

A FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE




St Paul's Episcopal Church, Modesto CA

saintpaulsmodesto.org

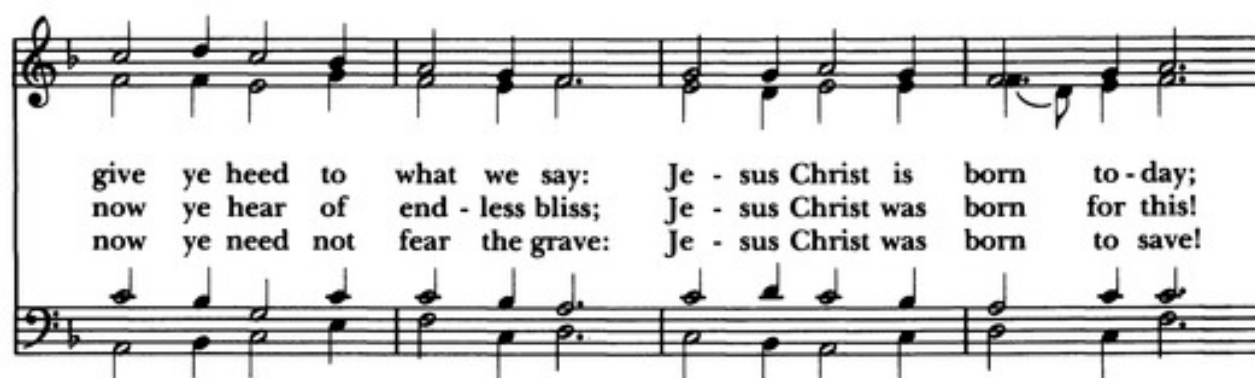


Organ Prelude – Chuck Sheaffer

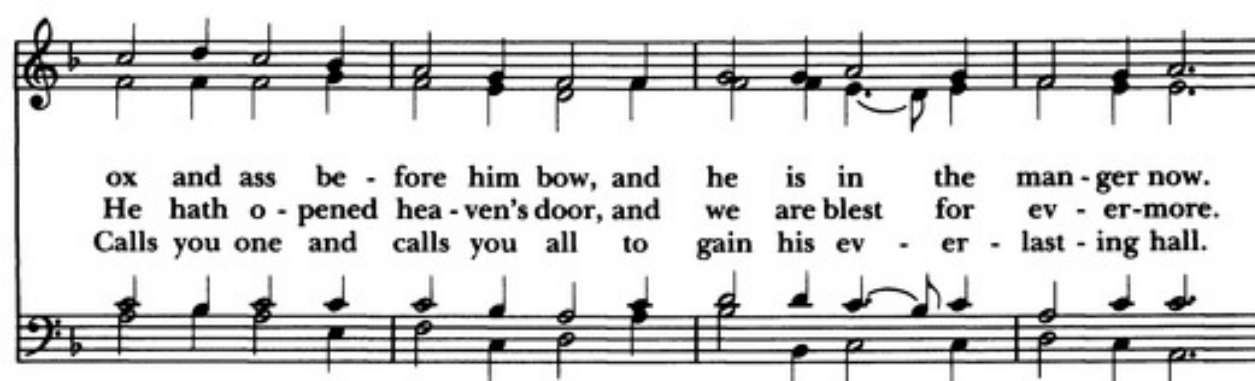
The Processional Carol – Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
3 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

66. 77. 78. 55

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.

The Gloria

Each line is sung by the Priest then repeated by all.

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the highest
Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory in the highest (x2)

To God be glory forever. **To God be glory forever.**

Alleluia Amen! **Alleluia Amen!**

Alleluia Amen!! **Alleluia Amen!!**

Alleluia Amen!!! **Alleluia Amen!!!**

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory to Christ Jesus ...

Glory to God, Glory to God, Glory Holy Spirit ...

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 Christmas – A Play (of sorts)

Carols during the play:

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
gold I bring to crown him again,
King for ever, ceasing never
over us all to reign. [Refrain]

Frankincense to offer have I:
incense owns a Deity nigh;
prayer and praising, gladly raising,
worship him, God Most High. [Refrain]

Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume
breathes a life of gathering gloom;
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. [Refrain]

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
heaven sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. [Refrain]

While Shepherds Watched

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

"Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and humankind.

"To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

"The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high
and on earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to all
begin and never cease."

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 on 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.

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild;
where charity stand watching and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.

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!

Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

The Prayers of the People

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Gracious God:

for children of all ages who wait excitedly for the morning,
we pray joy;

for children and everyone separated from those they love,
we pray comfort;

for children and adults in hospital,
we pray healing;

for children and all in places of violence,
we pray safety;

for children and families who are hungry,
we pray sustenance.

For all children of every age, Lord Jesus,
child of hope and light of the world;
we pray new blessings, this Christmas and always. 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

The Peace

The Christ is born this holy night.

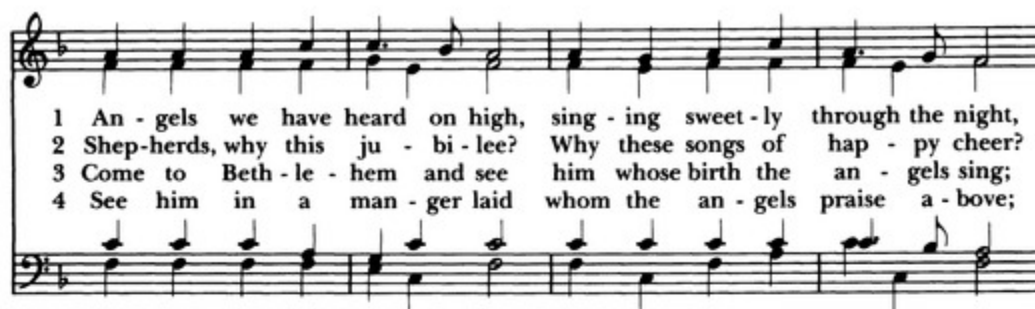
The Prince of Peace has come.

The peace of Christ be always with you.

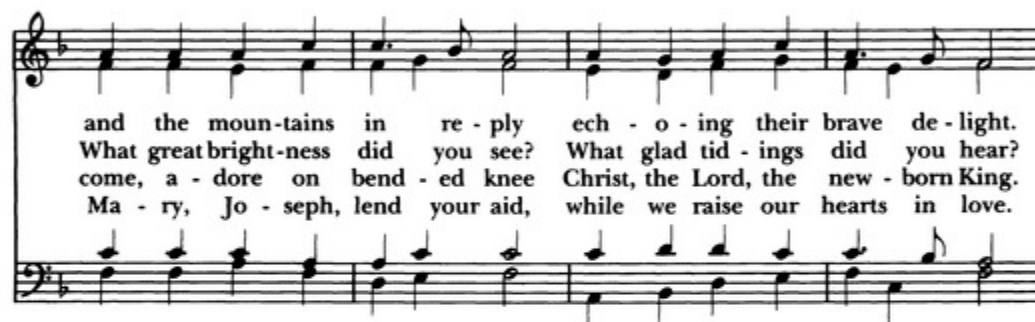
And also with you.

Signs of peace are exchanged

Carol – Angels We Have Heard on High



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
 Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

77. 77 with Refrain

Gifts are offered and the table prepared.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord is here.

God's Spirit is with us.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

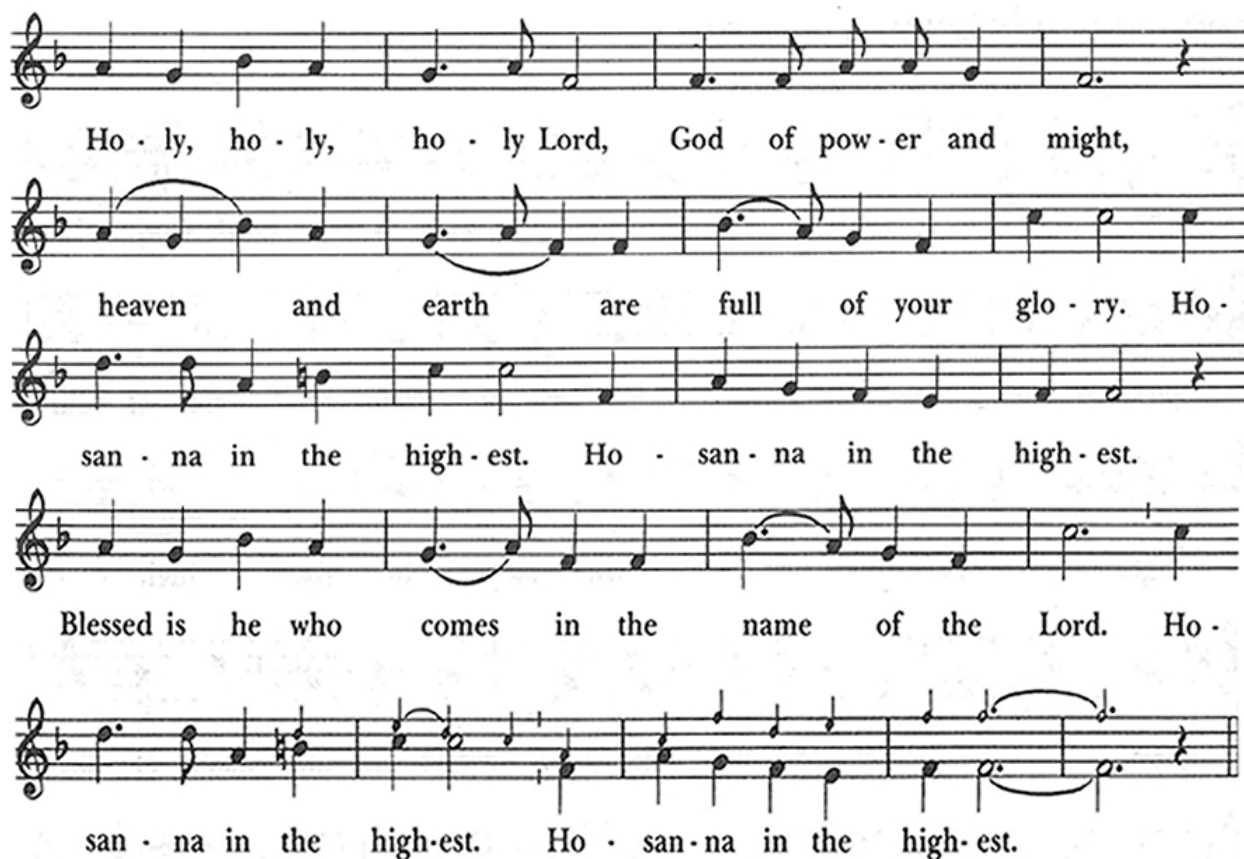
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our 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:



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.

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.

From you and through you and for you are all things.

To you be the glory forever.

Amen

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-tion, 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 bread is broken

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

Christ is the bread of life.

The cup is lifted

His blood was shed for our forgiveness.

Christ is risen from the dead.


The priest invites everyone to receive Communion.

All who wish are welcome to receive the Sacrament.



If you would prefer to receive a blessing, place your hands behind your back.

Communion Carol – 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.



Prayer After Communion

Let us pray:

**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

May the joy of the angels,
the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child
be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God, constantly Creating, Redeeming and
Giving New Life, be with you and all you love and care for this
night and always. **Amen.**

Carol – God Rest You Merry Gentlemen

God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay,
remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas day,
to save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray;

O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father, a blessed angel came;
and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name,
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

"Fear not, then," said the angel, "let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's pow'r and might."
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,
and left their flocks a-feeding, in tempest, storm, and wind,
and went to Bethlehem straightway, the Son of God to find.
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.

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.