

ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

ANNAPOLIS • MARYLAND • ESTABLISHED 1692



THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

FAMILY SERVICE
with the
BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE
and
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE TWO



DECEMBER 24, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

WELCOME TO ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

If you are visiting us for the first time, let us offer you an especially warm welcome. We hope that you will enjoy worshipping with us. We would like to continue our relationship with you, so please fill out a visitor card which may be found in a pew packet or on our website's Newcomers page, www.st-margarets.org/newcomers.html.

SAFETY PROTOCOLS AT ST. MARGARET'S

Our COVID-19 safety protocols have been relaxed and mask wearing is optional. Hand sanitizer bottles are offered throughout the campus. **In the event of an emergency, please stay calm, stay seated, and listen for instructions.**

CHILDREN AT ST. MARGARET'S

Nursery care is provided on Sunday mornings by loving professionals for ages 0-3 from 8:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the lower floor of the Annex, the building attached to the Sanctuary.

During the 9:00 a.m. service when the Hymn before the Sermon begins, children ages three and a half through fifth grade are welcome to follow the wooden cross out to attend **Children's Chapel** with an age-appropriate lesson and music. They will return during announcements time.

We provide **Sunday School** for children ages 3-14 most Sundays from September through May. To sign up your child, email Emily DelSordo, Children's Formation Coordinator, at emily@st-margarets.org. Our Youth Group, fellowship for middle and high school students, is conducted on Mondays at 6:45 p.m. To register your youth, email Jeff Conover, Youth Ministries Leader, at jeff@st-margarets.org.

On Mondays from September through May, we offer an evening of **Faith and Fellowship**, with choir rehearsals (grades K-5) and activities for their younger siblings at 5:15 p.m. followed by a Fellowship dinner for all ages at 6:15 p.m., with crafts for children afterwards. Adult choir rehearsals and adult formation take place after dinner at 7:00 p.m. Please check the church calendar at www.st-margarets.org/calendar.html to confirm programs are scheduled each week.

Our **Day School** has been accredited by the National Association for the Education of Young Children and named a Green School by the State of Maryland. For ages 2-6, the school offers a quality curriculum and special activities such as Spanish, STEM lessons, music, and physical education. After school activities are also offered, such as soccer, ballet, and basketball. The school offers highly popular summer camps from June to August for ages 2-10. More information may be found on their website at www.stmargaretsdayschool.org.

ADULT FORMATION AT ST. MARGARET'S

We offer adults a variety of ways to grow in faith. Our **Thursday Morning Book Club** meets through Zoom at 9:00 a.m., while our **Senior Sessions** for those 65+ are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month at 9:00 a.m., also on Zoom.

St. Margaret's is known for its support of **many outreach efforts** both locally and around the world. From Winter Relief, producing masks and prayer shawls, and assisting with feeding the hungry, we are an active and committed church. Our Endowment Grants annual program has provided millions of dollars to organizations here and across the globe. To get involved, visit the Missions page on our website at www.st-margarets.org/missions.html.

MUSIC AT ST. MARGARET'S

Here at St. Margaret's, we are blessed with a **vibrant music ministry** that has something for everyone, presently consisting of an adult choir, a K-12 chorister program (grades K-2, 3-5, 6-12), handbell ensembles, and the contemporary music ensemble Third Sunday Band. If you would like to find out more about our music ministry and are interested in joining any of our ensembles, please email Director of Music Jim Douglas at music@st-margarets.org. Membership in our choirs and ensembles is open to all, regardless of religious affiliation or background. Please visit the music page on the website at <https://www.st-margarets.org/music.html>. The Music Ministry calendar may also be found on the website at <https://www.st-margarets.org/music-calendar.html>.

The **liturgy and music** for today is led by Director of Music Jim Douglas, Chorister Program Assistant Kate Caldwell, the Spirit Singers (grades K-5 choristers), and instrumentalists Anna Dunlap and Will Cravens. It is drawn from The Book of Common Prayer, the 1982 Hymnal, and other resources as noted. Permission to print and live-stream music granted through OneLicense #A-709554 and CCLI #661345/#CSPL068962.

Please silence all electronic devices and remain quiet during the Prelude as we prepare for worship. Thank you.

PRELUDE

Polish Lullaby Carol
Lo, how a rose e'er blooming
In dulci jubilo

Edwin Arthur Kraft
Johannes Snoer
Johann Michael Bach

WELCOME

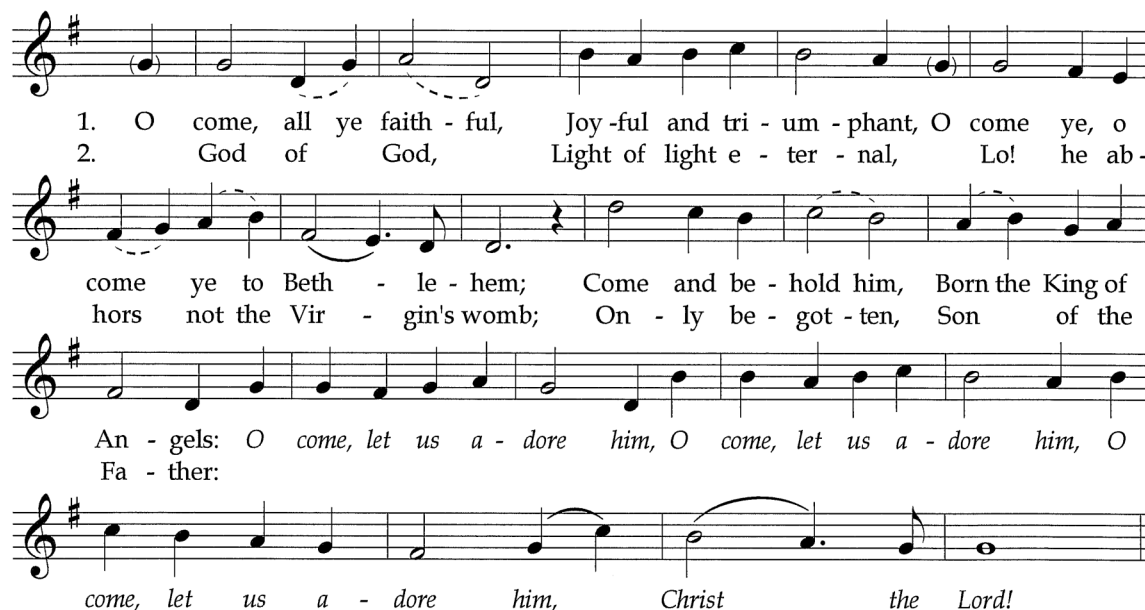
ENTRANCE RITE

The People stand as they are able and sing vs. 1 & 2 of the Hymn.

HYMN

O come, all ye faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, Joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, o
2. God of God, Light of light e - ter - nal, Lo! he ab -
come ye to Beth - le - hem; Come and be - hold him, Born the King of
hors not the Vir - gin's womb; On - ly be - got - ten, Son of the
An - gels: O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O
Fa - ther:
come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

Priest O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Priest The Word was made flesh.

People **And dwelt among us.**

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity may share in your very nature; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

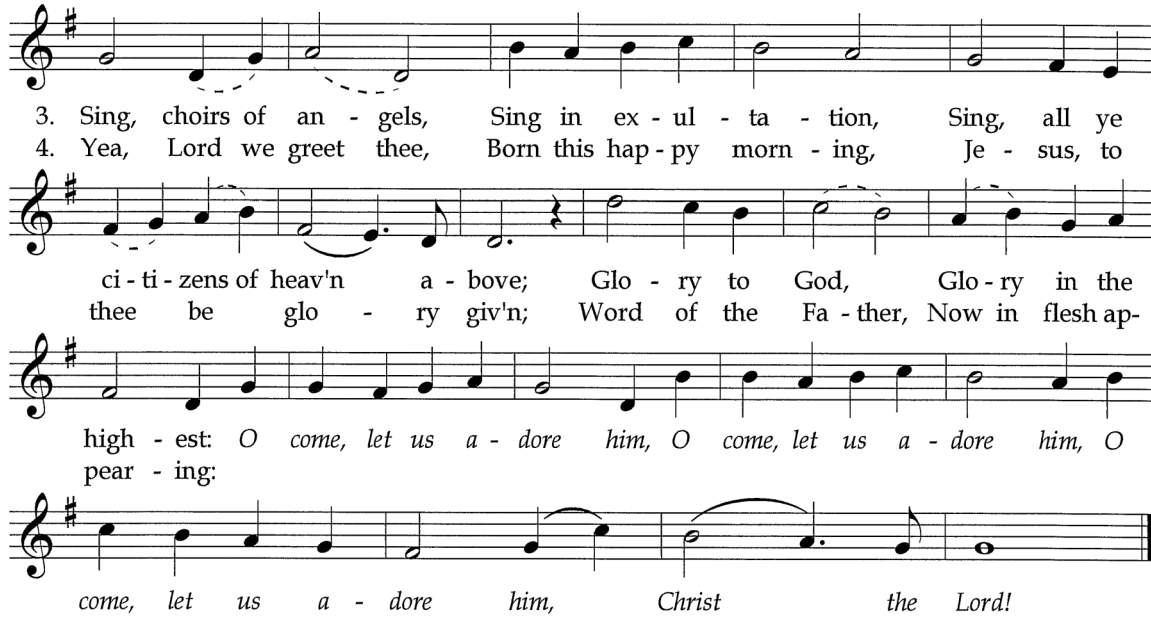
People **Amen.**

The People remain standing and sing vs. 3 & 4 of the Hymn.

HYMN

O come, all ye faithful

ADESTE FIDELES



3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, Sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, Sing, all ye
4. Yea, Lord we greet thee, Born this hap - py morn - ing, Je - sus, to
ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove; Glo - ry to God, Glo - ry in the
thee be glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, Now in flesh ap -
high - est: O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O
pear - ing:
come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy: a Savior is born to you. Alleluia.

People **Unto us a child is born. Alleluia.**

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

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

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant 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.

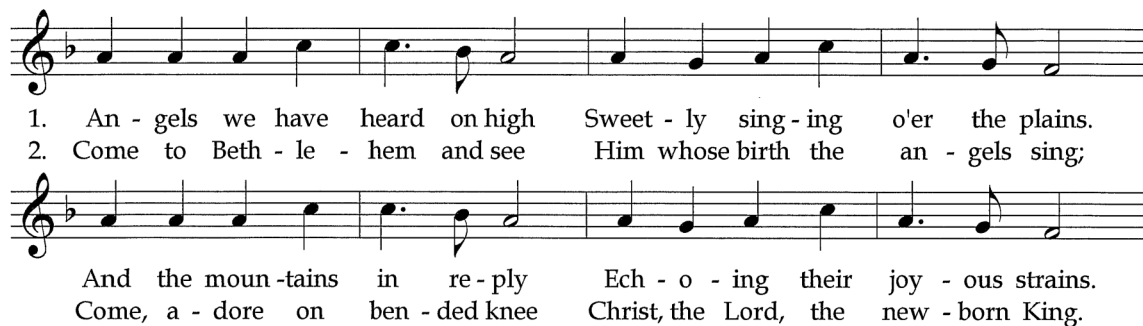
People **Amen.**

The People remain standing as they are able and sing the Song of Praise.

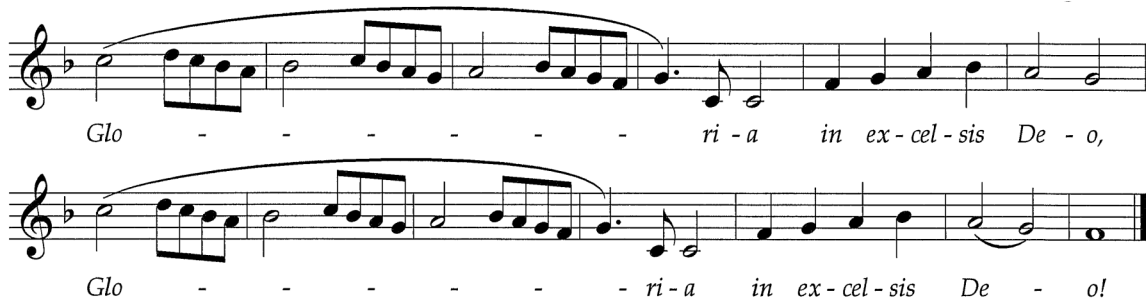
SONG OF PRAISE

Angels we have heard on high

GLORIA



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains.
2. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
Come, a - dore on ben - ded knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.



COLLECT OF THE NATIVITY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

People **Amen.**

The People are seated.

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

from God's Word, My Voice, A Children's Lectionary

Reader A Reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people who have been walking in the dark for so long have finally seen a great light. You have pumped them up and expanded their joy. They are as happy as people who have harvested a fabulous crop and won't go hungry this year, as happy as people are opening birthday presents, or dividing up found money. They no longer feel like they're pulling someone else's wagon. It's time to throw the boots of the soldiers and their bloody clothes in the fire. A baby boy has been born for us. He will be someone whom we respect and look up to. And his name is Mighty God, Prince of Peace. His influence will keep growing until there is no end of peace for the family of King David and all who followed him. This baby boy will develop a nation held together with justice and goodness now and always.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSE

Psalm 96

from God's Word, My Voice, A Children's Lectionary

Reader I've got a brand new song to sing to God. Everyone, join me in singing it. I'll sing my new song to God and tell everyone God's news is the best news ever. I'll tell people I meet about God's goodness and the wonderful things he does. There really isn't anyone or anything like God. Which is one reason I love God.

People **I've got a brand new song to sing to God. Everyone, join me in singing it.**

Reader Other people might think money or family or their job is more important, but it's God who made everything they have and everything there is. So give your attention to God because God deserves it. Worship God when you see how beautiful the clouds are, or a rainbow in the sky, or a perfect little snowflake.

People **I've got a brand new song to sing to God. Everyone, join me in singing it.**

Reader Tell everyone you know about God's goodness and power that he uses to help people. Even the sky and the stars praise God. The sea roars and the fields and even the trees shout for joy when they see God coming. God is good, and God wants us to be the good the world can see.

People **I've got a brand new song to sing to God. Everyone, join me in singing it.**

SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

from God's Word, My Voice, A Children's Lectionary

Reader A reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, saving all of us from ourselves, training us to want goodness, and to live lives that are self-controlled, decent, and kind, while we wait for the hope and glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Jesus gave himself for us so that we might be passionate for integrity and justice.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand as they are able and sing the Hymn.

HYMN

Away in a manger

MUELLER

1. A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his 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
lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The
lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes. I
by me for - ev - er, and love me I pray. Bless
stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the
love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky, and
all the dear child - ren in thy ten - der care, and
lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

New Revised Standard Version Bible

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see~ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The People are seated.

HOMILY

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer

A moment of silence is kept after the Homily.

The People stand as they are able.

CREED

Celebrant Let us declare our faith in God.

Celebrant and People

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Dear God, thank you for all the excitement this Christmas.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Thank you for the beautiful nativity story that tells us about the birth of Jesus.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Thank you for sending us your Son, a gift from you into this world.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader As we look at the lights on the tree, remind us of the light Jesus brought to this Earth.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader When we sing songs and carols, remind us of the hope Jesus showed everyone.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader Help us all to share the light, hope and gift of Jesus to the world.

People **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Priest Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People greet one another with a sign of God's peace and are then seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION

*The People remain seated while the Offertory Carol is sung, and bread is brought to the altar. An offering of gifts is collected, and along with the bread, they are presented to God as thanksgiving for the blessings poured out onto us. Our gifts: bread, music and money, become sacramental in God's economy. To give through your cell phone, text **GIVSMC** to **73256**.*

OFFERTORY CAROL

Star high, baby low

David M. McKay

Star high, baby low. Twixt the two, shepherds go.

Find the baby, grasp the star Kneel in wonder, near and far.

Star high, baby low. Twixt the two, the wise men go.

Find the baby, grasp the star Heirs of all things near and far.

Star high, baby low. Twixt the two we will go.

Find the baby grasp the star Tell the story near and far.

The People stand as they are able at the direction of the Clergy.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

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 God thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

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

Franz Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full, 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.

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 all 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 remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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 Mary, Margaret, and 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.

People

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together,

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

People **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived and died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The People are seated.

All are welcome to receive bread and wine during Communion, including children. To receive bread, place your hands palms-up at the Communion rail. To receive wine, assist the Eucharistic Minister in guiding the chalice to your lips, or you may intinct by dipping the bread in the wine. If you do not wish to receive the bread or wine, place your arms across your chest to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available. Indicate your wish for a gluten-free wafer by first extending your hands palms-down when at the Communion rail. These wafers are kept in a separate holder from which you are invited to take one.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Interlude (from Ceremony of Carols)

Benjamin Britten

Mary had a baby

Traditional Spiritual

Mary had a baby, my Lord.
The people came to praise him, the newborn King.
Laid him in a manger, my Lord.
Named him King Jesus, my Lord.
Shepherds heard the singing, my Lord.
Wisemen came to see him, my Lord.

Child so lovely

Traditional Venezuelan arr. Emily Brink

Child so lovely, here I kneel before you,
child so lovely, you are Christ my God.
Child so lovely, here I kneel before you,
child so lovely, you are Christ the Lord.

Ave maria

Franz Schubert arr. John Thomas

The People stand as directed after Communion.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

The Church of England

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. Amen.

The People remain standing as they are able and sing the Hymn.

HYMN

Silent night, holy night

STILLE NACHT

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herd's quake at the sight;
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round you vir - gin mo - ther and child Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild
 Glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far Heav'n - ly hosts sing Al - le - lu - ia!
 Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

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

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Celebrant And now, O Lord, may the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, and God in us.


People Amen.

The People remain standing and sing the Hymn. As the Clergy depart, they will asperse the People with Holy Water.

HYMN

Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN



1. Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the e - ver - last - ing Lord,
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of Righ-teous-ness!
peace on earth, and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con-ciled!"
late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of the Vir - gin's womb:
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with heal - ing in his wings.
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty,
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,
with th'an-gel - ic hosts pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Je - sus, our Im - man - u - el.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.
Hark! the he - rald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King!"

DISMISSAL

Priest Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the newborn King.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

Improvisation on 'Adeste fideles'



St. Margaret's Church

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, *Rector*
The Rev. Patti Sachs, *Associate Rector*
Jim Douglas, *Director of Music*
Elizabeth Radley, *Director of Operations*
Emily DelSordo, *Children's Formation Coordinator*
Jeff Conover, *Youth Ministries Leader*
Judy Hall, *Administrative Assistant & Churchyard Administrator*
Teresa McCorkle, *Bookkeeper*
Aleshia Marshall, *Day School Director*
Christine Feldmann, *Grants Administrator*

Lay Officers

Kristen Berthelotte, *Senior Warden*
Paul Schurke, *Junior Warden*
Kathy Wiernicki, *Treasurer*
Jim Barnett, *Clerk*

Vestry Members

David Boyce
Austin Canuel
Matt Chasse
Alden Gross
Janice John
Lana Keelty
Kathy Lang
Chris Prender
Susan Roberts
Dan Tootle
Ernie Tucker
Carol Williams



Leaflet Artwork
Grace DelSordo (front)
Charlize Kessler (back)



1601 Pleasant Plains Road, Annapolis, Maryland 21409-5928
410-974-0200 www.st-margarets.org