

SERMON

A brief silence follows the sermon.

The people are invited to stand

NICENE CREED

The word “creed” comes from the Latin credo, translated here as “we believe.” Credo is not simply belief in accurate propositions, but more deeply a sense of relationship or trust—an alternate translation might be “we give our heart,” “we trust,” “we rely upon.” Developed in the fourth century as a means of unifying a divided church, the Nicene Creed has been used by Christians in worship for almost two

thousand years, and connects us to our ancient ancestors in the Communion of Saints. The Creed is used in worship not because it comprises a list of doctrinal statements one must affirm in order to be considered a Christian, but rather as a song of praise and confidence in the Holy Trinity: God in three persons who creates, redeems and sanctifies a holy people.

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.
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.**

Please remain standing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Heavenly Father, on this holy night, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger. Receive the worship we offer through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Silence is kept.

Holy God, **Hear our prayer.**

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

*At the Offertory, we return thanks for God's blessings in our lives and invite you to place your contribution in the offering plate in the main aisle or give by texting 73256 entering **stpaulsyr** (all lower case) and the amount you want to give.*

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM • “What sweeter music”

John Rutter (b.1945)

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol, for to sing the birth of this our heavenly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honor to this day that sees December turned to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause, shy things thus fragrant be: 'tis he is born, whose quickening birth gives life and lustre, public mirth, to heaven and the underearth. We see him come, and know him ours, who, with his sunshine and his showers, turns the patient ground to flowers, turns all the patient ground to flowers. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is, we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here, is the heart, which we will give him; and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honor; who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling.

The people are invited to stand as the offering is brought forward

OFFERTORY HYMN 102 • “Once in royal David's city”

Irby

Celebrant All things come of Thee, O Lord.
People And of thine own have we given thee.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharist Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so 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.

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS: Hymnal S-130 From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

The letter 'S' before a music selection indicates it will be found in the front section of the hymnal, known as the Service Music.

Celebrant

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."

All

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

Celebrant

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.

All

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All

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 breaking of the bread symbolizes the activity whereby God emptied Godself of divine power for purpose of reconciling Godself with us. We have no words to accurately describe this divine activity, thus a period of 10-15 seconds of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread and before the singing of the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM: Hymnal S-164

Franz Schubert

The people are invited to be seated.

You are invited to consume the consecrated bread immediately after you receive it. If you choose to receive the wine, drink directly from the cup. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask the communion minister. The sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both.

After you receive communion please move to one of the side aisles, take a candle, light it from the pillar candle, then return to your seat. Following the distribution of communion, the lights will be dimmed, and the congregation is invited to join in singing 'Silent Night'.

At the Communion:

“What Child is this” – Traditional arr. Malcolm Archer

“What is this lovely fragrance” – Traditional arr. Healey Willan

Hymn after Communion 111, “Silent Night”

Stille Nacht

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing Alleluia! Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!
3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light; radiant beams from thy holy
face with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

The People are invited to stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant

Let us pray.

All **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

HYMN • 87, “Hark! the herald angels sing”

Mendelssohn

DISMISSAL

People:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

VOLUNTARY • *In dulci jubilo*, BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach

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Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul's prayer leaders.

The Collect of the Day is taken from “Prayers for an Inclusive Church, 2009.”

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: Julia Fine with Nancy and Harry Lambright

Lay Readers: Bob and Anita Wagner

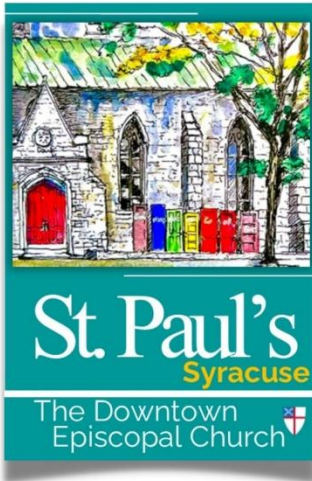
Ushers: Ieva & Jim Doyle

Flower Guild: Harriet Averill, Liz Belden-Handler, Tim Cassavaw, Betsy Elkins,
Marion Greenhalgh, Jim Potts and Sandy Wiley

Announcements for December 24:

* Next Sunday, December 29th, we will hold one worship service at 9:30 a.m.

* During this Christmas Season we give thanks for those who have worked many extra hours to prepare for and lead our worship services, including members of our choir, ushers, lectors, flower guild, altar guild, Eucharistic Ministers, and St. Paul's Staff.



St. Paul's Syracuse
The Downtown Episcopal Church
310 Montgomery St. Syracuse, NY 13202
315 474-6053 www.stpaulsyr.org



Christmas Flower Memorials & Honorariums



**In loving memory of Andrew Besemer
Given by Tim Cassavaw**

**In loving memory of Michael F. Fallon III
Given by Lynn Fallon**

**In loving memory of Nathaniel & Clara Abbott and William & Virginia Elkins
Given by Betsy Elkins**

**In loving memory of Sarah B. and Frederick A. Wolff
Given by Cathy Wolff**

**In loving memory of Charles Goetz
Given by Ellie Major**

**In loving memory of Flora and Gordon Major
Given by Ellie, Philip and Tom Major**

**In thanksgiving for my family
Given by Debbie Bogan**

**In Loving Memory of John Philip Jones, Philip Alexander Hoblyn Jones and
Richard John (Jake) Vorisek. May they rest in peace.
Given by Wendy Hoblyn Jones**

**In loving memory of Ted & Sue Kober, Anne Kober Weir, and Michael Caine
Given by The Rev. Perry & Doug Mouncey**

**In loving memory of William & Dorothy Mouncey, W. Neil Mouncey,
and Frank & Gladys Mouncey
Given by The Rev. Perry & Doug Mouncey**

**In loving memory of The Rev. Harold Avery
Given by Jeanne Avery**

**In loving memory of Carolyn Grieb, in honor of the support and love she gave to the Godly Play
program.
Given by Jeanne Avery**

**In loving memory of Leon & Bernadine Pickard, Nancy (Pickard) Hickey
Given by Mary & Barry Pickard**

**For the Glory of God
Given by Jim & Ieva Doyle**

**In loving memory of Ruth E. & Frank Webster, Bernice D. & George A Anderson, Jr.
Given by Marcia & George A. Anderson III**

**In loving memory of Philip & Elizabeth Chase, Charles & Laura Estabrook, Morris & Mary Chase,
and Hilda Broad
Given by Sarah Chase**