ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH

Annapolis · Maryland · Established 1692



THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

HOLY EUCHARIST – RITE TWO



DECEMBER 24, 2023 at 7:30 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 worshiping 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. <u>In the event of an emergency, please stay calm, stay seated, and listen for instructions.</u>

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, members of the Adult Choir, the Annapolis Bay Strings, harpist Anna Dunlap, and accompanist Debra Kampsen. 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

The Shepherd's Farewell (from L'enfance du Christ, Op. 25)

Hector Berlioz arr. Gerald Manning

Variations on 'Away in a manger'

Anthony Giamanco

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming (from Phantasie über zwei Weihnachtslieder)

Johannes Snoer

Infant holy, infant lowly

Traditional Polish Carol

Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall; oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swift are winging angels singing, noels ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil 'til the morning new saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:

Christ the babe was born for you.

Of the Father's love begotten

arr. Paul Wohlgemuth

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be, he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he, of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see, evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed, when the Virgin, full of grace, by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race; and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n adore Him; angel hosts, his praises sing; powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert sing, evermore and evermore!

HYMN



Sinfonia (from Christmas Oratorio BWV 248)

ni -

te

a - do - re

Johann Sebastian Bach



Do

mi

num.

mus

ENTRANCE RITE

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



CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION

come,

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

him.

People Unto us a child is born. Alleluia.

let

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

us

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

dore

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

Christ

the

Lord!

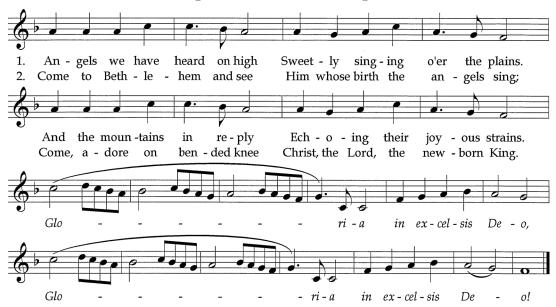
may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People Amen.



Angels we have heard on high





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

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

RESPONSE (said responsively by half verse)

Psalm 96:1-3, 7-9, 11-13

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; * sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; * proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations * and his wonders among all peoples.
- Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; * ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; * bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; * let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *

 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, * when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness * and the peoples with his truth.

SECOND LESSON Titus 2:11-14

A reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

HYMN

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



HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-14

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.

SERMON The Rev. Peter W. Mayer

A moment of silence is kept after the Sermon.

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.

The People remain standing as they are able.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

thisischurch.com

Leader God of light and hope; open our eyes to your glory and our hearts to your presence, that

we may respond with joy to the angel song; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Eternal God, in the stillness of this evening, you sent your almighty Word, to pierce the

darkness with the light of salvation: give to the earth the peace that we long for and fill

our hearts with the joy of heaven, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader Lord Jesus, the Christ, whom humble shepherds worshipped, accept our praises as we

celebrate your birth at Bethlehem. We ask that as we make this a holy night upon which to remember your birth on earth, so our hearts would be illuminated with the brightness

of your one true light.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader We remember those for whom Christmas will be difficult. Jesus Christ, who was laid in a

humble manger, because there was no room in the inn, have mercy we pray on all who cannot share our happiness this Christmas time. We are mindful of the poor and the hungry, the sick and those separated from the ones they love. By your love poured out at

Bethlehem, guard, guide and comfort those for whom we pray this evening.

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Priest Prince of Peace, born among us. As we share together the most profound mystery of your

birth among us, we pray that you would fill us with your peace. Pour into our hearts that peace which we so desperately seek, and which you alone can give. May we live as children of the same heavenly Creator, willing to share our love for you and also to listen to the faith of others, that together your people may be one. Hear these prayers, O God, and

may our joyful hearts share in the message of the angels to all humankind.

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 then are seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOLY COMMUNION

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

OFFERTORY CAROL

The stars looked down

Mark Schweizer

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap, His hair was like a light.

O weary, weary were the world, but here is all aright.

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast, His hair was like a star.

O stern and cunning are the kings, but here the true hearts are.

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart, His hair was like a fire.

O weary, weary is the world, but here the world's desire.

The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee, His hair was like a crown.

And all the flowers looked up at Him, and all the stars looked down.

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.

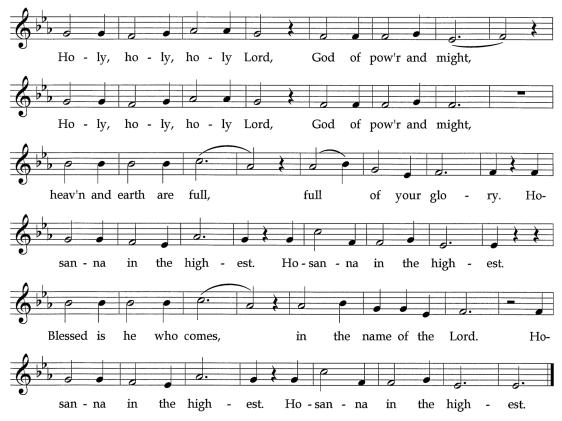
The Celebrant proceeds

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



Then 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 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.

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

Pastoral Symphony 'Pifa' (from Messiah HWV 56)

George Frederic Handel

Unto us a child is born

Healey Willan

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be upon His shoulder. And His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

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.





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 asperge the People with Holy Water.

HYMN Hark! the herald angels sing MENDELSSOHN arr. David Willow



DISMISSAL

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

People Thanks be to God! Alleluia. Alleluia!

POSTLUDE Sussex Carol Traditional English Carol arr. John Van Gulik



St. Margaret's Church

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector
The Rev. Patti Sachs, Associate Rector
Elizabeth Radley, Director of Operations
Jim Douglas, Director of Music
Emily DelSordo, Children's Formation Coordinator
Jeff Conover, Youth Ministries Leader
Judy Hall, Administrative Assistant
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