

A CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST FOR MIDNIGHT

December 24, 2024



St Paul's Episcopal Church, Modesto CA

saintpaulsmodesto.org



Organ Prelude – Chuck Shaeffer

The Processional Carol – It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (Carol sheet)

The Gathering Of The Community

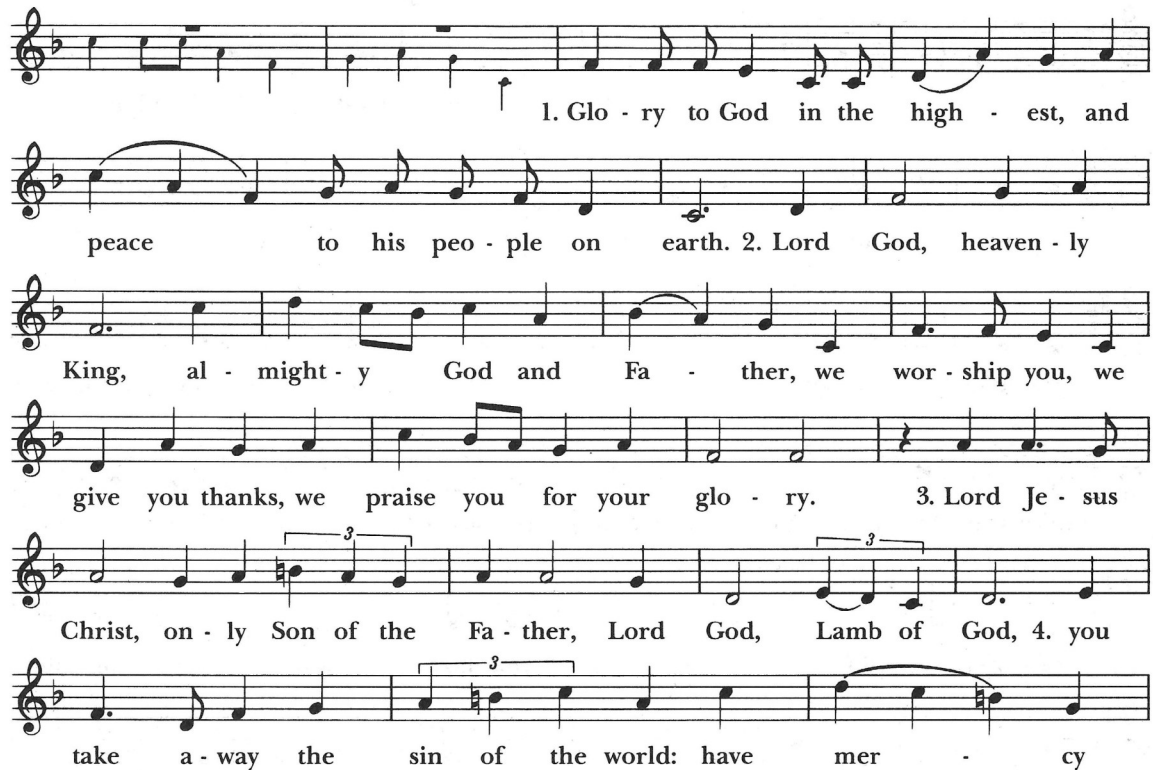
In the name of God: Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life.

Amen.

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

And we beheld his glory.

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)

The Blessing of the Crib ~ The nativity scene is blessed

Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship the Son, born of the Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

Loving God, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who is alive and reigns forever.

Amen

The Christmas Collect

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

Amen.

The First Reading – Isaiah 9: 2-7

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

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

- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 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.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

The Second Reading – Titus 2: 11-14

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Carol – While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night (Carol sheet)

The Christ Candle on the Advent Wreath is lit

The Gospel Reading – Luke 2: 1-14

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!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon—Fr. Brian Dawson

Cello Solo by Eric Sheaffer – O Holy Night

The Prayers of the People

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour was born in human flesh.

Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour, brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God

hear our prayer.

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in all the world.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.
Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying
in the manger.

Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to
heaven.

Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of
your coming kingdom.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth.
Open our hearts that he may be born in us today.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.

Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Reconciliation

As Christ comes to make all things new,
so let us bring to God the old, the ugly, the hurtful,
that we may be made whole.

Silence

God our Father,
you sent your Son full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Jesus our Saviour,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.

Christ, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Spirit of Love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

The priest announces that we are forgiven:

God forgives you. Be at peace.

Amen

The Christ is born this holy night.

The Prince of Peace has come.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

Choral Anthem-Mary's Baby Boy

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.

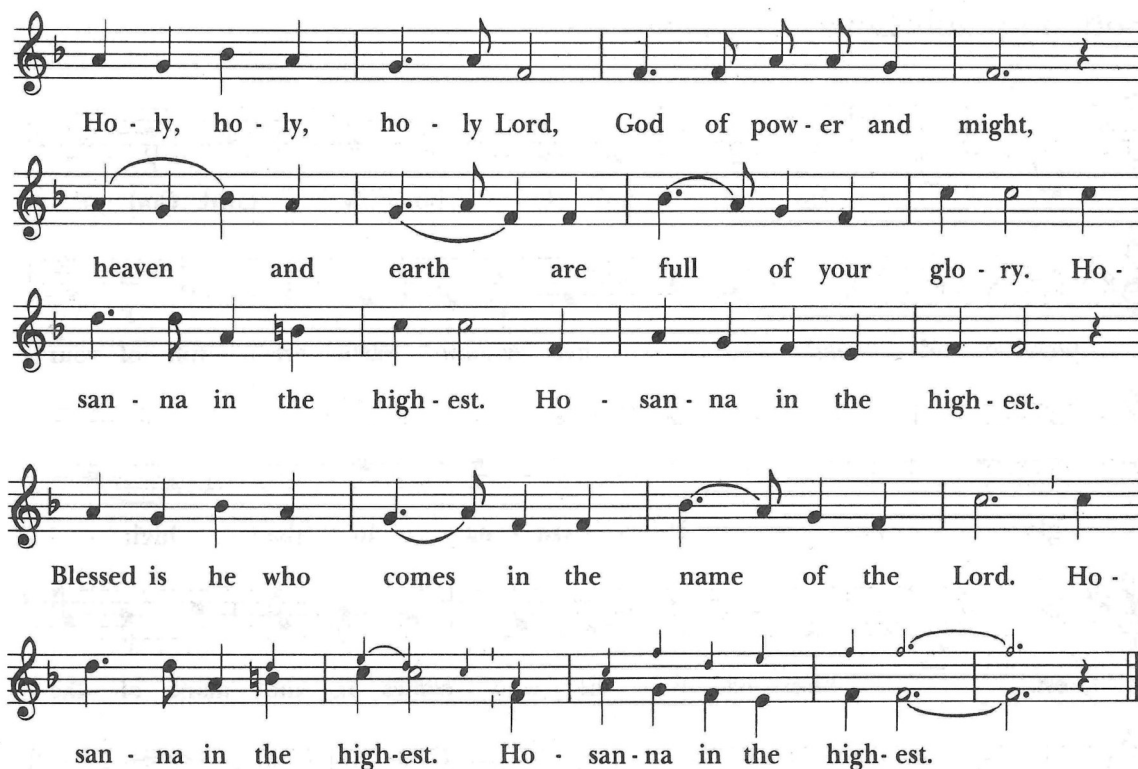
It is right indeed, O God, to give you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ.

In his coming among us he has opened our eyes to a vision of your glory.

In him we see you and your eternal love.

In him we find hope for all and light where there was only darkness.
 And so, with all the choirs of angels we proclaim your glory
 and join in their unending hymn of praise as 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 the night before he died your Son whose birth we celebrate this night
 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.

When he had given thanks he gave it to them and said:
drink this, all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant,
shed for you, shed for all, to forgive sins;
do this whenever 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 and our hands are empty until
you fill them.

As we eat this bread and drink this wine, through the power of your Holy
Spirit feed us with your heavenly food, renew us in your service, unite us in
Christ, and bring us to your everlasting kingdom.

O the depths and riches of your wisdom, O God;
how unsearchable are your judgements and untraceable your ways.

The priest chants:

From you and through you and for you are all things.
To you be the glory forever.

And all respond:

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. This is the king-dom and the pow-er and the
glo-ry for-ev-er. A-men

The Breaking of the Bread

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.

Communion Carol – Silent Night (Carol sheet)

Prayer After Communion

Son of Mary, Son of God, our infant saviour, baby who makes every birth holy.

May we, who like the shepherds have witnessed in the stable a new kind of love, return to our work with joy.

May we, for whom the heavens have opened to proclaim that God is with us, 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 ~ The priest gives a blessing

Carol – Joy to the World (Carol sheet)

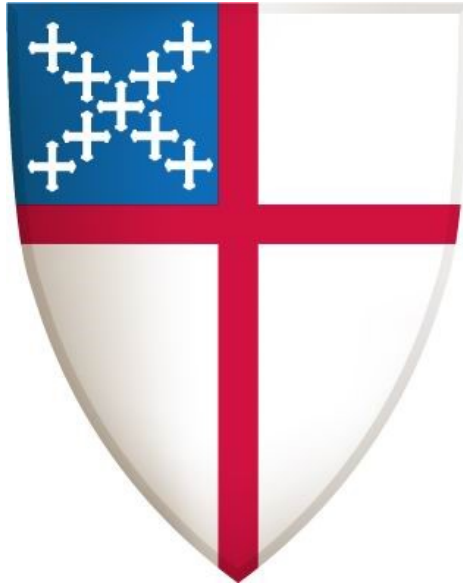
The Dismissal

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 Shaeffer



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