



Organ Prelude – Chuck Shaeffer

**The Processional Carol - O Come all ye Faithful**

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;  
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

God from God, Light from Light,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God, begotten not created;  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
'Glory to God, in the highest;'  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

## The Gathering Of The Community

In the name of God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life.

**Amen.**

The Word has become flesh and dwelt among us.

**We have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from God.**

### Gloria

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we  
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus  
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy

on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,  
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most  
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the  
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Setting: Robert Powell (b. 1932)

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## The Christmas Collect

The Lord be with you.

**The Lord bless you.**

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 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.

**Amen.**

### The First Reading – Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;  
all day and all night  
they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,  
take no rest,  
and give him no rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand  
and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain  
to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink the wine  
for which you have labored;  
but those who garner it shall eat it  
and praise the LORD,  
and those who gather it shall drink it  
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway,  
clear it of stones,  
lift up an ensign over the peoples.

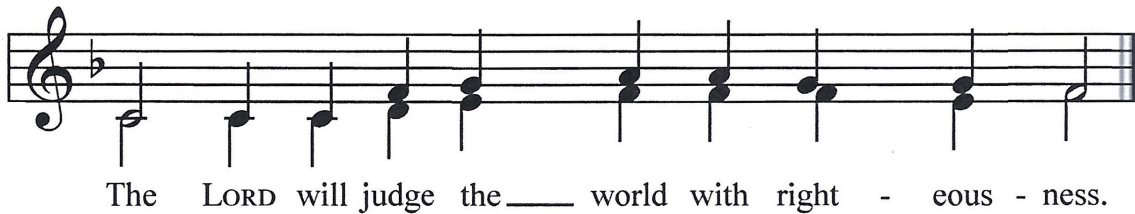
The LORD has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:

Say to daughter Zion,  
"See, your salvation comes;

his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him."  
They shall be called, "The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the LORD";  
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Psalm 98

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, \*  
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm \*  
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; \*  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the na-  
tions.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, \*  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; \*  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, \*  
with the harp and the voice of song.

- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn \*  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, \*  
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, \*  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world \*  
and the peoples with equity.

### **The Second Reading – Titus 3:4-7**

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Carol – O Little Town of Bethlehem**

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.

O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all the earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

### **The Gospel Reading – Luke 2: 1-20**

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**The Sermon—Fr. Brian Dawson**

### **The Prayers of the People**

Christ, for whom there was no room in the inn,  
give courage to all who are homeless;  
in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

Christ, who fled into Egypt,  
give comfort to all refugees;  
in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Christ, who fasted in the desert,  
give relief to all who are starving;  
in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Christ, who hung in agony on the cross,  
give strength to all who suffer;  
in your mercy

**hear our prayer.**

Lord of the Church

**hear our prayer,  
and make us one in heart and mind  
to serve you with joy for ever. Amen.**

### Reconciliation

As the coming of the Christ draws near,  
we wait with the shepherds in penitence and faith.

*Silence*

You were born for our salvation:

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

You came as Savior to bring wholeness and peace:

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

You come to bring light into the darkness of our lives:  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

*The priest announces that we are forgiven:*

God forgives you.  
Be at peace.  
**Amen**

**The Peace**

The peace of Christ be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

### **Carol – The First Noel**

The first Noel the angel did say  
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep,  
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.*

They looked up and saw a star  
shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light,  
and so it continued both day and night.

*Noel, Noel ...*

And by the light of that same star  
three Wise Men came from country far;  
to seek for a king was their intent,  
and to follow the star wherever it went.

*Noel, Noel ...*

This star drew nigh to the northwest,  
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;  
and there it did both stop and stay,  
right over the place where Jesus lay.

*Noel, Noel ...*

Then entered in those Wise Men three,  
full reverently upon the knee,  
and offered there, in his presence,  
gold and myrrh and frankincense.

*Noel, Noel ...*

### **The Eucharistic Prayer**

The Lord is here.

**God's Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

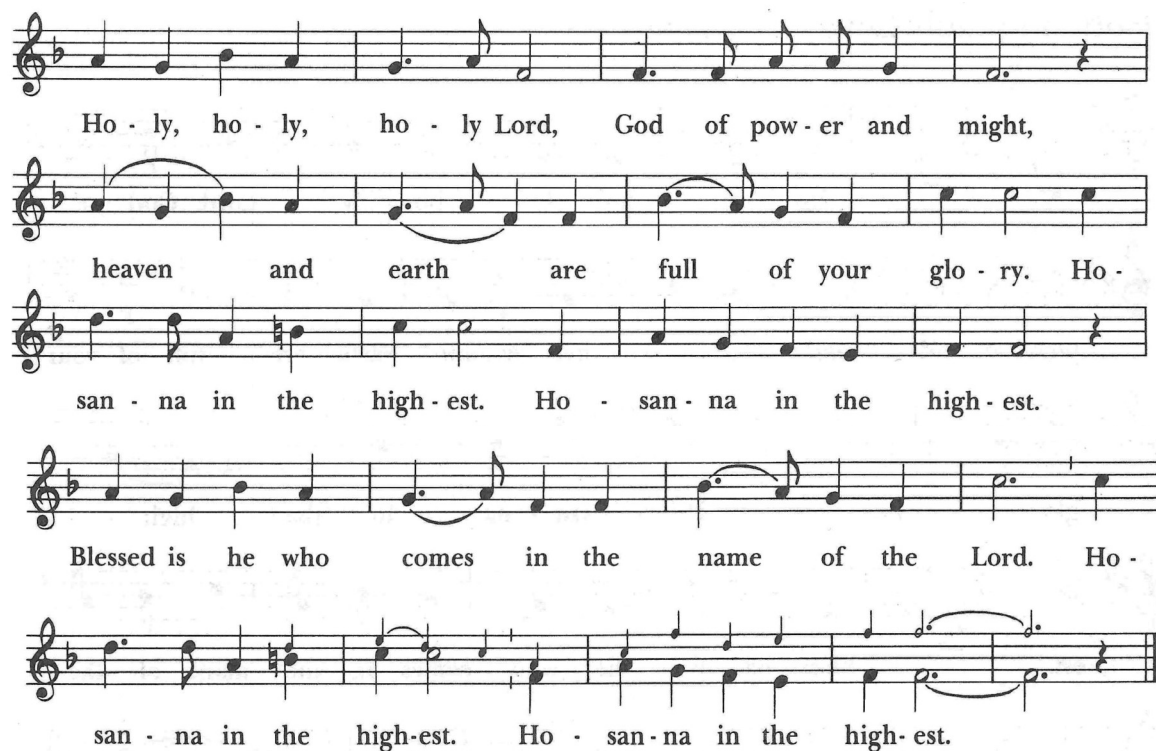
It is right indeed, O God, to give you thanks and praise  
through Jesus Christ.

Today in him all things are made new.

In his becoming like us, we have become like him  
and in our humanity we share your divinity.

Therefore with your people  
throughout the world and all time,  
and with the choirs of angels,  
joyfully we give you thanks and sing:

### Sanctus



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 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Setting: From *A Community Mass*; Richard Proulx (b. 1937)

O God, you are holy indeed, the fountain of all holiness.

On that night before he died your Son whose birth we celebrate took  
bread.

After giving thanks he broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you;

do this to remember me.

After supper, he took the cup and gave you thanks.

Then he gave it to them and said:

Drink this, it is my blood of the new covenant, shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sins; do this as often as you drink it, to remember me.

Remembering the gift of your Son and celebrating the wonder of your grace, we proclaim now the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come in glory.**

Redeemer God, rich in mercy, infinite in goodness, we were far off until you brought us near. Send your Holy Spirit, that we who receive Christ's body may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

O the depths and riches of your wisdom, O God;  
how unsearchable are your judgements  
and untraceable your ways. From you and through you  
and for you are all things. To you be the glory forever.

**Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

And so as our Savior taught we are bold to sing:

Our Fa-ther who art in hea-ven, Hal-lowed be thy Name, Thy king-dom  
come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea ven. Give us this day our  
dai-ly bread. For-give us our tres-pas es, As we for-give those who tres pass a-gainst us,  
as we for-give. And lead us not in-to temp-ta-ion, but de-li-ver us from  
e-vil. Thine is the king-dom and the pow-er and the  
glo-ry for ev-er. A-men

### **The Communion**

Christ's body was broken for us on the cross.

**Christ is the bread of life.**

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

**Christ is risen from the dead.**

### **The Invitation**

*All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.*

*Gluten free wafers are available. If you want just a blessing, please come to the altar rail and cross your arms over your body.*

### **Carol During Communion-In The Bleak Midwinter**

In the bleak midwinter  
Frosty wind made moan  
Earth stood hard as iron  
Water like a stone  
Snow had fallen  
Snow on snow, snow on snow  
In the bleak midwinter, long, long ago  
Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him  
Nor earth sustain  
Heaven and earth shall flee away  
When He comes to reign  
In the bleak mid-winter  
A stable-place sufficed  
Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ



Enough for Him whom cherubim  
Worship night and day  
A breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay  
Enough for Him whom angels fall down before  
The ox and ass and camel  
Which adore  
Angels and archangels may have gathered there  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air  
But only His mother in her maiden bliss  
Worshipped the Beloved  
With a kiss  
What can I give Him  
Poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would give a lamb  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part  
Yet what I can, I give Him  
Give my heart

### *Prayer After Communion*

**Son of Mary, Son of God,  
may we, for whom the heavens have opened  
to proclaim that God is with us,  
we, who like the shepherds  
have seen in your birth a new kind of love,  
we who have fed on living bread  
and drunk the wine of heaven,  
go out to be instruments of your peace,  
day by day.**

**Amen.**

## The Blessing

### Carol – Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hark, the herald-angels sing,  
glory to the new-born King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'  
*Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:  
hail, the incarnate Deity,  
pleased as one with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace:  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness.  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.

Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
*Hark, the herald-angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.*

### The Dismissal

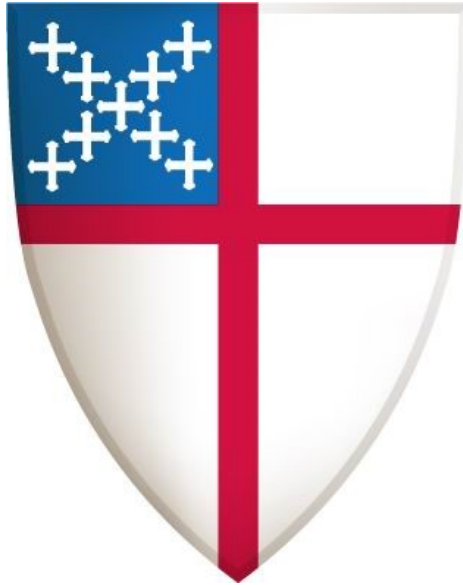
Sisters and brothers,  
be prepared to find Christ in the neighbour and the stranger,  
be ready to give a cup of cold water to one who is thirsty,  
be alert to the poor, the hungry, the outcast.  
Go into the world with the peace of Christ  
to fulfil your high calling as servants of the Prince of Peace.

**Amen. We go in the name of Christ.**

### Postlude— Chuck Sheaffer

The poinsettias at the altar are given to the Glory of God and by Bob and Clare Jensen in memory of their parents and Bridget and Elsie.

**We wish you a joy-filled Christmas Day  
and a safe and blessed New Year**



St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Modesto, CA

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