

SAINT PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Second Sunday after Christmas

January 2, 2022

10:30am

The Rt. Rev José McLoughlin
Bishop of Western North Carolina

The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker
Rector



Welcome to our Church

WELCOME

to

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

We are delighted you are seeking God in this special place. We want you to know that wherever you are on the journey of faith, you are welcome to ask your questions here.

Services are available: Recent services are available on our website:

<https://stpaulwilkesboro.org>

Newsletters: Sign-up today to receive our electronic newsletter. Email the church office at office@stpaulwilkesboro.org to have your name added. If you would like a printed copy of the newsletter mailed, please call the office.

We extend a special thanks today to all that have been so generous with their time and talents in making this service possible.

200 W. Cowles St., P. O. Box 95, Wilkesboro, NC 28697

336-667-4231

www.stpaulwilkesboro.org

E-mail: office@stpaulwilkesboro.org

Pastoral Emergency Line: 336-482-6800

ONLINE GIVING QR CODE:



MASKS ARE REQUIRED
for all persons,
vaccinated or unvaccinated
per the most recent
CDC guidelines.

The Gathering

Prelude

Prelude on “Greensleeves”

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Welcome and Announcements

Processional Hymn #107

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

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

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

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

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

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

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Presider Let us pray:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name: through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria

Refrain

The musical score is written for a choir or congregation, using a two-staff system (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The first system is the *Refrain*, which consists of a single melodic line in the treble clef with the lyrics "Glo - ri - a". The second system begins with the lyrics "in ex - cel - sis De - o." followed by a repeat of the refrain melody. The third system continues the melody with the lyrics "- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o." and ends with a double bar line. The bass clef part provides a simple harmonic accompaniment, often using sustained chords or moving lines that support the melody.

Glo - ri - a

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

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

The Collect

Presider The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Let us pray:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
"Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,
says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
**by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height, *

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; *

and look upon the face of your Anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God

than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *

he will give grace and glory;

No good thing will the LORD withhold *

from those who walk with integrity.

O LORD of hosts, *

happy are they who put their trust in you!

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The word of the Lord.

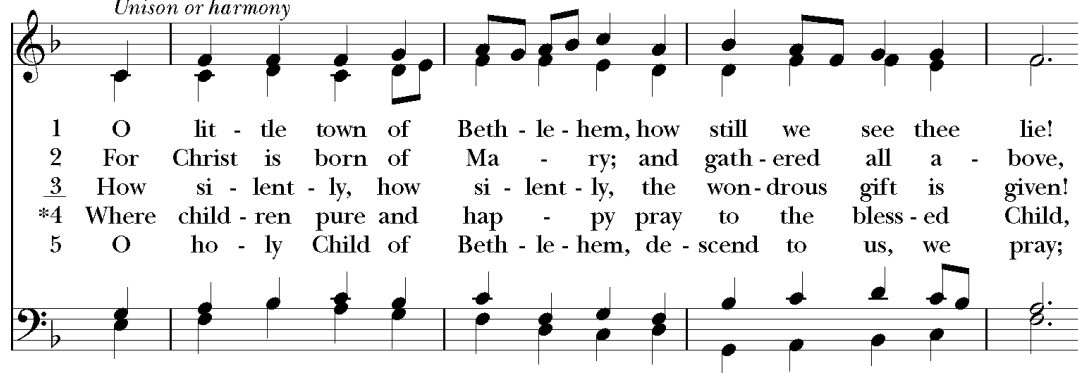
People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn #78

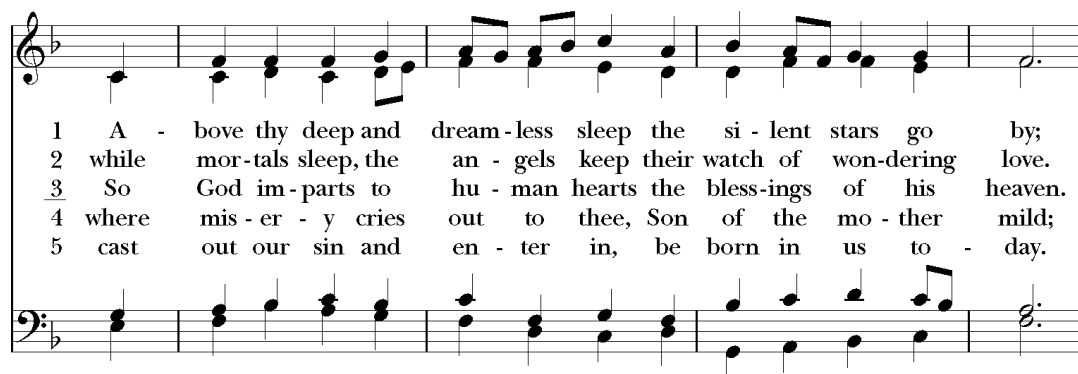
(Stanzas 1, 2, 3, & 5)

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Unison or harmony



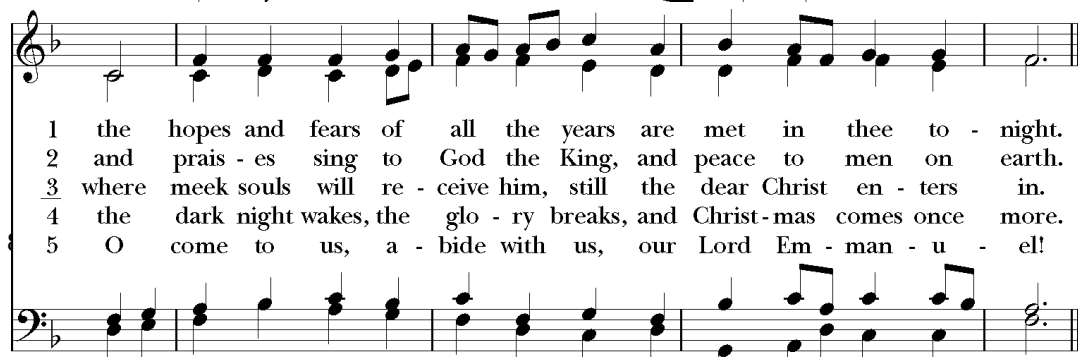
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
 *4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - 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!

Please stand, as you are most comfortable.

The Gospel

Luke 2:41-52

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

All are seated.

The Sermon

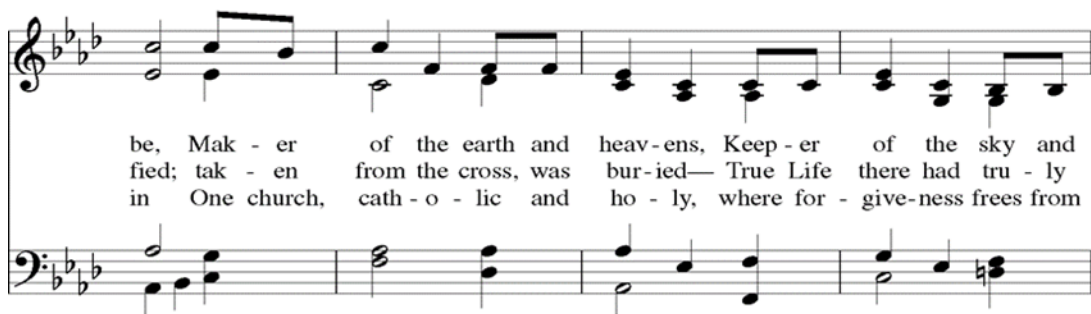
The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker

A period of silence follows the sermon.

The Nicene Creed—Wonder, Love & Praise



1. I be - lieve in God al - might - y, Au - thor of all things that
 2. I be - lieve that Je - sus suf - fered, scourged and scorned and cru - ci -
 3. I be - lieve in God's own Spir - it, bond - ing all the saints with-



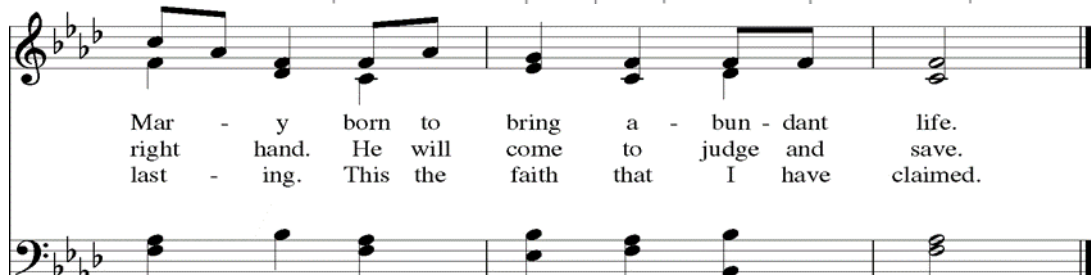
be, Mak - er of the earth and heav - ens, Keep - er of the sky and
 fied; tak - en from the cross, was bur - ied— True Life there had tru - ly
 in One church, cath - o - lic and ho - ly, where for - give - ness frees from



sea. I be - lieve in God's Son, Je - sus, now for
 died. I be - lieve that on the third day Christ was
 sin; in the bod - y's res - ur - rec - tion, for the



us both Lord and Christ, of the Spir - it and of
 raised up from the grave, then as - cend - ed to God
 break - ing of death's chain gives the life that's ev - er -



Mar - y born to bring a - bun - dant life.
 right hand. He will come to judge and save.
 last - ing. This the faith that I have claimed.

Prayers of the People

Leader Let us rejoice in the Mystery of the Incarnation,
in the Humanity of God,
in the Wonder of the Word made flesh.

Leader *O Prince of Peace,*

People Manifest in us today.

Leader Let us rejoice that God is with us,
a hidden silent presence,
transforming to gold the leaden rock of earth.

Leader *O Emmanuel,*

People Manifest in us today.

Leader Let us rejoice that the best name of God is Love,
a Love that draws us like a magnet,
that nothing can defeat, neither evil nor pain nor death.

Leader *O Wonderful Counselor,*

People Manifest in us today.

Leader Let us rejoice in God revealed to us as a baby,
whose weakness is stronger than our brittle pride,
whose light shines clearer than our willful blindness.

Leader *O Word made flesh,*

People Manifest in us today.

Leader Let us rejoice that God has given us one another,
that we might learn to bear the beams of love.

Leader *O Wonderful counselor,*

People Manifest in us today.

Leader Let us pray that we have courage to change our lives so as to be,
as nations and as individuals,
that the hungry may be fed, the poor achieve dignity,
the oppressed go free, and the stranger be welcomed.

Leader *O living Christ,*
People **Manifest in us today.**

Leader Let us pray for those in authority among us,
 that they may work for justice and the common good.

Leader *O King of Peace,*
People **Manifest in us today.**

Leader Let us pray for the peacemakers of the world,
 and all who through their vision and struggle
 seek to make us citizens of one earth.

Leader *O Son of Man,*
People **Manifest in us today.**

Leader Let us remember the lonely and anxious among us,
 the elderly, the homeless, and the starving,
 the foolish and the despairing,
 the sick at heart and those in pain,
 the dying and those who mourn,
 and those who hearts are hardened against the love of God.

Leader *O Lord of love,*
People **Manifest in us today.**

Leader We pray for our sick in heart, body, or soul, especially...

Leader *O God of healing,*
People **Manifest in us today.**

Leader We pray for those who have died and those who grieve,
 especially...

Leader *O God of Resurrection,*
People **Manifest in us today.**

Leader We share our joy and thanksgivings, especially...

Leader *O Lord of the Dance,*

People Manifest in us today.

Presider Dear God, our Creator,

**All Beloved Companion and Guide upon the Way,
Eternal Spirit within us and beyond us:
let us honor your name
in lives of costly giving love;
let us show that we and all whom we meet
deserve dignity and respect,
for they are your dwelling place and your home;
let us share in action your deepen desire
for justice and peace among the peoples of the world;
let us in the spirit of your forgiving us
make friends with those we've hurt
and failed to love;
let us in your love free the world from evil,
transforming darkness into light.
For the whole world is yours,
and you invite us to be partners in the work of your creating.
Amen.
So be it.**

Confession of Sin

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

A period of reflective silence.

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness,
and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

The Peace

✧ *“The Peace” is a Christian tradition deriving its roots from Jesus himself who greeted people saying, “Peace be with you.” “The Peace” may feel awkward if you are new or an introvert or trying not to be noticed. We take this portion of our worship seriously as we live in a deeply divided world full of violence. These actions in God’s house model what we are called to do in the world.*

Peace be with you.

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand, as able.

Eucharistic Prayer B

Offertory

Jesus Christ the Apple Tree

Elizabeth Poston (1905-1987)

Presider All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

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.

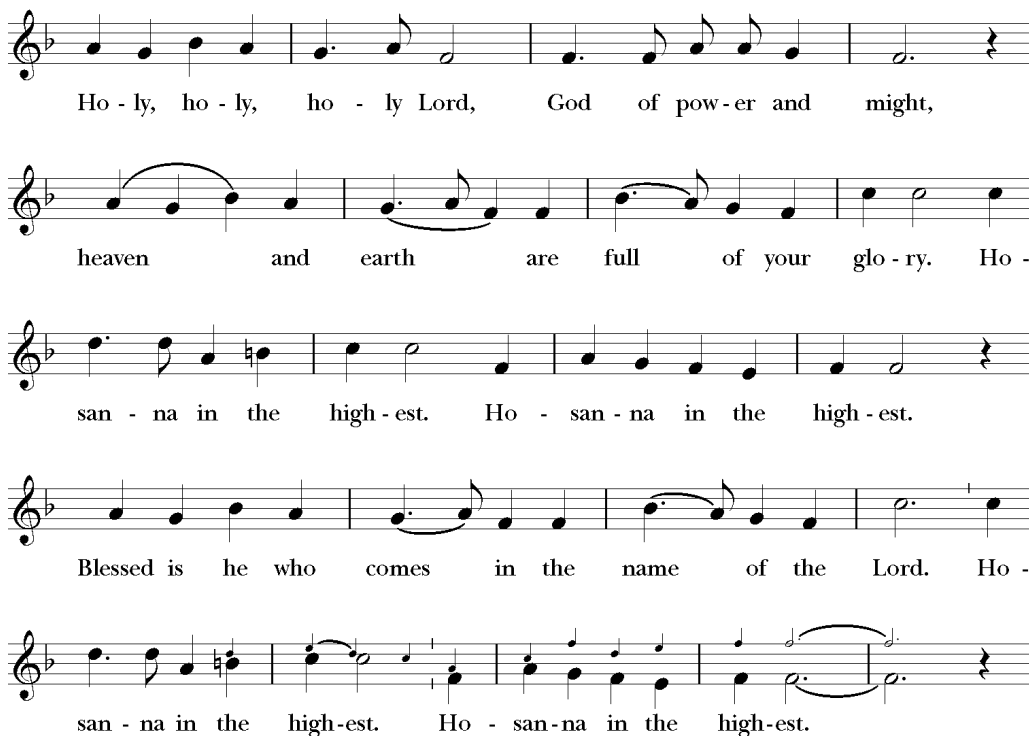
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus: S-125



The musical score is written on five staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,". The second staff contains "heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -". The third staff contains "san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.". The fourth staff contains "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -". The fifth staff contains "san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.".

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

Stand or kneel, as able, for the Prayer of Consecration.

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 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,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

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, 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. Amen.

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

**Our father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The gifts of God for the people of God...

This is the table of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you have little, you who have been here often and you have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, for it is the Lord who invites you.

You may receive communion by one of two ways: in one kind, receiving the wafer by placing your right hand over the palm of the left and raising it toward the celebrant, receiving the wafer in your palm without wine. You may also receive by intinction, by which when receiving communion, you keep your arms and hands by your sides and the celebrant will dip the wafer into the wine and place it on your tongue.

Gluten free wafers available upon request.

Communion Music Of the Father's Love Begotten

plainchant arrangement

Post Communion Prayer

Presider Let us pray,

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 Blessing

May God who conquered darkness with light,
give peace to you.

May God who conquered death with life,
give peace to you.

May God who conquered loneliness with love,
give peace to you.

And the Blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you
and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn #105

God Rest you Merry, Gentlemen



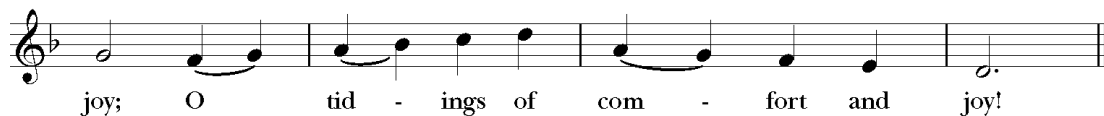
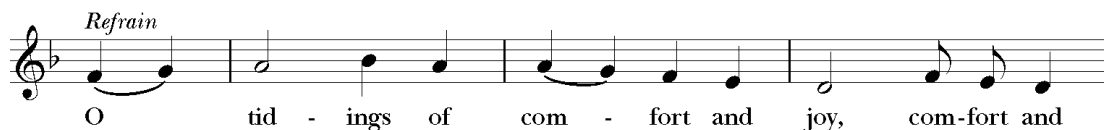
1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
 2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came
 3 "Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let noth - ing you af - fright;
 4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



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.



Keyborad and guitar should not sound together.

Words: London carol, 18th cent.; Copyright © by permission of Fleming H. Revell Company. 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. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Dismissal

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Alleluia! Alleluia!

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

From Heaven on High I Come

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Food Not Flowers Gifts

Mike & Jean Adams: *In memory of their parents, Audrey & Art Adams, and Janet & Dick Smith*

Mike & Mary Southwell: *In honor of heir children and grandchildren*

Steve Jackson: *In honor of his grandchildren*

Prayer List

Please remember in your prayers: All who are ill or unemployed and those who are on our prayer list.

Short-term

John Bentley, Jackie & Hazel Chapman, Becky Mullins,
Jeff Smith, John Stinson

Long-term

Jim Priester, David Temple

Armed Forces

Let us pray for the safety of **all our troops**, especially Micha Duerk, Cole Griffith, Zach Necessary, Walker Pardue, Philip Southwell, Mark Stone, Jason Westmeyer, and all others who serve in Iraq, Afghanistan and throughout the world.

Please send to the church office the addresses of troops with connections to office@stpaulwilkesboro.org, especially those abroad.

Prayer requests can be submitted through the prayer request form by scanning the QR code, or by contacting the office.



Sign up today!
Sign ups for altar flowers are
posted in the commons, or use
the QR code and sign up
online!





Jan 02—Frances Yale

Jan 02—Bryan Will

Jan 03—Denver Owens

Jan 05—Russell Stinson

Jan 06—Joseph Manolovich

Jan 06—Teri Ferree

Jan 08—Ann Willardson



Jan 04—Edward & Erin Southwell

Serving Today

Altar Guild: Ramona Curtis & Reba Whittington

Reader 8:30: Jenny Nelson

Reader 10:30: Mary Southwell

Acolytes: Rebecca & Hannah Hartzog

Usher 8:30: Glenn Smith

Usher 10:30: David McNeill



St. Paul's Vestry

Doug Merritt
Ramona Curtis

Doug Morris
Mark Williams, *Sr. Warden*

Richard Barber
Beverly Cook
Richard Searcy

Carol Canter
Joe Fesperman, *Jr. Warden*
Gwen Temple

Bill Harris, *Secretary*
John Harwell, *Treasurer*

The Rt. Rev. José McLoughlin, *Bishop of the Diocese of WNC*
The Rev. Stephanie E. Parker, *Rector*
rector@stpaulwilkesboro.org
The Rev. Dn. Susan Whittington, *Deacon*
The Rev. Carl Elledge, *Pastoral Assistant*
Morgen Love, *Parish Administrator*
Russell Stinson, *Director of Music*
Roosevelt Carlton, *Sexton*