



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

(831) 708-2278 125 Canterbury Drive Aptos CA 95003
www.st-john-aptos.org



Christmas Day: Lessons & Carols

December 25, 2022 11 a.m.

Welcome to St. John's!

- **Face Masks are required indoors for worship.** (The music director does not wear a mask, but tests for COVID before every service. The clergy also test before services.) Masks are optional for outdoor worship and indoor small group meetings, but encouraged when in close proximity with others.
- **Restrooms** are located on both ends of the building.

Announcements

Upcoming Events & Services

- Today, 12:30 p.m. Christmas Lunch Potluck
- Sun., Jan. 1, ONE SERVICE at 10:30 (no 8:00), Feast of the Holy Name
- Sun., Jan. 15 - Mikkelsen Preaching Scholarship Recipient Preaches (Both Services)
- Sun., Jan. 15, 11:45 a.m. - Parish-Wide Meeting with Consultant Linda Buskirk to Discuss Results of "Lift Every Voice" Survey Regarding Future Campus Development
- Fri., Jan. 20 - Sun., Jan. 22 - Vestry Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center, San Juan Bautista
- Sun., Feb. 5, 2023 Annual Parish Meeting, Part 2: Election of Delegates to Diocesan Convention

Serving Today at 10:30 a.m.

Presider:

The Rev. Tracy Wells Miller

Music:

Andrew Carter, Director of Music Ministries

Organ:

Ann Thiermann

Lectors:

Sherrie DeWitt, Nelson Crandall, Andrew Carter

Intercessor:

Sherrie DeWitt

Clergy On-Call Line: 831-531-7187

(answered 24/7)

For prayer requests, email prayer@st-john-aptos.org

(routes to a group of 40+ parishioners who will pray for your request
immediately upon receipt of the message.)

Prelude:

Noel X

Come Thou Down from Heaven
Of the Father's Love Begotten
Polish Lullaby Carol

Louis Claude Daquin
J.S. Bach
arr. Wilbur Held
arr. E. A. Craft

Opening Hymn: Once in Royal David's City

Hymnal 1982 #102

The musical score consists of four staves of music in common time, treble clef, and B-flat key signature. The lyrics are provided in three-line stanzas, with the first line in bold.

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he

1 was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.

Bidding Prayer

BOS 38 (*Traditional*)

Dear People of God: in this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem, and see the Son of God lying in the manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy child Jesus; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world; for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

1st Lesson: Genesis 3:8–15; 17–19

NRSV

The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and they hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?” He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.” Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel.”

And to the man he said, ‘Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, “You shall not eat of it”, cursed is the

ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

1st Carol: O Come All Ye Faithful

Hymnal 1982 #83

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time, key signature of one sharp (F#), and treble and bass clefs.

Staff 1: Features soprano and alto voices. The lyrics are:

1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,

Staff 2: Features soprano and alto voices. The lyrics are:

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;

Staff 3: Features soprano and alto voices. The lyrics are:

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;

Refrain: The lyrics are:

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Page Number: 5

2nd Lesson: Genesis 22:15–18

NRSV

The angel of the LORD called to Abraham a second time from heaven, and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the LORD: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

2nd Carol: In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymnal 1982 #112

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor - earth sus - tain;
 4 What can I give him, poor - as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;

the in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

3rd Lesson: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

NRSV

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. 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.

3rd Carol: Good Christian Friends Rejoice

Hymnal 1982 #107

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;

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!

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.

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

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

4th Lesson: Isaiah 11:1–3a; 4a; 6–9

NRSV

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. With righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

4th Carol: God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

Hymnal 1982 #105



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen-tle-men, let noth-ing you dis - may;
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ-mas Day,
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com-fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

5th Lesson: Luke 1:26–35; 38

NRSV

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be.

The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?"

The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

5th Carol: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

Hymnal 1982 #81

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as the seers of old Mo - have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.

It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.

6th Lesson: Luke 2: 1; 3-7

NRSV

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 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.

6th Carol: Still, Still, Still

Glory to God #124

1 Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill! The vir - gin's
2 Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slum - ber deep while an - gel

ten - der arms en - fold - ing, warm and safe the child are hold-ing.
hosts from heaven come wing - ing, sweet-est songs of joy are sing-ing.

Still, still, still, he sleeps this night so chill.
Sleep, sleep, sleep, he lies in slum - ber deep.

7th Lesson: Luke 2:8-16

NRSV

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.

7th Carol: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

Hymnal 1982 #89

The musical score consists of two staves of music in G clef, common time, and a key signature of one flat. The top staff is for soprano or treble voices, and the bottom staff is for alto or bass voices. The lyrics are written below the notes, corresponding to the melody. The score is divided into four systems (measures 1-16, 17-32, 33-48, 49-64).

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
 glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
 near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they

heaven's bend all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
 on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.

8th Lesson: Matthew 2:1-12

NRSV

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’”

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

8th Carol: We Three Kings

Hymnal 1982 #128

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are,
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise,

bear - ing
King and

1 gifts we tra - verse a - far,
5 God and Sac - - ri - fice;

field and foun - tain,
heaven sings al - le -

1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

9th Lesson: John 1:1-14

NRSV

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

9th Carol: Of the Father's Love Begotten

Hymnal 1982 #82

The musical notation consists of four staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and common time. The lyrics for the first two lines are: "1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,". The second staff continues with the same clef and key signature. The lyrics for the next two lines are: "gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,". The third staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat, and common time. The lyrics for the next two lines are: "he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the". The fourth staff continues with the same clef and key signature. The lyrics for the final two lines are: "are, that have been, and that fu - ture world's Re - deem - er, and first re - vealed his years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more! sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!".

Welcome to Visitors

† The Holy Communion †

The Offertory

During the offertory portion of the service, we offer our gifts to God. At St. John's, that takes the form of both financial gifts and gifts of our time. Time donated is documented on a form and put in the offering plate along with financial offerings. If you're participating online, you can find links to donate on the Virtual Worship page of our website: www.st-john-aptos.org/virtual-worship.html

Offertory Sentence

Deuteronomy 16:16-1 (NIV)

“No one should appear before the LORD empty-handed; each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the LORD your God has blessed you.”

-The Law of Moses, regarding offerings at the Festival of Booths



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Offertory Hymn: What Child is This

Hymnal 1982 #115

The musical score consists of three staves of music in common time, treble clef, and G major. The first two staves are for voices (Soprano and Alto/Tenor) and the third staff is for bassoon or organ. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes.

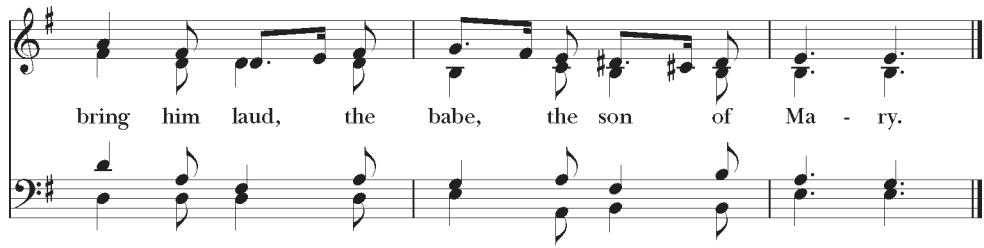
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest,
2 Why lies he in such mean estate,
3 So bring him in - cense, gold,
 and myrrh,
 on where come,

Mary'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



Presentation Hymn: In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymnal 1982 #112 vs. 4

4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

The musical score consists of four staves of music. The top staff uses a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp. The second staff uses a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The third staff uses a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The bottom staff uses a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The music is in common time. The lyrics are integrated into the musical lines, with some words written above the staff and others below it. Measure numbers 4, 5, 6, and 7 are indicated at the beginning of each section of the hymn.

Eucharistic Prayer 3

EOW #3

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Presider All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

arr. Andrew Carter

Sung to the tune of "Angels from the Realms of Glory."

Ho - ly Ho - ly Ho - ly Lo - rd God of Pow - er God of might
Hea'vn and earth are fu - ll of your Glo - ry
Ho - sa - na Ho - sa - na, Ho sa - na in the High - est
Blessed is he who com - es in the name of the, of the Lord
Ho - sa - na Ho - sa - na, Ho sa - na in the High - est

Presider Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: “Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Memorial Acclamation

GtG #570

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in G major, common time, and treble clef. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The lyrics are: "Dy - ing you de-stroyed our death; ris - ing you re - stored our life. Lord Je - sus, come in glo - ry."

Presider Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Great Amen

arr. Andrew Carter

The musical notation consists of one staff of music in G major, common time, and treble clef. The lyrics are: "Bless ed are you now and for - ev - er A - - men".

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal 1982 S-149

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now sing,

Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who
sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow - er,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Fraction Anthem

St. James Christmas Service

Sung after the Presider breaks the consecrated bread to the tune of "What Child is This"

Gently [In One]

O Lamb of God, O Ho - ly
Child, who takes the sin of the world a - way; Have

mer - cy on____ us, lamb so mild,____ the babe,____ the
son____ of Ma - ry. This, this is your bo - dy
giv'n,____ Your pre - cious blood,____ the gift of heav'n.
Take, eat,____ for we are one in the babe,____ the
son____ of Ma - ry.

Invitation to Communion

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Receiving communion is an act of renewing one's commitment to Christ and receiving grace to continue to follow him. Please join us in the circle, even if you choose not to receive communion, which you can indicate by crossing your arms over your chest as the servers come by. If you choose not to receive, the priest will say a blessing over you instead.

Distribution of Communion

The bread is distributed first. Please hold out your hands to indicate your desire to receive; the priest will place the bread in your hand. Gluten-free wafers are available if needed; they are in a separate gold container on the paten (plate) with the bread.

The wine will be served in the common cup (chalice) and from a flagon (pitcher) that is not shared with others. To receive from the non-shared flagon, you must have brought a cup from home; hold out that cup as the servers come around so they can see that you would like to receive from the flagon instead of the chalice. If you would like to abstain from the wine entirely, cross your arms over your chest when the wine comes by.

For Online Participants: Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Those not physically present to receive communion can say this prayer while communion is being distributed: "In union, O Lord, with the faithful of St. John's, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive

you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen."

If you live in Santa Cruz County and would like someone to bring you communion at home, please contact the church office at 831-708-2278 or email LEVs@st-john-aptos.org.

Communion Hymn: Away in a Manger

Glory to God #115

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Post-Communion Prayer

BCP 365

All Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.** May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.** May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.** And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**

Closing Hymn: Joy to the World

Hymnal 1982 #100

The musical score consists of three staves of music in G major, common time. The top staff uses a soprano C-clef, the middle staff an alto F-clef, and the bottom staff a bass G-clef. The lyrics are integrated with the music, appearing below the notes. The first section of lyrics is:

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

The second section continues:

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous ness, and

The third section concludes:

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
as the curse is found, far as the curse is
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Sussex Carol

Dale Wood

