



St Philip's

episcopal church

worship • love • action
a church for all people

**CHRISTMAS EVE
LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH PAGEANT
10:30 AM, DECEMBER 24, 2020**

The Liturgy of the Word

Opening Hymn

O come, all ye faithful

Hymnal 83, verses 1-3, 6

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,
*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

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;
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

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;
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

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

Continued on next page



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

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed between the two staves.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Refrain

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.



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.

Collect for Christmas

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant 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 Nativity Pageant

The pageant begins with a reader setting the scene and introducing us to Bethlehem.

This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The children will show us how to go.

The little town we seek sits in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years, the houses have huddled there on the hilltop like a family breaking bread. "Bethlehem" means "House of Bread."

All is still and quiet in the little town.

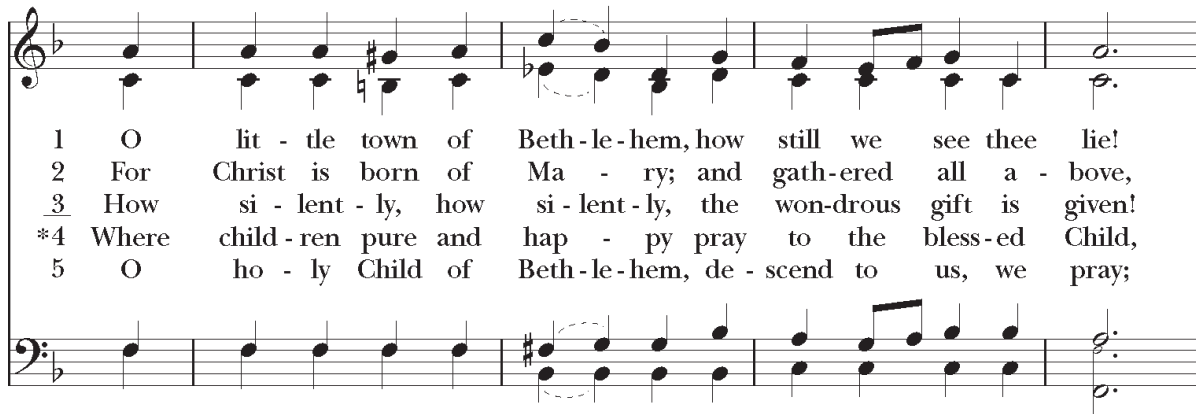


Carol

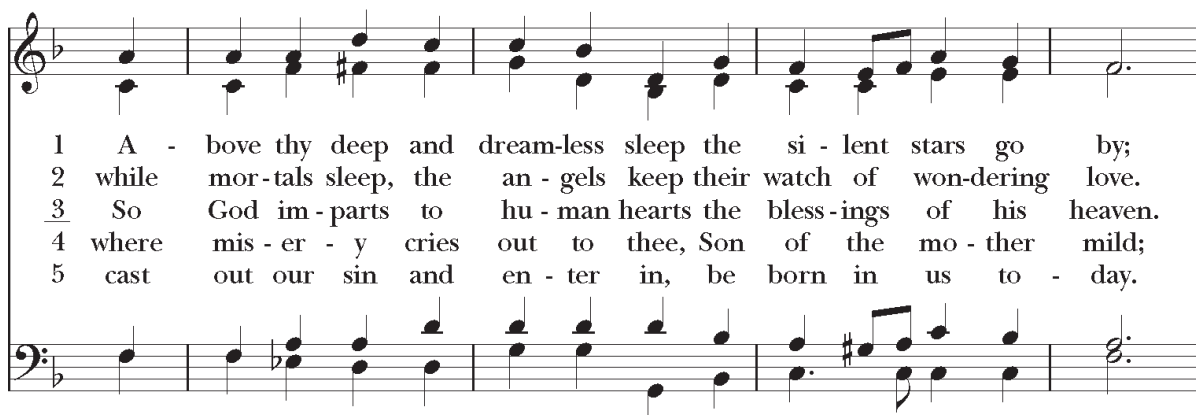
O little town of Bethlehem

Hymnal 79, verses 1-2

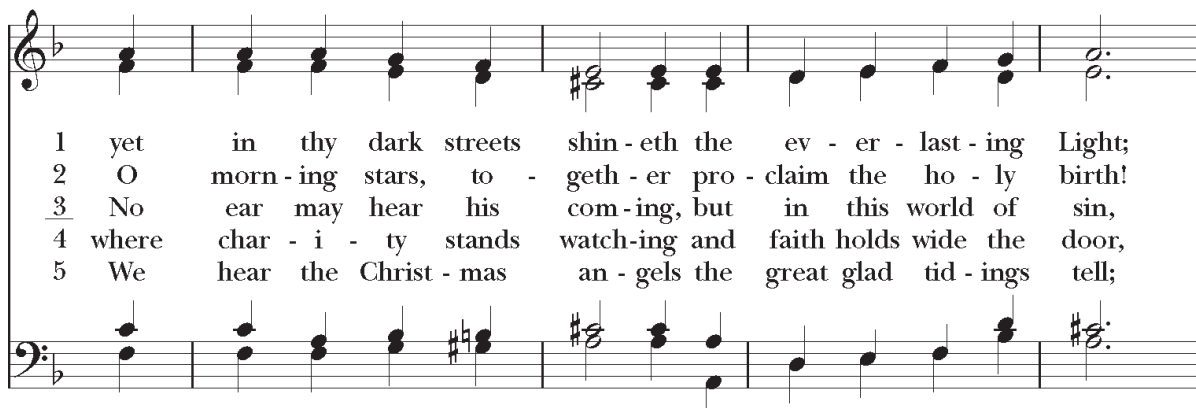
Sung by all as the cow is brought to the stable.



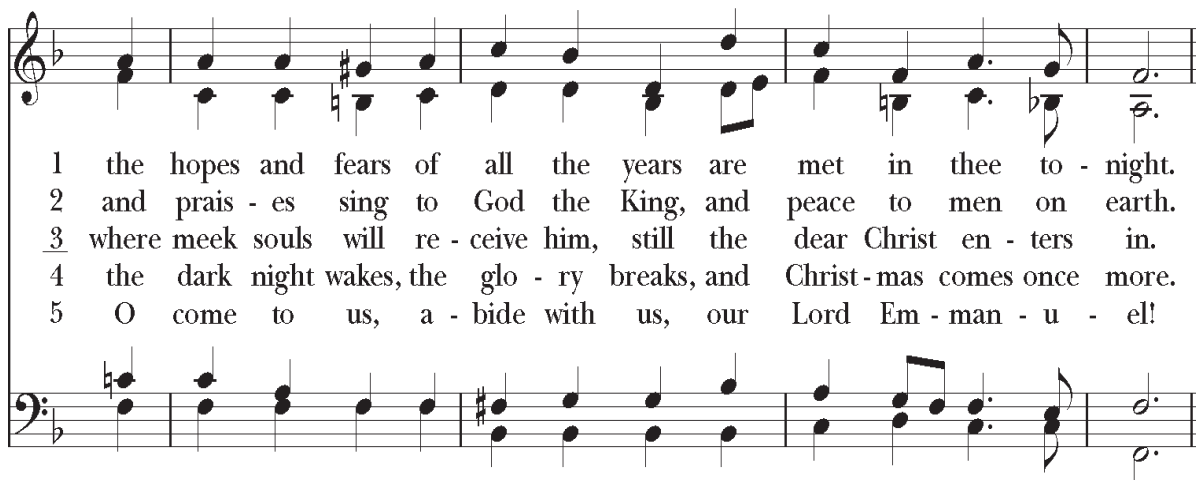
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - 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.
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;
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,
4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,
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.
4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.
5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The pageant continues with Mary and Joseph making the long journey to Bethlehem.

As night gathers, the last two travelers come slowly up the road with their donkey.

Look, there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to come to this place where David the King was born so long ago.

They have come, like so many others, because the Roman emperor wants to count each one, so he can take their money as a tax.

But it is late, and Mary is weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.



Carol

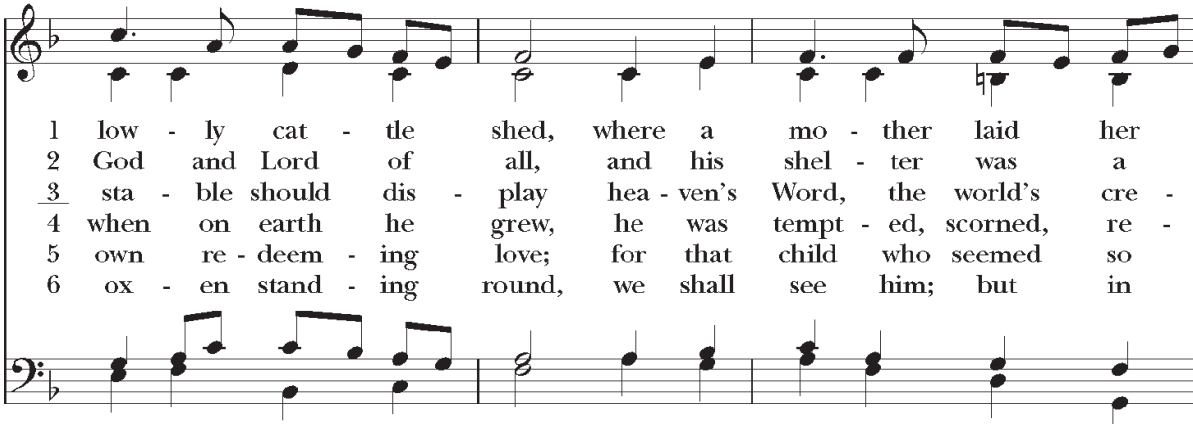
Once in royal David's city

Hymnal 102, verse 1

Sung by all as Mary, Joseph, and a donkey are brought to the stable.




1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
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
3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
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
3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and 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.
3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —
6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

The pageant continues as Jesus is born and Mary wraps him in cloth and lays him in the manger.

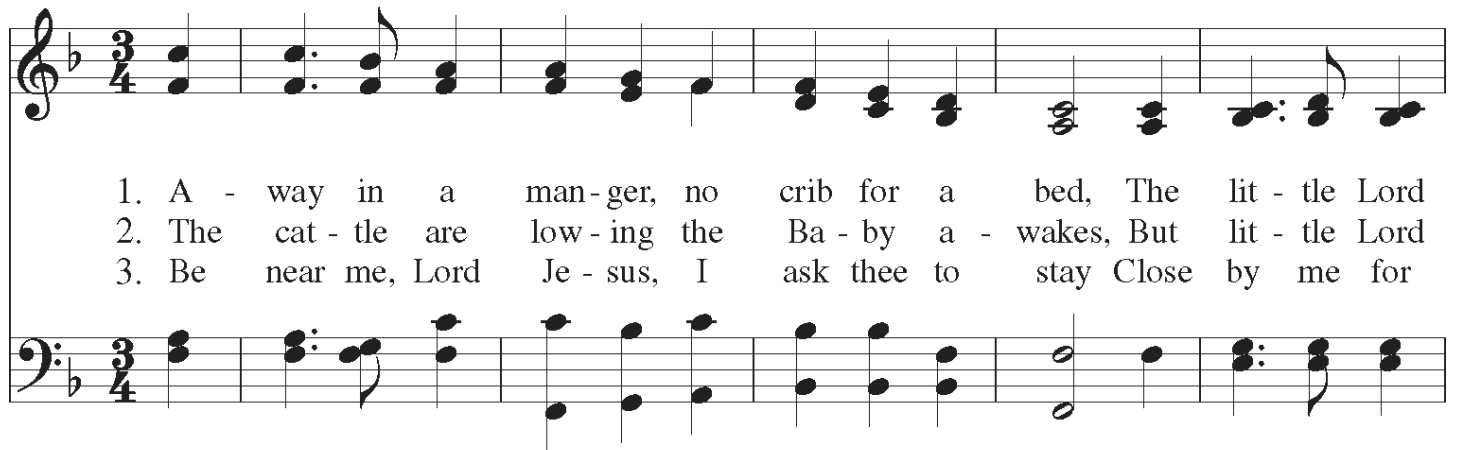
Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly, from the stables, comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed box filled with straw.

Carol

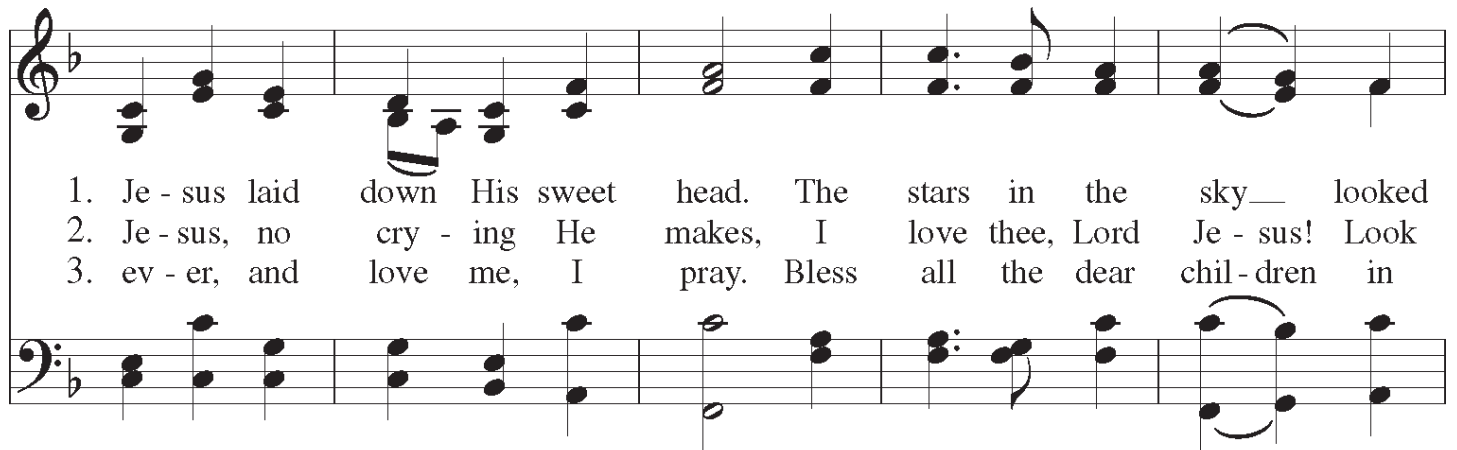
Away in a Manger

LEVAS 27, verses 1-3

Sung by all as the newborn Jesus is brought to the stable.



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low - ing the Ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay Close by me for



1. Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky__ looked
2. Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes, I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
3. ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



1. down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
2. down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
3. thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

The pageant continues with the angels sharing the Good News with the shepherds keeping watch over their flocks.

In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is lost in light, and in the midst of the light there is something even brighter: the faces of angels.

The fearful shepherds then hear singing in the sky, and an angel says: “Do not be afraid, Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the City of David, a Savior is born! He is Christ, the Lord.”

Then more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people everywhere.”

The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find Nativity itself in the center of all that love.



Carol

Angels, from the realms of glory

Hymnal 93, verses 1-2

Sung by all as angels, shepherds, and sheep are brought to the stable.

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er
2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your
3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions
4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in

all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;
beam a - far: seek the great De - sire of na - tions;
hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,

Refrain
now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,
ye have seen his na - tal star:
in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

The pageant continues with the wise men following a bright star that leads them to Bethlehem.

Three camels plod up the road to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert, perhaps as far as the Caspian Sea. The camels carry three kings, the wise ones, the Magi. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before. They are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King. Its shining shows them. The Magi's journey ends in a new kind of king. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall to their knees and give him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense, and bitter myrrh, brought so far with so much love.

Carol

We three kings of Orient are

Hymnal 128, verse 1

Sung by all as the three wise men and a camel are brought to the stable.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are: "We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star. 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!" The score includes a key signature change to G major and a double bar line at the end of the piece.

We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
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!

So now we all come, following the star, to find God-with-us. We come, as people have come all through the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God's gift to us.

The Celebrant continues

Let us pray.

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of the Word made flesh, Jesus your Son. As we celebrate his birth, we pray especially for the children and youth of our congregation. May the birth of the Christ child whose story we proclaim tonight bring light and life to each of us, and may we know the joy of the incarnation this Christmas and always. **Amen.**

Carol

Silent Night

Hymnal 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.

The Prayers of the People

The Intercessor bids the prayers.

God of love, gather all people as one human family.
Guide our community, our country, and the world.
Help us to be kind to all people, creatures, and the earth.
Be with all people who are sad, in need, or any trouble.
May all who have died rest in peace.

For what else shall we pray?

(All are invited to add personal prayers silently or aloud.)

The Celebrant says

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**



Heinrich Vogeler, Annunciation to the Shepherds, 1902

The Christmas Blessing

The Celebrant says

May God who sent the angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**



"Life of Christ" stained glass, St. John's Episcopal Church, New City, NY.

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

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

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

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

The Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the people.