

St Philip's

episcopal church

worship • love • action
a church for all people

CHRISTMAS EVE
THE HOLY EUCHARIST WITH PAGEANT
4 PM, DECEMBER 24, 2025

Welcome!

The Season of Christmas

Welcome to St. Philip's! Join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus, beginning with Christmas Eve and Day and extending for 12 more days – because there's too much joy, peace, and gratitude for just one day. We crown the season with a Eucharist for the Feast of the Epiphany on January 6, welcoming the Magi from their long travels and offering gifts with them to the newborn Christ. May your celebration of Christmas ripen and mature each day as we celebrate together.

Bathrooms are in the parish house (in hallway outside parish hall).

Social time available after all services:

Following 8am: Breezeway entrance

Following 9am: Garden close

Following 11am: Social hour in parish hall

Visitor cards can be found throughout the campus.

If you're here for the first time, please fill out a visitor card! Put your completed visitor card in the offering plate, or hand it to one of our clergy after the service.

Please ask if you need help – we'll make sure you find the right place.

Worship & Formation

Sundays

8am	Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
9am	Holy Eucharist for all ages (Parish Hall)
10am	Adult Forum (Parish Hall) Children's Formation (2nd floor) Youth Formation (Lower level)
11am	Holy Eucharist with choir (Church)
12:30	Social Hour (Parish Hall)

Wednesdays

5:30pm	Holy Eucharist (Chapel)
5:30-6:30	Dinner (Parish Hall) →
6-6:25	Family Choir (2nd floor)
6-6:30	Beginners' Handbell Choir (Lower level)
6:30-7	Intermediate Handbell Choir (Lower level)
6:30-7	Junior Choir (2nd floor)
6:30pm	Engage! Adult formation (Library)

Dinner RSVP



Worshipping with Children

Children are welcome at all services. We know kids wiggle and make noise – that's okay! Tips for engaging children in worship: Sit where they can see what's happening and point out what's happening during the service; help your child follow along in the bulletin; and bring quiet toys that are special for church. If your child needs a break from the service, feel free to walk them out and encourage them to come back and try again. Know that you probably notice your child's noises and wiggles more than anyone else.

Children's worship materials are available in the parish hall and church.

Today's Nursery

3:45 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

First floor, off of Parish Hall

Infants – kindergarten

Please sign your children in and out of the nursery. You'll be asked to complete a registration form if it's your child's first visit.

*The prophet Isaiah cries out:
A child has been born for us, a son given to us... and he is named
Wonderful counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.*

*All through this season of Advent we have been longing for the light.
And now, Christ our Light is here!*

*This light that is given, this astonishing event from long ago,
continues to live on in our hearts today.
How wonderful!*

*Merry Christmas, and welcome to St. Philips on this joyous day, the celebration of
the incarnation of Jesus Christ! As a community of Worship, Love, and Action, St.
Philip's is a church for all people.
It is so good to be with you.*

*If you're new or visiting, please fill out a welcome card located in the pew and leave it
with an usher. You can also find out more about St. Philip's at stphilipsdurham.org,
or on Facebook or Instagram (@stphilipsdurham).*

*For now, please sit back and relax to hear these ancient scriptures and hymns as they
illuminate the love of God coming into the world.*

*While angels proclaim joy
and assure us there is nothing to fear,
we join Mary as she ponders all that surrounds her.*

This mystery, this miracle of new life, born to us once more.

*May the abundant blessings of God embrace you with love and light,
filling you with wonder this happy day.*

Prelude

Music played by String Quartet or Organ

*During the Prelude, please observe silence so that all may have quiet time available for prayer and meditation in preparation for worship.
Please silence all electronic devices on entering the worship space.*

As the procession enters, all who are able please stand and sing.

Processional Hymn

Please stand as you are able and sing.



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. ♪ God of — God, — Light — of — Light, —
3. ♪ Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4. ♪ Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
Lo! He comes forth from the Vir - gin's womb.
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;



Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Our ver - y God, be - got - ten not cre - a - ted,
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



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



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

Text: *Adeste fideles*; John F. Wade, c.1711-1786; tr. by Frederick Oakeley, 1802-1880, alt.
Tune: ADESTE FIDELES, Irregular with refrain; John F. Wade, c.1711-1786

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant

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

People

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

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Son of God, light that shines in the dark, child of joy and peace, help us to come to you and be born anew this holy night. Hear this prayer for your love's sake. **Amen.**

The Pageant

Source: A Children's Liturgy for Christmas Eve, The Rev. Jerome Berryman

Please be seated for the children's Christmas pageant and remain seated until the priest leads the prayer at the end of the pageant.

The story of Jesus' birth is told by readers narrating and children and youth acting out the story. We invite you to watch and listen while the story is being told and to join in singing the hymns while seated.

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

All sing.



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,



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 - d'ring love.



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!



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 all on earth.

Text: 86 86 76 86; Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893. Music: Lewis H. Redner, 1831-1908.

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

All sing.

Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly
cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by
In a man - ger for his bed. Mar - y was that
moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.

Text: 87 87 77; Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, 1818–1895, alt. Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876.

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

All sing.

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, The
2. The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes, But
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay Close
1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head; The
2. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes; I
3. by me for - ev - er, and love me, I pray; Bless
1. stars in the sky — looked down where he lay, The
2. love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky, And
3. all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care, And
1. lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.
2. stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
3. fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Text: 11 11 11 11; verses 1–2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, ca. 1885; verse 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892, alt. Music: attr. to James R. Murray, 1841–1905.

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

All sing.

1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er
 2. Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your
 all the earth; You who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,
 flocks by night, God on earth is now re - sid - ing,
 Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth: Come and wor - ship,
 Yon - der shines the in - fant light:
 come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

Text: Sts. 1-3, James Montgomery, 1771-1854; st. 4, *Christmas Box*, 1825
 Tune: REGENT SQUARE, 8 7 8 7 8 7; Henry Smart, 1813-1879

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

All sing.

Verse
 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; Bear - ing gifts we
 tra - verse a - far Field and foun - tain, Moor and moun - tain,
 Refrain
 Fol - low - ing yon - der star. 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.

Text: 88 44 6 with refrain; based on Matthew 2:1-11.
 Text and music: *Carols, Hymns and Songs*, 1863; John H. Hopkins, Jr., 1820-1891, alt.

All who are able please stand for the prayer.

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 brings light and life to each of us, and may we know the joy of the incarnation this Christmas and always. **Amen.**

Please remain standing and sing. During the following hymn the pageant participants return to their families.

All sing.

Go tell it on the moun-tain, O-ver the hills and ev - 'ry-where,

Go tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo! a - bove the earth,
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger The hum - ble Christ was born,

D.C.
Be - hold, through-out the heav-ens There shone a ho - ly light.
Rang out the an - gel cho - rus That hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
And God sent us sal - va - tion That bless - ed Christ-mas morn.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Celebrant bids the prayers.

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 Durham.

And because God particularly loves them, let us remember the poor and 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 all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God Mary, the God bearer, 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. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Greetings and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant continues with the offertory sentence.

Please stand as you are able as the bread and wine are brought forward.

Offertory Anthem

Family and Junior Choir
Seamus Kenney, Director

Presentation Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymnal 100

Please stand and sing as you are able.

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

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

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

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

Sanctus et Benedictus

Sung by all

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -
rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

Music: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943). Copyright © 1984 Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission of the publisher.

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

Celebrant *People*
A-men.

Celebrant

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to sing:

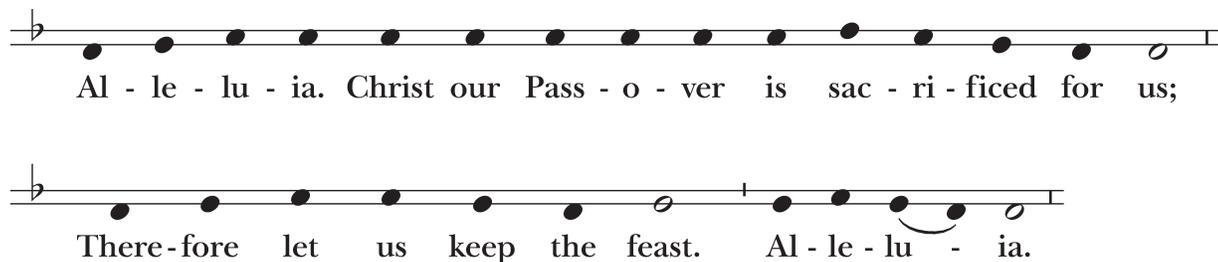


Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

Music: Plainsong; adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.



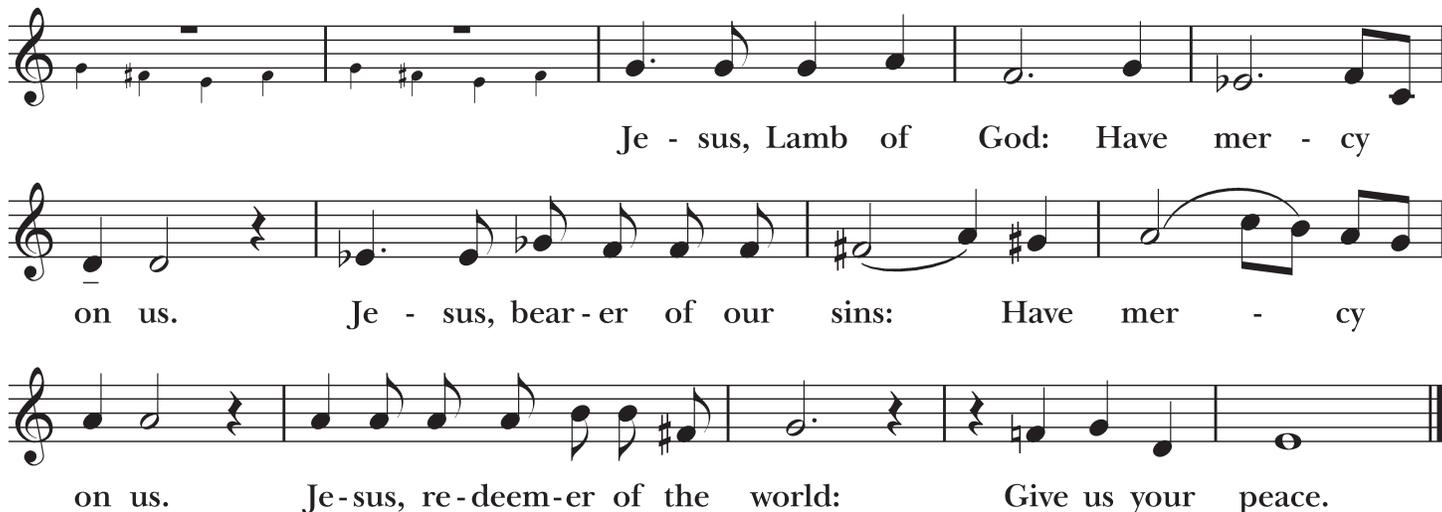
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

This setting may be sung full by all, or by the choir, or as a versicle and response.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

Fraction Anthem

Sung by all



Je - sus, Lamb of God: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: Have mer - cy
on us. Je - sus, re - deem - er of the world: Give us your peace.

Music: William Mathias (1934-1992). Copyright © 1976 Oxford University Press.

Celebrant

Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

People

May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.

Communion is offered in the form of bread and wine. To receive bread only, open your hands, where the priest will place a wafer (gluten-free wafers available).

Wine is offered through sipping from the cup or intinction by the chalice bearer. To drink from the cup, first consume the bread. When the chalice bearer approaches, gently guide the cup to your mouth. For intinction, the chalice bearer will take the bread, dip it in the wine, and place it back in your hand.

If you would like to receive a blessing in place of communion, please come forward to the altar and place your hands across your chest.

Communion Motet

A Boy was born in Bethlehem,

Rejoice for that, Jerusalem!

Alleluya.

He let himself a servant be,

That all mankind He might set free:

Alleluya.

Then praise the Word of God who came

to dwell within a human frame:

Alleluya.

Music by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976)

Text: Anonymous 16th Century German
translated by Percy Dearmer (1867-1936)



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 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 un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:
 this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,
 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.
 how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.
 to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
 this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

Refrain

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



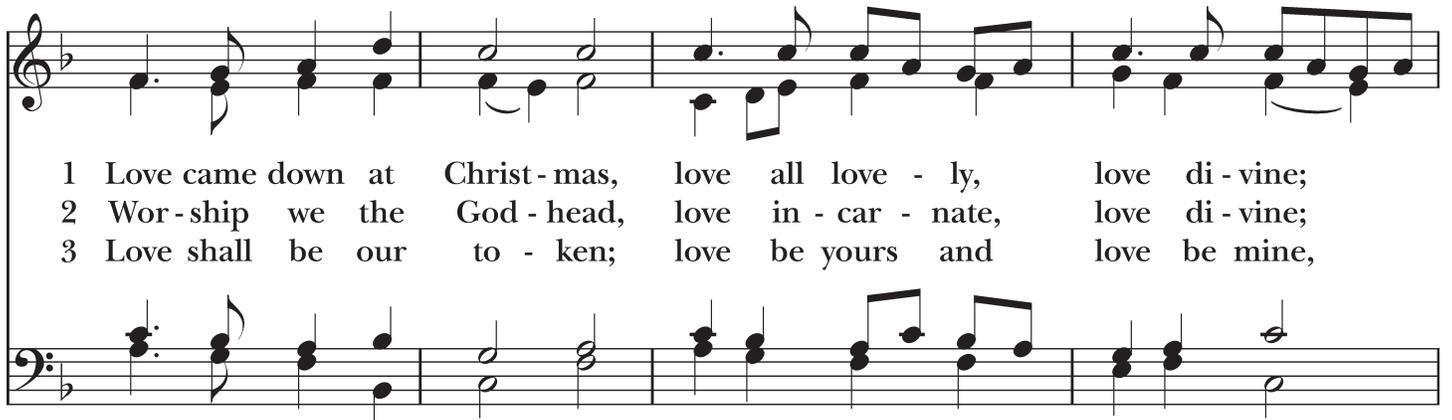
joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: *God Rest You Merry*, melody from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

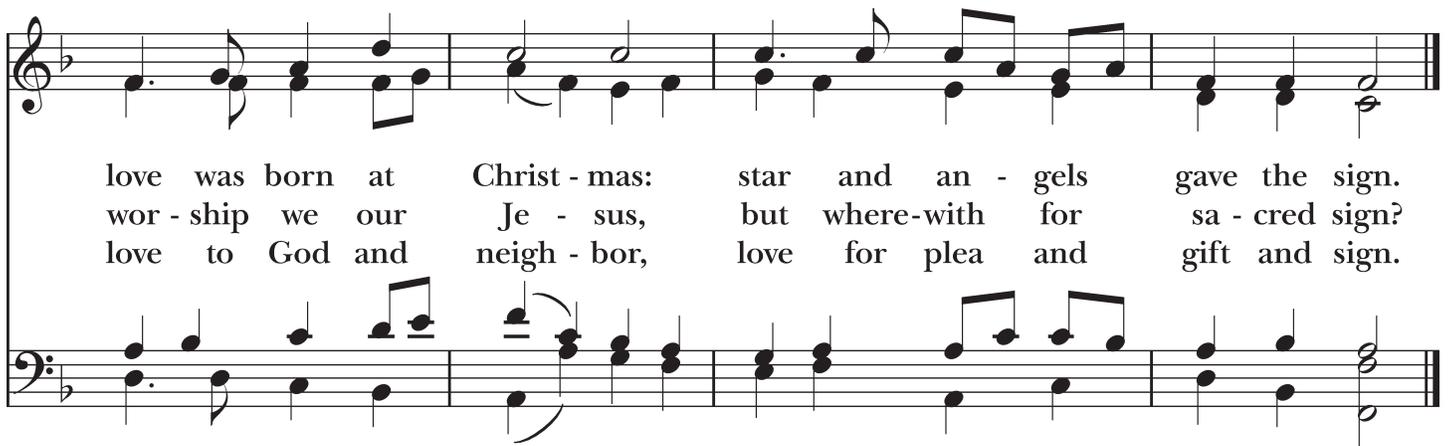
Communion Hymn

Love came down at Christmas

Hymnal 84



1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,



love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Communion Hymn

O Savior of our fallen race

Hymnal 86



1 O Sa - vior of our fall - en race, _____
 2 O Je - sus, ve - ry Light of Light, _____
 3 Re - mem - ber, Lord of life and grace, _____
 4 To - day, as year by year its light _____
 5 For from the Fa - ther's throne you came, _____
 6 O Christ, Re - deem - er vir - gin - born, _____



1 O Bright - ness of the Fa - ther's face,
 2 our con - stant star in sin's deep night;
 3 how once, to save our fall - en race,
 4 bathes all the world in ra - diance bright,
 5 his ban - ished chil - dren to re - claim;
 6 let songs of praise your Name a - dorn,



1 O Son who shared the Fa - ther's might be - fore the world knew
 2 now hear the prayers your peo - ple pray through - out the world this
 3 you put our hu - man ves - ture on and came to us as
 4 one pre - cious truth out - shines the sun: sal - va - tion comes from
 5 and earth and sea and sky re - vere the love of him who
 6 whom with the Fa - ther we a - dore and Ho - ly Spi - rit



1 day or night,
 2 ho - ly day.
 3 Ma - ry's son.
 4 you a - lone.
 5 sent you here.
 6 ev - er - more. Al - le - lu - ia!

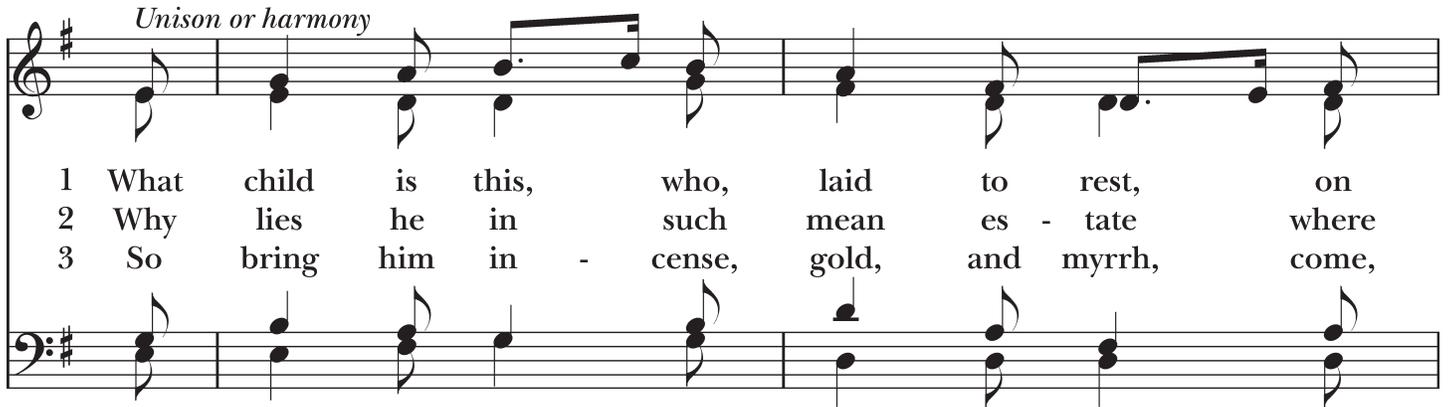
Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent.; tr. Gilbert E. Doan (b. 1930). Copyright © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission.
 Music: *Gonfalon Royal*, Percy Carter Buck (1871-1947). By permission of Oxford University Press.

Communion Hymn

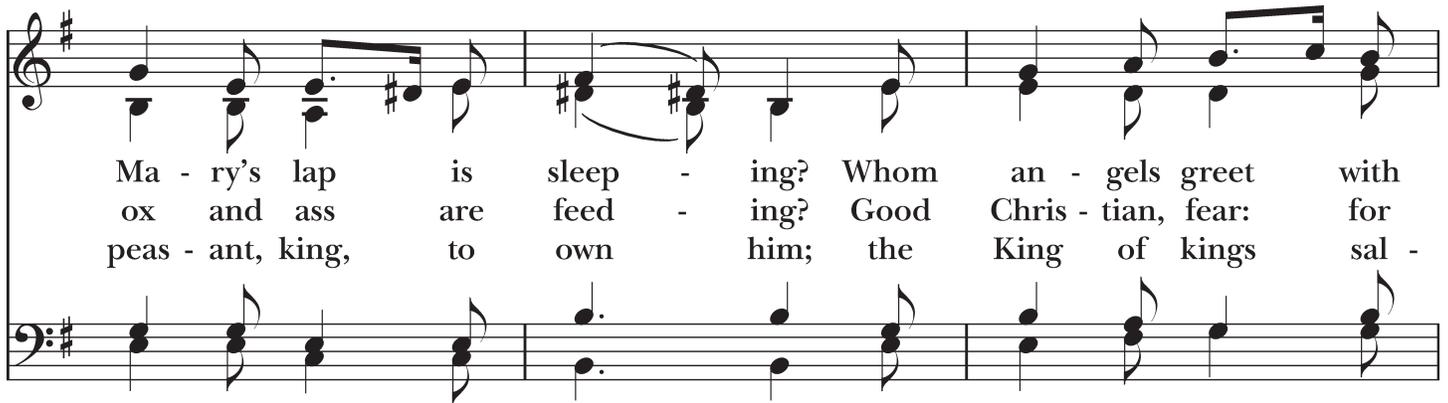
What child is this, who laid to rest

Hymnal 115

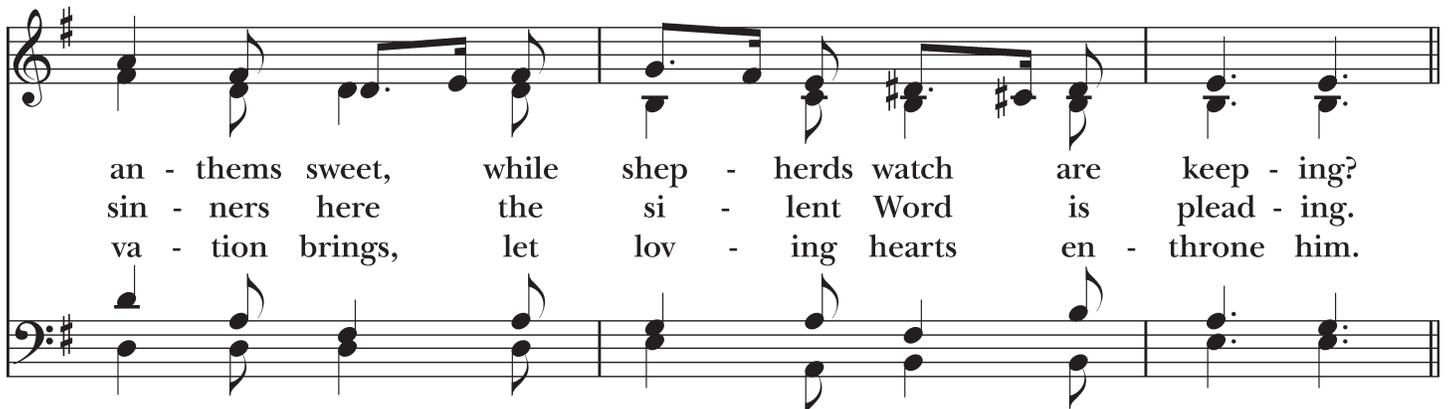
Unison or harmony



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,

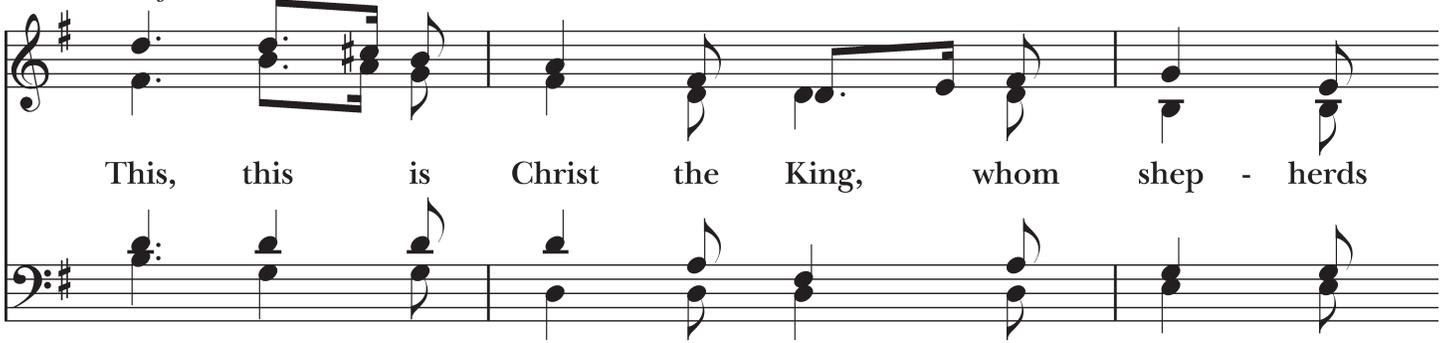


Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

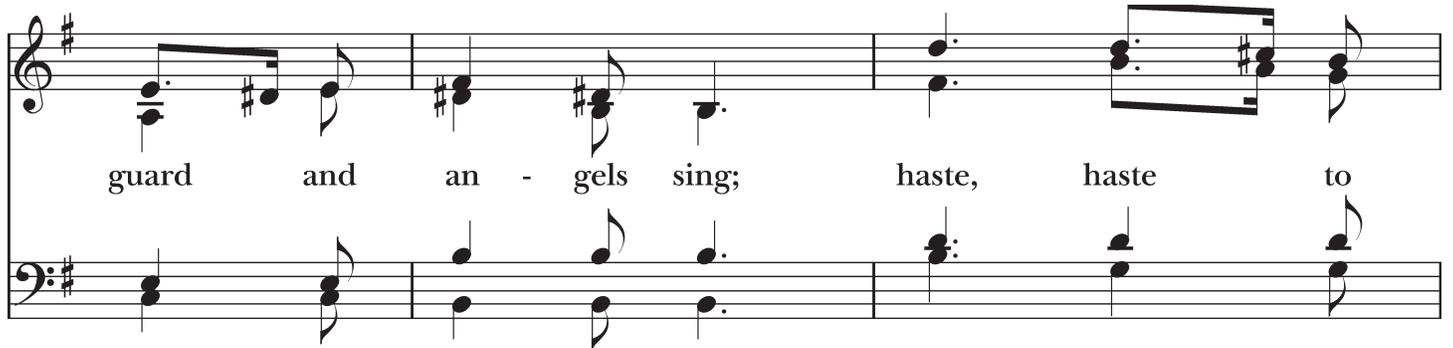


an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

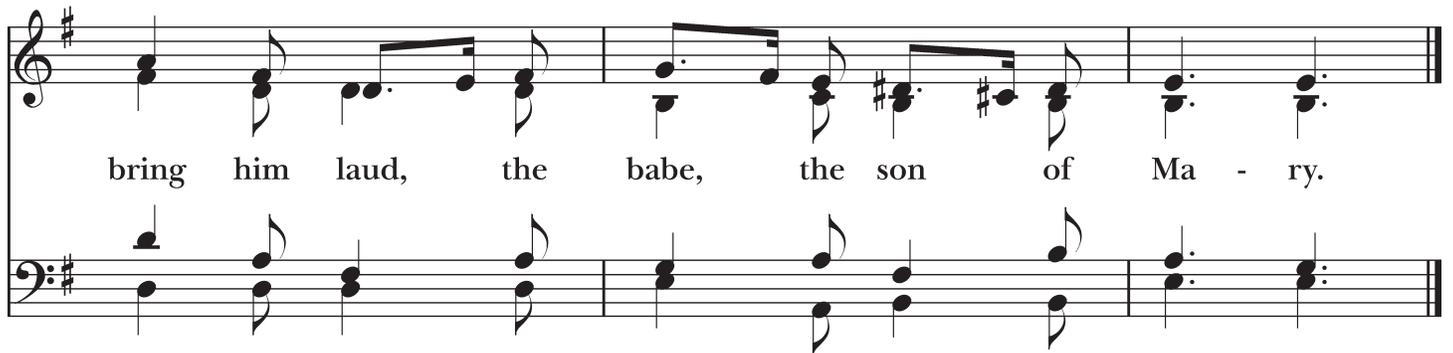
Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds



guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to



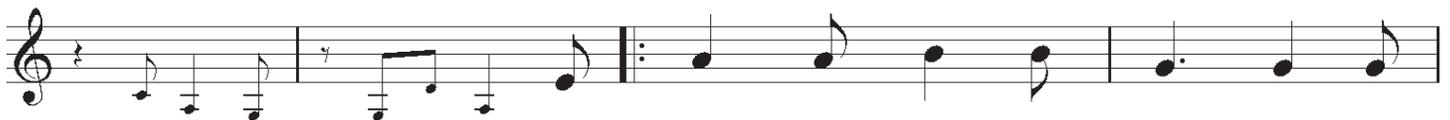
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). Music: *Greensleeves*, English melody; harm. *Christmas Carols New and Old*, 1871.

Communion Hymn

A stable lamp is lighted

Hymnal 104



1 A sta - ble lamp is light - ed Whose
 2 (This) child through Da - vid's ci - ty Shall
 3 (Yet) he shall be for - sak - en, And
 4 (But) now, as at the end - ing, The



glow shall wake the sky; The stars shall bend their voic - es,
 ride in tri - umph by; The palm shall strew its branch - es,
 yield - ed up to die; The sky shall groan and dark - en,
 low is lift - ed high; The stars shall bend their voic - es,



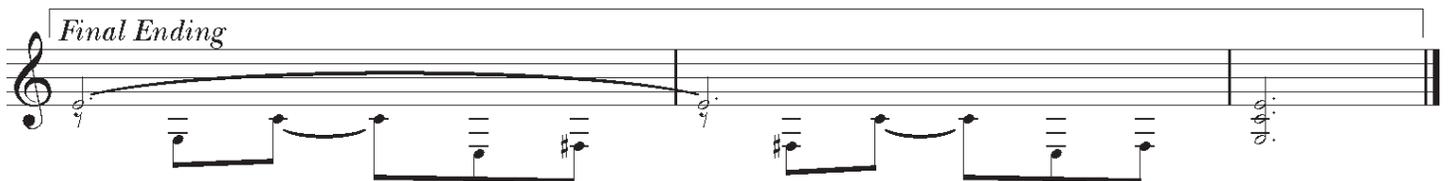
And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,
 And ev - ery stone shall cry. _____ And ev - ery stone shall cry,



And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall har - bor hea - ven,
 Though hea - vy, dull, and dumb, And lie with - in the road - way
 For ston - y hearts of men: God's blood up - on the spear - head,
 In prais - es of the Child By whose de - scent a - mong us



A stall be - come a shrine. _____ 2 This
 To pave his king - dom come. _____ 3 Yet
 God's love re - fused a - gain. _____ 4 But
 The worlds are rec - on - ciled. _____



Communion Hymn

Silent night, holy 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
 hea - ven - 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.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

Postcommunion Prayer

Please stand as you are able.

The Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

**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.**

The Christmas Blessing

The Celebrant blesses the people.

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

Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal 96

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

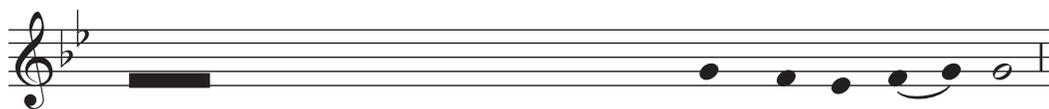
Glo - - - - - ri - a

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).

The Dismissal



Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia.



People
Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Postlude

Postlude played by String Quartet

Christmas Greenery Given to the Glory of God

In Memory of:

Mike Griffis
Elizabeth and Charles Ruffo
Andrew Johnson
Betsy Rollins
Jane Desper Landreth
The Rev. Ted Glusman
Dorothy Manning
Chuck Nordgren
Willie Ip
Sarah & Buck Alford
Susan Reynolds
Dave Bowman
Shearer & Carolyn Bowman
Nancy & Kenan Rand
Kirk Patrick Eidson
Susan Armbruster
Andrew and Maureen Mercer
My wise mother, Loretta Tvrdy,
(by Ellen Tvrdy)
Dearest friends, Linda Burton
White & Christine Blair Cole,
(by Christina Pogoloff)
Ida Whitaker
Betty and Arch Bass, Jr

In Honor of:

Margot Scott Griffis
Julia Bynum Walter
Matthew George Walter
Melynn, Tim, Tyler, and Vivian
Glusman
Mya Meyer
The Rev. Julie Blake Fisher
The Rev. Kip Colegrove
Walter Denning III
The Choir
Altar Guild
Our beloved children, Lizzie and Michael, and their spouses, Steven and Erin (by Christina Pogoloff)
Sally Anne King Pitts
Our grandchildren: Henry, Margaret, Isabelle, and Kiran (by Judy & Dan Pearson)

Donated by:

Mona Griffis
Lynda Katz
Elizabeth Chenery
Robin & David Kneeburg
Jim Desper
Duncan & Robin Krause
Carolyn Glaze
Mary Lo-Uy
Treat Harvey
Amanda Harrison
Pam Denning
Ginny Bowman
Bettye Penick
Virginia Bristol
Erin Hanlin
Ellen Tvrdy
Christina Pogoloff
Donna Rewalt
Shields Reh
Judy & Dan Pearson
Ed & Stuart Embree
Chris Ivy & Virginia Bristol
Richard & Morgan Rutherford

Thank you to all the wonderful volunteers who did the work of greening the church, led by Bill Pierson, Cathy Halloran, and Head Verger Ron Thompson.

Worship Leaders

Intercessor

Christina Askounis

Eucharistic Ministers

Richard Ammons

Martin Fowler

Bob Walker

Livestream Support

Jeff Pitts

Crucifer

Trot Sappenfield

Altar Guild

Connie Semans

Pam Denning

Members of the Family Choir

Members of the Junior Choir

Family and Junior Choir Director

Seamus Kenney

Adult Choir

Soprano

Sarah Ázeline

Nancy Davis

Erin Gasch

Barrett Mardre

Salome Sandoval

Alto

Carolyn Coolidge

Erica Jackson

Valerie Wettlaufer

Tenor

Mitchner Howell

Tim Riggs

David Smith

Gabe StClair

Del Wigfall

Bass

Michael Adams

Colin Anderson

Forrest Burris

Johnny Reis

Alex Smith

String Quartet

Allison Willet, violin

Cortney Baker, violin

Suzanne Rousso, viola

Paula Peroutka, cello

What's Happening at St. Philip's

Holiday Office Schedule

Wednesday, December 24: Open 9 AM – 12 Noon

Thursday, December 25: Closed

Friday, December 26: Closed

Monday, December 29: Open 9 AM – 3 PM

Tuesday, December 30: Open 9 AM – 3 PM

Wednesday, December 31: Open 9 AM – 12 Noon

Thursday, January 1: Closed

Some staff members may be available by appointment.

Please contact staff members directly to arrange a meeting.

Wednesday, January 7

Wednesday Night Dinner and programs resume

Sunday, January 11

10am Sunday formation resumes

End-of-Year Giving

Is there still time to fulfill my 2025 pledge?

Yes! Please send your payments by December 31. Your timely gifts help St. Philip's pay end-of-year bills on time.

How soon do I need to give?

- **Dropping off in person:** Bring your gift before 2pm on December 29 (contact bookkeeper Laura Dearth at finance@stphilipdurham.org to arrange a drop-off time.)
- **Credit card:** Initiate the gift by December 28
- **Mailed gifts:** Postmark by December 31

Christmas Lessons and Carols

This Sunday, December 28 • 10am • Church & Online
No formation hour this day. Nursery available 9:30–11:45am

This Sunday we'll have ONE worship service at 10am – Christmas Lessons and Carols with Eucharist in the church. Join us for this beautiful service combining hymns and choir anthems!

The tradition of Christmas Lessons and Carols dates from 1880, when it was first sung at Truro Cathedral on Christmas Eve – the same year St. Philip's was organized. The service includes nine lessons and nine carols related to the Christmas story, with the carols following each lesson illustrating what was read.

Christmas Potluck Social Hour

This Sunday, December 28 • 11am • Parish Hall

Got leftover Christmas goodies coming out your ears? Bring 'em to share at a Christmas potluck social hour! Candy canes, pecan sandies, buckeyes, shortbread, pie, Rice Krispie treats, cheese, chocolate in any form, fruitcake... all Christmas treats are welcome. Note this Sunday's social hour starts at 11am.

New Year's Eve Eucharist

Wednesday, December 31 • 5:30pm • Chapel

We'll gather in the chapel for a special Eucharist to close the year and begin the new one. Join us for some time to reflect on what we'll leave behind and what we'll take with us into the new year.

Epiphany Chili Cook-off & Potluck

January 6 • 6pm • Parish Hall

Who will win the golden spoon and silver potholder? Our Epiphany celebration features our fourth annual chili cook-off and potluck before the 7pm Epiphany service!



RSVP 

Please **RSVP by Sunday, January 4**, whether you're entering the cook-off, bringing a side dish, or just enjoying some good food. May the best chili cook win!

RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/EpiphanyChili>

Intern Katie Bracy Limkeman's Last Day

Sunday, January 4

Katie Bracy Limkeman's last day with us is Sunday, January 4. During her time with us, Katie preached, led Engage! programs, attended various ministries, supported the 9am service, helped create our All Saints' service, and participated in multiple roles at the 11am service. While we're sad for her departure, we look forward to her continued discernment within the Diocese of North Carolina. Join us in wishing Katie well!



Tenth Day of Christmas Social Hour for all ages

Sunday, January 4 • 10am • Parish Hall

On the 10th day of Christmas, my true love gave to me... ten lords a-leaping! Christmas isn't over yet! Gather for a festive Christmas social hour with merriment and Christmas treats.

Make Lunch at UMD

Saturday, January 3 • 11:15am

Every first Saturday, a group from St. Philip's preps and serves lunches for our Urban Ministries of Durham neighbors. Join us!

Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/umdlunch>

Host Social Hour

Our social hour after the 11 a.m. service is lay-led, and it takes you to make it work! Hosts bring snacks, set them up, and hang around to talk to folks. You'll have a great time!

Sign up on the parish hall easel, or email office@stphilipdurham.org to request a date.

Community News

Virtual Religious Trauma Support Group

Tuesdays • 7–8:30pm • January 13 – May 5

Hosted by *The Beloved Community*

Led by *Sam Laurent, PhD*

Religious trauma refers to the physical, emotional, or psychological distress caused by religious beliefs, practices, or structures. It can have lasting effects on a person's physical, mental, social, emotional, or spiritual well-being. Anyone who identifies as having experienced religious trauma is welcome at this new online support group hosted by The Beloved Community.

For more info and to register:

<https://belovedcommunitydurham.org/ministries>

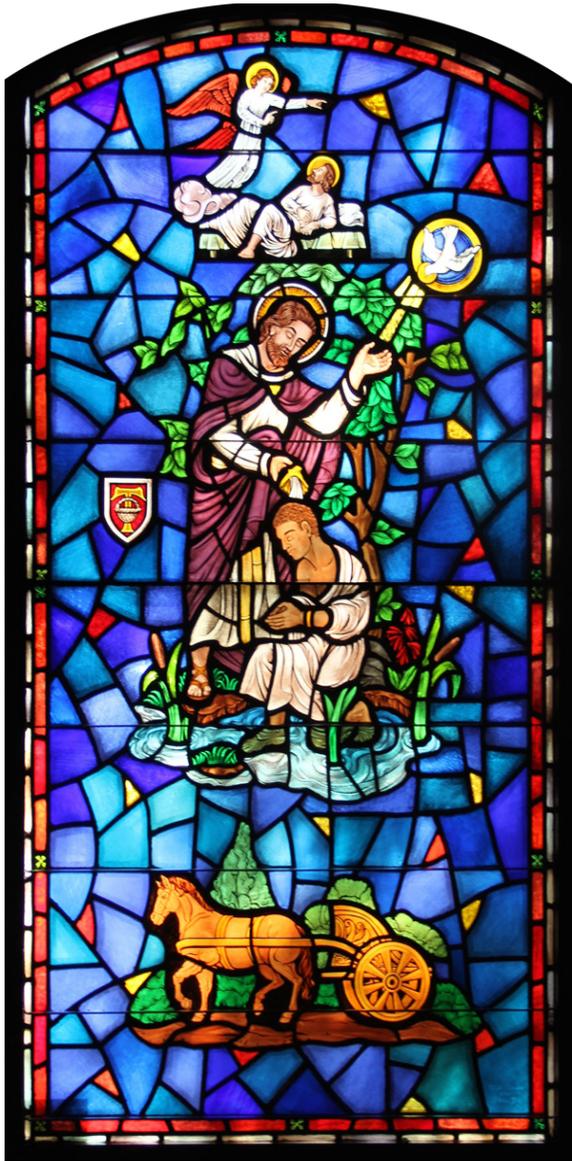


Advent & Christmas

St. Philip's Episcopal Church

Christmas

- | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--|
| Wed, Dec 24 | 4pm | Holy Eucharist with Pageant |
| | 9:30pm | Carol Sing |
| | 10pm | Solemn High Mass |
| Thu, Dec 25 | 10am | Holy Eucharist |
| Sun, Dec 28 | 10am | Christmas Lessons & Carols with Eucharist |
| | 11am | Social hour Christmas potluck
<i>bring your leftover goodies to share</i> |
| Wed, Dec 31 | 5:30pm | New Year's Eve Holy Eucharist
<i>(no other programs)</i> |
| Sun, Jan 4 | 8, 9, 11 | Regular worship schedule returns |
| Tue, Jan 6 | 6pm | 4th Annual Chili Cook-off (RSVP) |
| | 7pm | Feast of the Epiphany worship |



St. Philip's Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Maryann D. Younger, *Rector*
The Rev. Gabe Lamazares, *Associate Rector*
The Rev. Lisa Fischbeck, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. Dr. Stephen Pogoloff, *Priest Associate*
The Rev. Jim Craven, *Priest Associate*
Emily Sparks, *Ryals Minister for Families*
Chris Reed, *Interim Youth Assistant*
Lewis Moore, *Director of Music Ministries*
Amanda Robinson, *Parish Administrator*
Grace Camblos, *Minister for Communications*
Gwenetta Drewery, *Parish Custodian*
Amanda "Mya" Meyer, *Parish Sexton*
Ashley Eastham, *Bulletin Coordinator*
Tonya Wilson, *Parish Chef*
Laura Kirby, *Executive Director, The Trees*
Olynda Smith, *Operations Manager, The Trees*
Henry Kennelly, *Seminarian in Residence, The Trees*
Katie Bracy Limkeman, *Diocesan Intern*

St. Philip's Vestry

Lowell Darbegh	Jeff Pitts
Erin Gasch	Mike Uhl
Sarah Johnson	Heather Beard
Addis Crooks-Jones	John Bowman
Sue Guptill	Caroline Wang
Marty Nelson	Emily Yeatts



Connect With Us

stphilipsdurham.org



Join our email list

tinyurl.com/StPhilipsEpistle

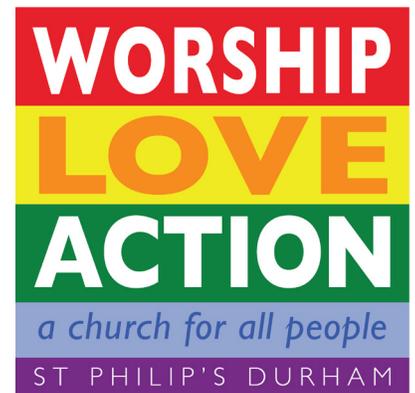


Calendar

stphilipsdurham.org/calendar

Find us on Social Media

@stphilipsdurham



St. Philip's is a church for all people. Whoever you are, wherever you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you at St. Philip's. We believe God loves us all – no exceptions!