



THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2011 11:00 P.M.

Christ Church : Exeter, New Hampshire

GOOD EVENING AND WELCOME to Christ Church. For your convenience, everything you need for worship can be found in this booklet. Tonight's liturgy is drawn from *The Book of Common Prayer*, *The Book of Occasional Services*, and *Enriching Our Worship*.

The Entrance Rite

Organ Prelude

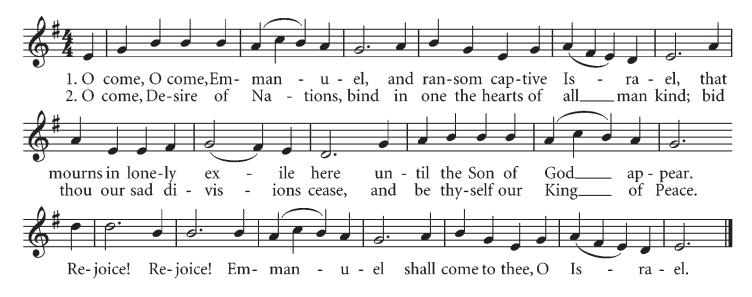
Fantasia on 'Veni Emmanuel' Chorale Prelude on 'In dulci jubilo' The Holy Boy Pastorale 'Gesu Bambino' Heathcote Statham (1889-1973) Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707) John Ireland (1879-1962) Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

As the bell tolls, the people stand.

Celebrant	Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Thanks be to God. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us: Alleluia. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord: Alleluia.
Celebrant	Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put of

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

The Processional Hymn (sung by all) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



The Lessons

Celebrant

Dear people of God: on this Christmas Eve, let it be our delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of Israel's exile in Babylon until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

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PLEASE BE SEATED FOR THE READINGS AND THE HYMNS.
First Lesson God calls on his people to prepare for redemption Isaiah 40:1-11
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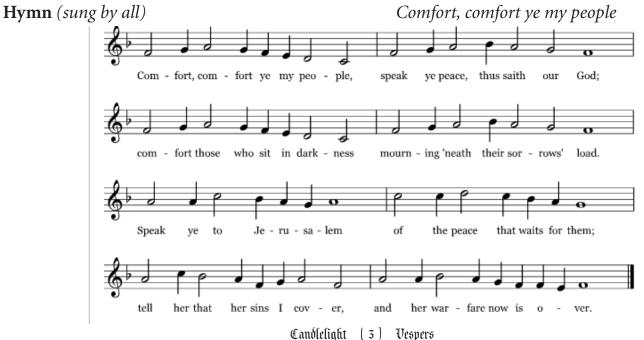
omfort, O comfort my people, says your God. Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins.

A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the Lord blows upon it; surely the people are grass. The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever.

Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" See, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather in the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

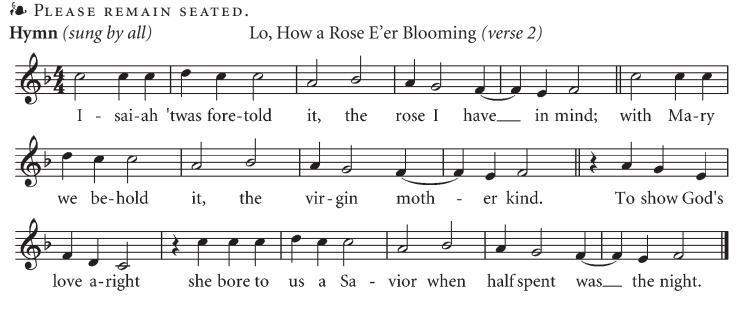
🏕 Each reading concludes:

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.



It the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

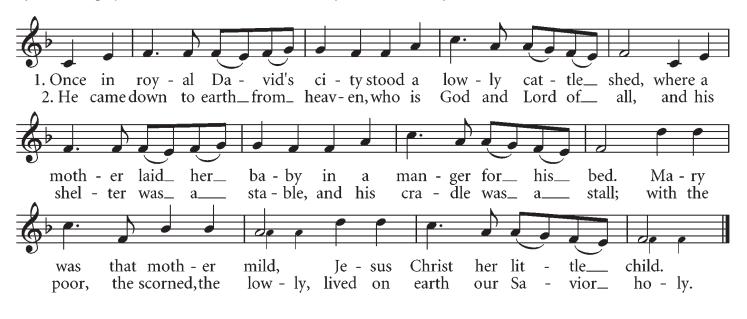
Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.



Third LessonThe angel of God appears to Joseph in a dreamMatthew 1:18-24

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife. PLEASE REMAIN SEATED.

Candlelight (4) Vespers



Fourth Lesson

Jesus is born in Bethlehem

It 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.

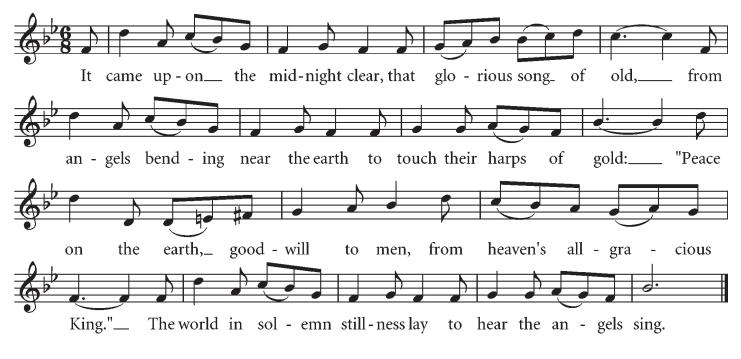
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of 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.

🍋 Please remain seated.

Luke 2:1-20



Fifth LessonJesus receives his name and is presented to SimeonLuke 2:21-32

A fter eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

Canticle (sung by the choral ensemble) The Song of Simeon

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, to be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Homily The Rev. Caroline V. Hines

A period of silence is kept.

✤ Please stand.

The Prayers

Let us pray for the needs of God's world, for peace and justice on earth, and for the unity and mission of the Church for which Jesus died.

And because Jesus particularly loves them, let us remember in his name 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 the love of God in Christ.

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

During the silence, the people add their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Collect for Christmas Day

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 Peace * Please greet those around you with a sign of peace.

Offertory Music

Still, Still, Still

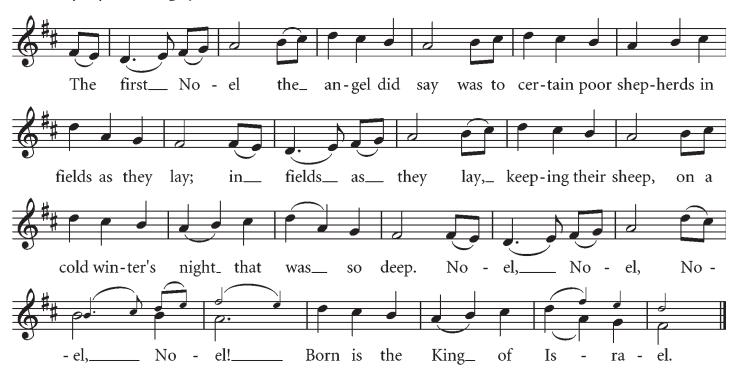
Traditional

Christi Hammon, soprano

Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill. The virgin's tender arms enfolding, Warm and safe the Christ child holding. Still, still, still, He sleeps this night so chill.

Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep, While angel hosts from heav'n come winging Sweetest songs of joy are singing, Sleep, sleep, sleep, He lies in slumber deep.

PLEASE STAND. Offertory Hymn (sung by all) The First Noel

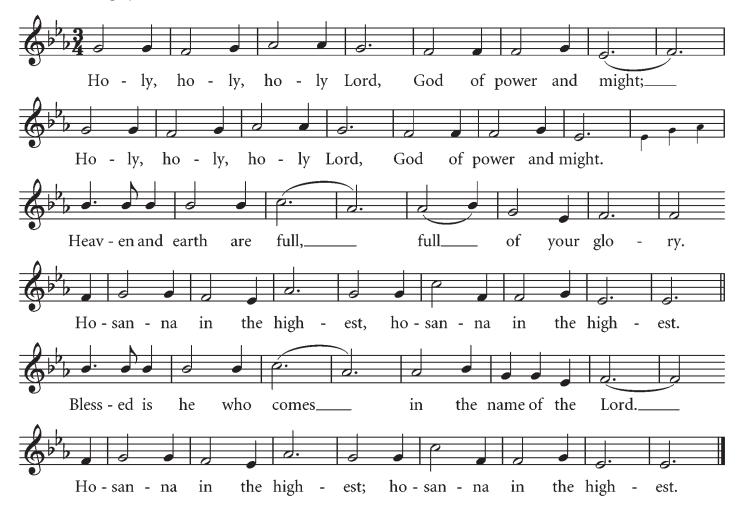


🏕 Please remain standing.

The Holy Communion

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

Sanctus (sung by all)



🕭 Please kneel or remain standing.

Celebrant

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your reign and give himself freely for us, a holy and fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

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

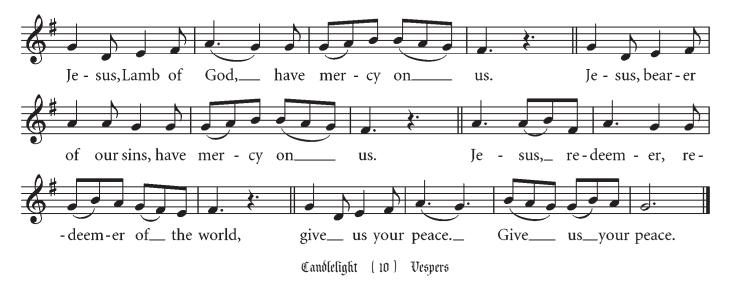
After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

The Celebrant continues

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

Celebrant and People:		Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!		
Celebrant:	may be to us Spirit's powe together in th	Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with the blessed Virgin Mary, Joseph, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.		
	Spirit, we we	rist and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy orship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise. you now and forever.		
	People:	Amen.		
Celebrant:	And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,			
Celebrant and People:		Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.		

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept. **Fraction Anthem** (sung by all)



Invitation to Communion

All are invited to receive Holy Communion. Those who do not wish to receive Communion are welcome to come to the altar rail for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.

As you approach the altar from the center aisle, proceed to the first available place at the altar rail, beginning at the center and then out and around to the sides.

The bread is received in the open palm. The wine, if desired, may be taken from the common cup by drinking (placing your hand gently on the base of the chalice to guide it) or by slightly dipping the wafer of bread into the wine. If you choose not to receive the wine, please remain at the altar rail until the wine has passed by you.

Members of the Healing Ministries Team are available during communion to offer the Laying on of Hands and Anointing. All who desire this sacrament are invited to proceed to the healing station before or after receiving communion.

Communion Hymns Between the Cow and the Donkey Noel ancien/Arr. Bernard Dewagtere Sleep My Baby Traditional Welsh Lullaby Arr. Bernard Dewagtere Wendy Gladstone, recorder **Hymn** (sung by all) Away in a Manger 1. A crib for the___ lit - tle Lord way in a_ man-ger, no___ а bed. 2. The ba - by cat - tle are__ low - ing; the__ a wakes, but_ lit - tle Lord 3. Be Lord ask thee close near me, Je - sus, I to stay by me for laid_ down his sweet head; the the____ bright sky looked le - sus stars in Je - sus, no. cry - ing he makes. Ι love thee, Lord_ Ie - sus; look_ -ev - er, and_ love me, Bless all the dear_ child-ren Ι in_ pray. down where he lit - tle Lord a lay, the_ Je - sus sleep on the hay. down from the sky and_ stav by my side un - til morn-ing is nigh. ten - der and_ to___ live with thee there. thy care, fit for heav-en us

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant and People Mysterious God, we thank you for feeding us with yourself; and for making yourself known to us in the holy child Jesus, the Christ. Let us carry within our hearts your Holy Spirit, that same Spirit which was in Jesus, so that we may help bring your peace to all the earth in Jesus' Name. Amen.

The Candlelighting

THE PEOPLE KNEEL OR SIT during the candlelighting and singing of "Silent Night." During the interlude, the acolytes will light the candle of the person at the end of each row. That person should then light the candle of the person sitting next to them, and so on, until all candles are lit.

Interlude

Infant Holy

Polish Carol Arr. Robert Leaf

Emily Ellis, soprano; Shirley Jackson, alto

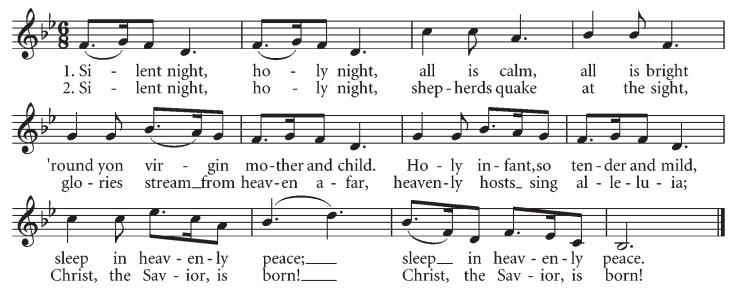
Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; Oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all. Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing: Christ the child is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new; Saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of the gospel true. Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the child is Lord of all.

🐌 Please remain kneeling or seated.

Hymn (sung by all)

Silent night, holy night



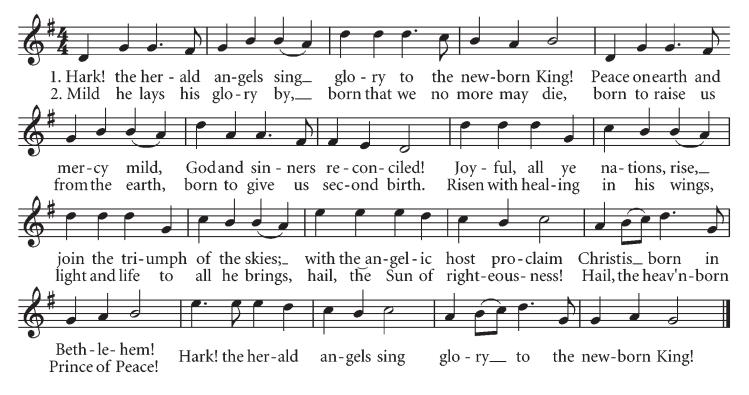
Candlelight (12) Vespers

It the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he come to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

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

Please stand as the lights in the church shine forth. **Recessional Hymn** (*sung by all*) Hark! the herald angels sing



Dismissal

Assisting PriestLet us go forth in the Name of Christ.PeopleThanks be to God.

Postlude

Fantasia on 'In Dulci Jubilo'

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

ØfficiantsThe Rev. Caroline V. Hines, The Rev. Anne C. Thornberg
ReadersReadersShirley Jackson, Alan Rollins, Sue Pepper, Lucia Savage, Pat IzzoEucharistic MinistersSue Pepper, Pat IzzoAcolytesSarah Dube, Aby Fisher, Katharine Gaillard, Wallis GaillardØrganistBruce AdamiSingersChristi Hammon, Emily Ellis, Shirley JacksonRecorderWendy Gladstone

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The flowers and poinsettia plants are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of departed family and friends, including:

Ellen Scott Grace Critcherson Nana & Pa Harvey M. Wescott Dolores Rita Stinson Aunt Beth Grandpa Landis Papa O'Connell Ernie Rutherford Margaret Crowe Norma Stilwell Meg Latimer Kearns Judyellen Maudlin Richard Beauvais Lois Buswell Mary Kramer Shafer William D. Kramer Jane Palmer Joseph Grensavitch Michele LaCroix Harry & Marion Miller Charlotte Wheaton Eric & Martha Andrews Peter F. Kearns Walter Samolchuk Robert E. Miller Frank Gilman George & Elvia Hetu Amy & Arthur Hetu Alice & Walter Knox Joseph "Pat"Petroski Ada Louise Simpson Norman Ben Simpson Chester Simpson Edward & Elizabeth O'Reilly Philip & Sarah Latimer

The loved ones of Dee McClave The loved ones of the Savage family The loved ones of the Howell and Kollmorgen families The loved ones of the Gage family

Looking for a faith community?

Christ Church is a joyful, diverse community, anchored in Christ. People from different backgrounds find God's love here. We have ministries and opportunities for all ages and invite you to be a part of our community. You can learn more on our website: <u>www.ChristChurchExeter.org</u>. There's a place for you here!

Merry Christmas and Thank You

We extend our deep gratitude to our Choirs and their directors, Acolytes, Ushers, Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Altar Guild members, the Parish Staff, all who decorate the church for Christmas, and all who contributed plans and flowers to make our liturgy so glorious in honor of our incarnate Lord.

On behalf of the Vestry and Staff, we wish you a blessed Christmas. May the light of the Christ Child shine upon all of us, filling us with the wondrous love and grace of God throughout this season and the new year.

- Caroline, Annie, and David

Christmas Season Schedule

On Sunday, December 25 the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 10am. On Sunday, January 1 the Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:00 and 10:30 AM. Childcare will be available on January 1, but there will be no Church School or Adult Formation.

The church office will be closed on Monday, December 26, Tuesday, December 27, and Monday, January 2.

Christ Church Youth Theatre Returns in Feburary Trapeze: a musical: Reach. Fall. Brow.

This year's show will feature poignant, humorous and thought provoking monologues that highlight the common yet defining and, at times, difficult issues today's teens face as they push toward adulthood. These monologues are matched with fabulous music and energized choreography. While some of the dialog focuses on teen issues, the messages of the show are applicable across all ages.

Performances will be February 9, 10 and 11. Put the dates in your calendars; this will be another great show.

43 PINE STREET : EXETER, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03833 : (603) 772-3332 office@christchurchexeter.org www.christchurchexeter.org

Christ Church

Church Office: Monday - Friday 8:30 - Noon; 1:00 - 4:30 PM.

Interim Rector

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Priest Associate

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LINDA CAREY Ext. 11 office@christchurchexeter.org

BookkeeperChild Care SupervisorSexton& DIANE ROBINSON& KAREN FOOTE& BOB PRESCOTT

The Vestry

INTERIM RECTOR The Rev. Caroline V. Hines Senior Warden Peg Gaillard Junior Warden Joe DiPalermo Treasurer Lucia Savage CLERK Chris Kramer

Wendy Gladstone Sue Ingram Jim McAllister Christy Bodnar Adam Fallon Derek Wyskiel Cindy Eaton Eric LaMontagne Betty Wescott