



4 P.M. SERVICE

The Episcopal Church of St. John the Baptist

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



The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Rite II from the Book of Common Prayer (1979)

Welcome to St. John's!

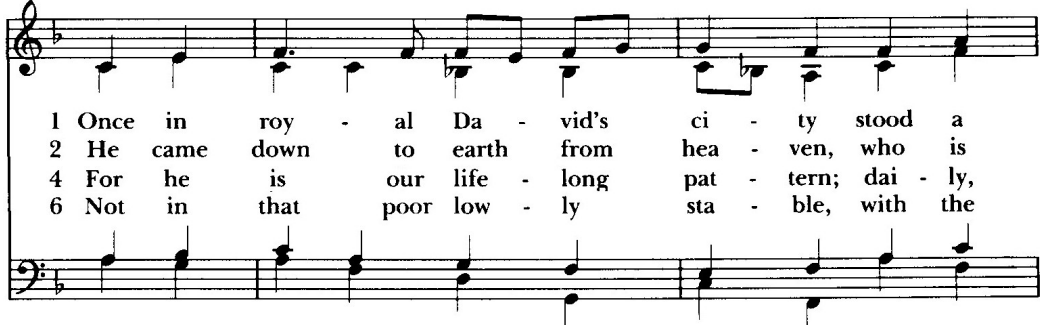
- **Restrooms** are located on both ends of the building.
- **For prayer requests, email prayer@st-john-aptos.org** (routes to a group of 40+ parishioners who will pray for your request immediately upon receipt of the message.)

† The Liturgy of the Word †

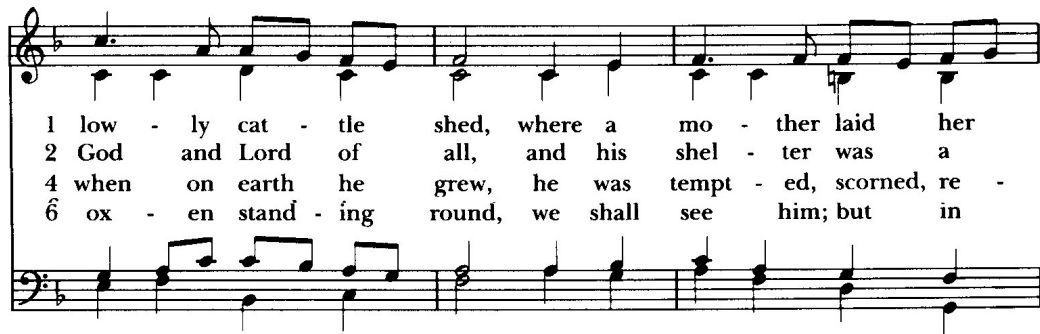
Prelude: Do You Hear What I Hear?

Opening Hymn: Once in David's Royal City

Hymnal 1982 #102



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,
6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the



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 -
6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

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
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

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.
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Opening Acclamation

Enriching Our Worship 1, p. 50

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People Glory to God for ever and ever.

Prayer of the Day

Presider God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray. (Silence.) O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Bible: Isaiah 9:2-7

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. 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 The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A bell is rung. We wait until we cannot hear the residual of the bell ringing anymore before beginning the psalm.

Psalm 96: Sing a New Song

Glory to God #639

The congregation sings the refrain; the cantor sings the verses.

Refrain

O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord; sing all the earth.

- 1 O sing a new song to the Lord;
sing to the Lord, all the earth!
Sing to God and praise God's name. Refrain
- 2 Proclaim God's salvation day by day;
tell of God's glory among the nations.
And God's marvels to all the people. Refrain
- 3 The Lord is great and worthy of all praise,
to be feared more than all gods;
all other gods are merely idols. Refrain
- 4 For the Lord made the heavens!
O the splendor and majesty of God's presence!
O the power and beauty of God's temple! Refrain

- 5 Let the heavens be glad; let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all its creatures;
be glad, you fields, and all your fruit. Refrain
- 6 Shout for joy, all trees of the woods,
at the presence of God, who now comes,
who comes to judge the earth with right and the people with truth. Refrain

A Reading from the Gospels – Luke 2:1-20

NRSV

Deacon The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Christmas Pageant: La Posada (The Inn)



La Posada is an Advent/Christmas celebration in Mexico and parts of the United States and commemorates Mary's and Joseph's journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, looking for shelter for Mary to give birth. On each of the nine nights before Christmas (December 16-24), a procession of musicians, angels carrying candles, and an altar holding images of Mary, Joseph and a donkey (or the Holy Family) makes its way through town to selected homes and asks for shelter for Mary and Joseph. Lodging is always refused until the last night—Christmas Eve—when they are welcomed in. A celebration, generally featuring a piñata for the children, follows. Often the

piñatas are star-shaped, remembering the star which guided the three wise men to Jesus.

Dramatis Personae

Narrator,

Mary,

Joseph,

Guiding Angel,

Four Innkeepers,

also shepherds, other angels & sound effects.

Narrator: 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.

Innkeeper 1: Who's there? What do you want?

Joseph: My name is Joseph; my wife is Mary and mother-to-be of the Divine Word.

Mary: We seek shelter for the night.

Innkeeper 1: No room here. Keep moving.

Innkeeper 2: So many people knocking at my door tonight. Yes?

Joseph: My name is Joseph; my wife is Mary and mother-to-be of the Divine Word.

Mary: We seek shelter for the night.

Innkeeper 2: That's very interesting, but my inn is full. You'll have to go somewhere else.

Innkeeper 3: Go away!

Joseph: My name is Joseph; my wife is Mary and mother-to-be of the Divine Word.

Mary: We seek shelter for the night.

Innkeeper 3: I said, "Go away!" I have too many people in here already!

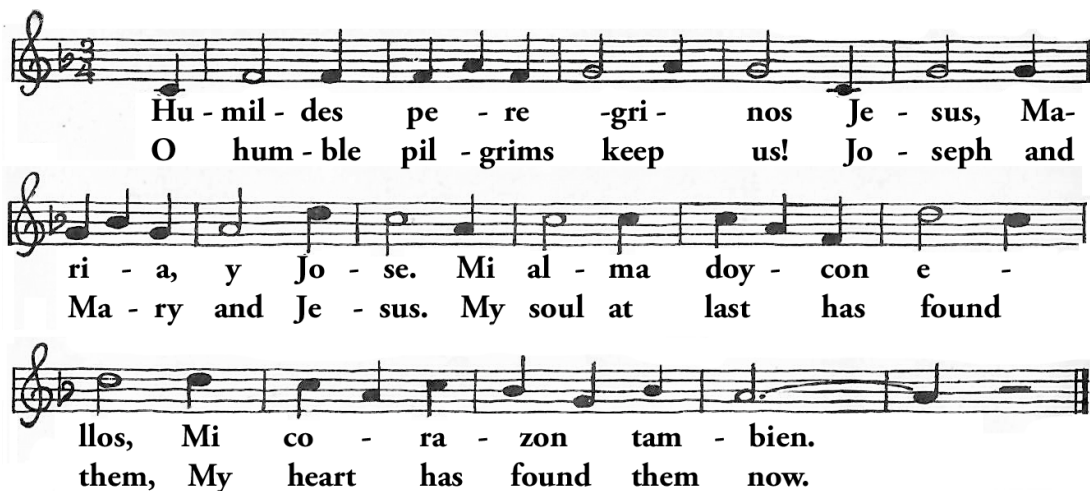
Innkeeper 4: Yes? Can I help you?

Joseph: My name is Joseph; my wife is Mary and mother-to-be of the Divine Word.

Mary: We seek shelter for the night.

Innkeeper 4: My inn is rather full, but I'm sure I can find room for you somewhere.
Come in, come in!

All sing:



Hu - mil - des pe - re - gri - nos Je - sus, Ma -
O hum - ble pil - grims keep us! Jo - seph and
ri - a, y Jo - se. Mi al - ma doy - con e -
Ma - ry and Je - sus. My soul at last has found
llos, Mi co - ra - zon tam - bien.
them, My heart has found them now.

Guiding Angel:

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.

Guiding Angel & Other Angels:

Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!

All sing:

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymnal 1982 #87

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righteousness!

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
Light and life to all He brings, Ris'n with healing in His wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.
Mild He lays His glory by, Born that we no more may die;

with the an-gel - ic host pro-claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
Born to raise us from the earth Born to give us second birth.

finis

Prayers of the People

Written by Debra Spencer

Intercessor Make us one people gathered to worship in your Name, Lord Jesus Christ,
All Because you were born like any one of us, to be with us in this world.

Intercessor Make us a people who live with love in your Name,
All Because you were born like any one of us, to be with us in this world.

Intercessor Help us grow in courage and vision to make a better world,
All Because you were born like any one of us, to be with us in this world.

Intercessor Make our leaders wise, in the Church, in our nation and all nations,
All Because you were born like any one of us, to be with us in this world.

Intercessor Comfort and strengthen the sick and those who suffer, especially...
names are spoken aloud by the congregation

. . . and help us to care and stand by them in your Name,
All Because you were born like any one of us, to be with us in this world.

Intercessor Bring people who die into the “many mansions” of your heavenly city,
All Because you were born like any one of us, to be with us in this world.

Concluding Collect *(said by all)*

Heavenly Father, you showed us in the birth and life and death and resurrection of Jesus that your love for us is entire and forever. By the gift of your Holy Spirit working in us, let us be that love for those around us. Let us be a sign of that heavenly city here Father, Son and Holy Spirit reign and rejoice as One Amen.

The Peace

BCP 360

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People And also with you.

† The Holy Communion †

Offertory Anthem: O Holy Night

Presentation Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful

Hymnal 1982 #83

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze:

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

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

The Eucharistic Prayer

Church of England

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 our thanks and praise.**

Presider It is always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful, holy and strong. You made us and the whole universe, and filled your world with life. You sent your Son to live among us: Jesus our Saviour, Mary's child. He suffered on the cross; he died to save us from our sins; he rose in glory from the dead. You send your Spirit to bring new life to the world, and clothe us with power from on high. And so we join the angels to celebrate and say:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Presider Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me."

Great is the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

Presider Father, as we bring this bread and wine, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood.

Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

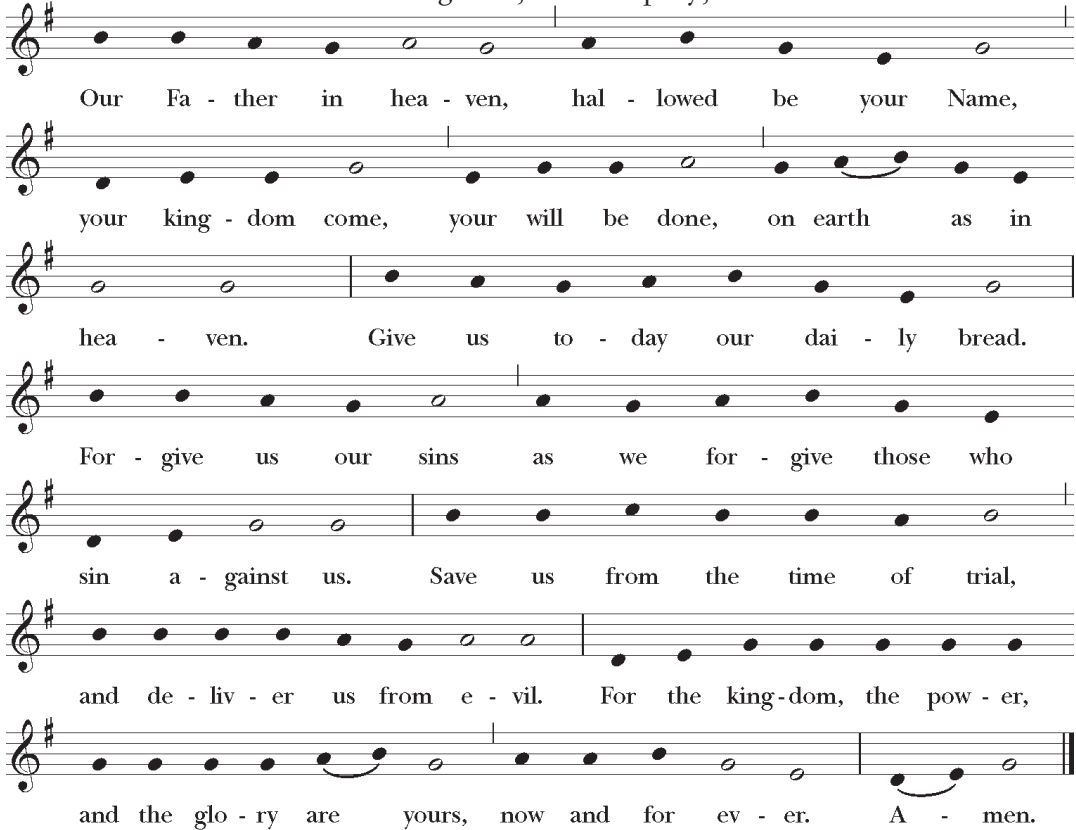
For honor and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever.

All AMEN!

The Lord's Prayer

Hymnal 1982 #S-149

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



Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in
hea - ven. 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 Breaking of the Bread

New Zealand prayer book, p. 425

The priest breaks the consecrated bread, and then says,

Presider We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All We who are many are one body,
for we all share the one bread.

Invitation to Communion *Gathering for Worship: Patterns and Prayers for the Community of Disciples*

Presider Here is the table of the Lord.

We are gathered to his supper, a foretaste of things eternal.

Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.

Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.

Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.

Come, old and young, there is room for all.

The Communion

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. At this time we are not allowing intinction, dipping the bread into the wine chalice. If you would like to abstain from the wine entirely, cross your arms over your chest when the wine comes by.

Communion Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal 1982: #79

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;

1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
 5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Communion Hymn: What Child is This?

Hymnal 1982: #115

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.

Post-Communion Hymn: Silent Night

Hymnal 1982: #111

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Post-Communion Prayer

Enriching Our Worship 1, p. 69

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.**

The Christmas Blessing

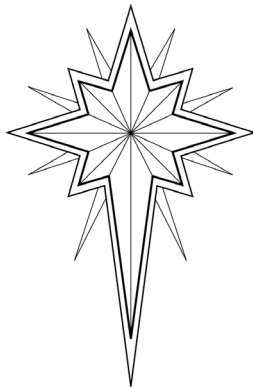
BOS 23

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

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.



Music from The Hymnal 1982 & its authorized supplements are reprinted with permission through Rite Song, a one-time reprint license for congregational use. All other music reprinted with permission through ONE LICENSE, License #A-7 19377.

Serving Today at 10:30

<i>Presider & Preacher:</i>	The Rev. Mary Lou McKenney, Assisting Priest
<i>Music:</i>	Andrew Carter, Director of Music Ministries
<i>Organ:</i>	Ann Thiermann
<i>Acolyte:</i>	Tina Grubbe
<i>Hebrew Scripture:</i>	Lise Crowley
<i>Epistle:</i>	Elaine Chapman
<i>Intercessor:</i>	Wendy Stevens
<i>LEM, Psalm Leader:</i>	Susan VonSchmacht
<i>Usher:</i>	Leonard Foreman
<i>Altar Guild:</i>	Kathy Butler, Lise Crowley, Andrew Pudan
<i>Children's Church:</i>	Liz Lindsley



The Leadership of St. John's

Ministers: All of us!



Clergy Staff

The Rev. Eliza Linley ("Amma Eliza")
Interim Pastor, rector@st-john-aptos.org

Lay Staff staff@st-john-aptos.org

Chrys Sparks, Office Manager
admin@st-john-aptos.org, (831) 708-6850 (cell)

Andrew S. Carter, Director of Music Ministries
music@st-john-aptos.org, (831) 291-2888 (cell)

Matt McCabe, Sexton
matt@st-john-aptos.org, (831) 419-4998 (cell)

Elizabeth Sanchez, Helpful Shop Manager
helpfulshop@st-john-aptos.org, 831-295-1142 (cell)

Rosa Miriam Escobar, Janitor

Lisa Freeman, Community Youth Prog. Director
community-youth@st-john-aptos.org, 831-854-7265 (cell)

Realm (view directory & giving info, post messages to parishioners)
www.onrealm.org (contact the office for a password)

Assisting Clergy clergy@st-john-aptos.org

The Rev. Mary Craig Caruthers ("Rev. Mary Craig")
The Rev. John Duncan ("Father John")
The Rev. Mary Lou McKenney ("Rev. Mary Lou")

Vestry (Governing Board)

To reach the entire vestry, email vestry@st-john-aptos.org.

Administration Team vestry-admin@st-john-aptos.org

Win Fernald, Senior Warden
Debra Spencer, Junior Warden
Alliee DeArmond, Clerk
Nelson Crandall, Treasurer
Jon Showalter

Internal Ministry Support Team

vestry-internal@st-john-aptos.org
Anne Baker, Liz Lindsley, Antonette Wood

External Ministry Support Team

vestry-external@st-john-aptos.org
Kathy Butler, Joanna Phillips, Susan von Schmacht