



ST. MARGARET'S CHURCH
ANNAPOLIS • MARYLAND • ESTABLISHED 1692



Christmas Lessons & Carols
Holy Eucharist

December 31, 2017
9:00 & 11:15 a.m.

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Emergency Pastoral Number: 443-837-5463
The Rev. Peter W. Mayer, Rector
The Rev. Henrietta D. Wiley, Interim Asst. Rector

Welcome to St. Margaret's Church

We are delighted that you are here with us today for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

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. If at any moment in the service you are not sure what to do, ask any of your neighbors in the congregation—they will be happy to help you. We would like you to consider us your spiritual home, so please fill out a visitor card (found in the pew racks and on the back tables) and drop the card in the collection plate or hand it to one of the clergy or ushers following the service.

Children are welcome at St. Margaret's

While children are always welcome at all services, professional nursery care is provided in the Nursery (downstairs classroom in Day School.) Please ask an usher for assistance in locating the Nursery.

A Note about Today's Service

In the Gospel of Luke we learn that Jesus, Mary and Joseph stayed in Bethlehem until they took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated and then returned to Nazareth. In the Gospel of Matthew, they stayed in Bethlehem until the visit of the Magi (when Jesus was about two years old). Once the Magi left, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him. Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt and remained there until the death of Herod.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph became asylum seekers in Egypt. Without travel documents, they crossed the border, looking for safety and sanctuary. Although they were strangers, someone took them in. Someone welcomed them and protected them.

Meanwhile, in Bethlehem, Herod had plans to find and kill Jesus. When he discovered the Magi had left without telling him the location of the Child, he ordered the killing of all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old and under. Jesus and his family fled political and religious persecution. These are both present-day grounds for asylum and refugee status. This morning, we connect the birth of the Christ child to the fact that, for the first time since World War II, there are more than 60 million displaced people worldwide, including more than 19 million refugees.

From the moment they arrive in their new communities, just like Jesus' family, we pray that today's refugees receive the care, hospitality, and assistance they need to survive and thrive.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Peter".

CHRISTMAS LESSONS & CAROLS 2017
HOLY EUCHARIST
DEC. 31, 2017 – 9:00 AND 11:15 A.M.

PRELUDE

The people stand as they are able.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Once in royal's David's City
(Sing verses 1, 2, 4, and 6)

Irby

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is
 *3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,
 *5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in

1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -

1 was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
 5 leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

CALL TO WORSHIP

St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London

Priest:

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed:
'For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.'

This morning as we re-tell the story of the birth of Jesus Christ, keep us mindful of his modest birth. Jesus was a displaced person in Bethlehem, a refugee in Egypt, and had nowhere to lay his head in Galilee.

Bless all who have nowhere to lay their head today, who find themselves strangers on earth, pilgrims to they know not where, facing rejection, closed doors, suspicion, and fear. Give them companions in their distress, hope in their wandering, and safe lodging at their journey's end.

Priest and People:

**Make us a people of grace, wisdom, and hospitality,
who know that our true identity is to be lost,
until we find our eternal home in you.
Through Christ our rejected yet risen Lord. Amen.**

The people may be seated.

LESSON ONE

In which Mary offers the perfect example of servant-hood to God
Luke 1:46-55

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

My soul now magnifies the Lord
Angelus

1 My soul now mag - ni - fies the Lord; My spir - it
 2 Hence - forth shall peo - ple call me blest, For great things
 3 His mer - cy is on all who fear, Who trust in
 4 He brings down rul - ers from their seat And rais - es

shall in God re - joice. My hum - ble state he
 he has done for me. The might - y God is
 him from age to age. His arm of strength to
 those of low de - gree. He fills the hun - gry

did re - gard, Ex - alt - ing me by gra - cious choice.
 now my guest; The Ho - ly One has set me free.
 all is near; The proud he scat - ters, though they rage.
 souls with meat; The rich de - part in pov - er - ty.

LESSON TWO

In which Joseph and Mary undertake the journey to Bethlehem
 Luke 1:2-7

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

O little town of Bethlehem
St. Louis

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!

The people are seated.

LESSON THREE

*In which Joseph and Mary flee to Egypt
Matthew 2:1-23*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel.'

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

"A voice was heard in Ramah,
wailing and loud lamentation,
Rachel weeping for her children;
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

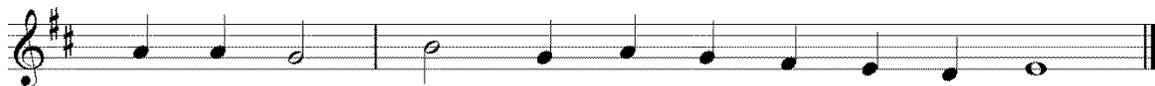
When Christ's appearing was made known
Erhalt uns Herr



1 When Christ's ap - pear - ing was made known, King He - rod
2 The east - ern sa - ges saw from far and fol - lowed
3 With - in the Jor - dan's sa - cred flood the heav - en - ly
4 Oh, what a mir - a - cle di - vine, when wa - ter
5 All glo - ry, Je - sus, be to thee for this thy



1 trem - bled for his throne; but he who of - fers
2 on his guid - ing star; by light their way to
3 Lamb in meek - ness stood, that he, to whom no
4 red - dened in - to wine! He spoke the word, and
5 glad e - piph - a - ny: whom with the Fa - ther



1 heav - en - ly birth sought not the king - doms of this earth.
2 Light they trod, and by their gifts con - fessed their God.
3 sin was known, might cleanse his peo - ple from their own.
4 forth it flowed in streams that na - ture ne'er be - stowed.
5 we a - dore and Ho - ly Ghost for ev - er - more.

LESSON FOUR

In which Jesus describes how we are to find his kingdom
Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said, "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.' Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?'

Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

Reader The Word of the Lord.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

It came upon the midnight clear
Carol

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

The people may be seated.

LESSON FIVE

*In which all are reconciled to each other through Christ
 Ephesians 2:12-22*

Remember that you were at that time without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace; in his flesh he has made both groups into one and has broken down the dividing wall, that is, the hostility between us. He has abolished the law with its commandments and ordinances, that he might create in himself one new humanity in place of the two, thus making peace, and might reconcile both groups to God in one body through the cross, thus putting to death that hostility through it. So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able.

CONGREGATIONAL CAROL

Love came down at Christmas
Gartan

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

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

SPECIAL PRAYERS

World Council of Churches Worship Resources, Focus on Refugees, 1981

Leader:

Let us pray.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, who fled the wrath of Herod,

People:

Be with those who have to flee the injustice of others.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, who had nowhere to lay your head,

People:

Be with those who have no land to call their own.

Leader:

Lord Jesus, whose parents fled oppression in their own country,

People:

Be with those who have been driven from their homelands because of political, racial, or religious reasons.

Priest:

O Lord, open our eyes that we may see the needs of refugees; open our ears that we may hear people's cries for justice; and open our hearts that we may assist sojourners near and far. Show us where love, hope and faith are needed. Use us as ministers of your healing. Let us not be afraid to protect the weak because of the anger of the strong, or to defend the poor because of the power of the rich. Sustain us so that in these coming days we may be able to do the work of peace for you. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY

After the offertory, the people stand as they are able at the direction of clergy.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

Joy to the World
Verse 1 only

Antioch

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

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

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

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

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

HOLY EUCHARIST

The people remain standing.

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 him 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:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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 many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We 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. **Amen.**

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

**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.

Celebrant God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.
People **Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived and died for and feed on him in your hearts 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. 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 arm across your chest and you will receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available for communion. Indicate wish for a gluten-free wafer by first extending your hands palms down. The wafers are kept in a separate holder and you are invited to take one from this holder.

COMMUNION HYMN

What star is this
Puer Nobis

Unison or harmony

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous
 2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the
 3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them
 4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us
 5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald
 2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges
 3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with
 4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful
 5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

1 forth the King, and Gen - tles to his crib to bring.
 2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.
 3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.
 4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.
 5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

COMMUNION HYMN

The first Nowell the angel did say
The first Nowell

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far,
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,
 4 and there it did both stop and stay
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

Refrain

The people stand as able when directed by clergy.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

God our Father,
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.

CLOSING COLLECT

And now go in peace and grace. May God lift up new possibilities before us, the face of Christ be seen in us by our neighbors and strangers, and the Spirit lead us into the celebration of a new community filled with hope and love. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hark! the herald angels sing
Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo-ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!
late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.

Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De-i-ty.
Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel-ic host pro-claim Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el!
hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!

BLESSING

Celebrant: Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to serve the newborn King.
People: **Thanks be to God! Alleluia. Alleluia.**

POSTLUDE

PARTICIPANTS

CLERGY	The Reverend Peter W. Mayer
LECTORS AT 9 A.M.	Morgan Van Ardsall, Pam Roth, Jeff Conover, Sarah Balcom
LECTORS AT 11:15 A.M.	Ann Lallande, Joanna Tillman, Karen Engelke, Christine Feldmann
ACOLYTES AT 9 A.M.	Molly Rose Svendsen, Brooke Kopack-Ware, Maile and Kamden Peacock
ACOLYTES AT 11:15 A.M.	Wes Reising, Abby Wenz, Peter Saroch
DECORATIONS	St. Margaret's Flower Guild
MUSIC	Hope Stinson

There is no Sunday School this morning.

Please join us for a New Year's potluck brunch in the Parish Hall after the 9:00 a.m. service.

A Christmas Message for 2017 from the Presiding Bishop

In 2 Corinthians, the Apostle Paul says, If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old has passed away, behold, the new is come. At a point in that passage, St. Paul says, "God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself," and he also says at another point in the same passage, "and we have been given the ministry of reconciliation."

Have you ever gone to the movies or read a story or a novel, and the novel starts with the end, so you know where the story ends, but then the rest of the story or the novel is actually the story behind the story. We know about Christmas. We know about Mary. We know about Joseph. We know about the angels singing Gloria in excelsis deo. We know from our childhood the animals in the stable. We know of the magi who come from afar, arriving around Epiphany, bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. We know of the angels singing in the heavens, and the star that shown above them. Therein is the story.

But the story behind the story is what St. Paul was talking about. God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and Jesus has now given us that same ministry of reconciliation. God was reconciling the world to himself by becoming one of us. The divine became human. God entered history. Eternity became part of time. God was reconciling the world to himself by actually living it himself. In Jesus, God came among us to show us the way, to be reconciled with the God who has created us all and everything that is. And God has likewise come in the person of Jesus, to show us how to be reconciled with each other, as children of the one God who is the Creator of us all. That's the story behind Christmas.

God is showing us the Way to become God's children, and as God's children, brothers and sisters of each other. God is showing us in Jesus how to become God's family and how to change, and build, and make a world where everybody is a part of that family. Where children don't go to bed hungry. Where no one has to be lonely. Where justice is real for all and where love is the ultimate law.

Know there is a story behind the story, and it's a story worth singing about, and giving thanks for, and then living.

One of my favorite writers, the late Howard Thurman, composed a poem many years ago about Christmas, and he says it probably better than I:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and the princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flocks,
Then the work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace to others,
And alas, to make music in the heart.*

The story behind the story is that God so loved the world, and so loves you, and so loves me.

Have a blessed Christmas, a wonderful New Year, and go out and make music in the heart of the world.

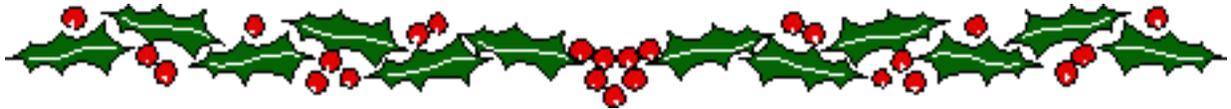
**The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church**



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND WREATH DONATIONS

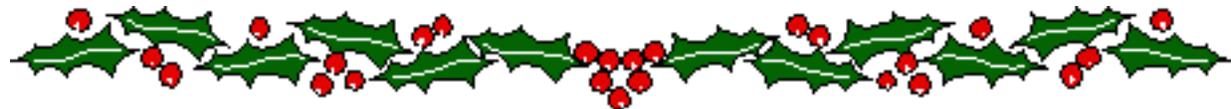
IN LOVING MEMORY OF:

OUR GRANDPARENTS BY ANNE, ROY, AND JUDITH HAUGH
 OUR PARENTS AND BROTHERS BY JOHN AND PAM SMITH-PURGASON
 THE 572+ MASS SHOOTING VICTIMS IN THE U.S. FOR 2017 BY BRAD AND KATE CALLAHAN
 BW ROBINSON BY BRAD AND KATE CALLAHAN
 FRED AND SONIA BRADLEY BY BRAD AND KATE CALLAHAN
 THOSE IN UNIFORM BY BRAD AND KATE CALLAHAN
 SON-IN-LAW LARRY CLIFTON BY JIM AND BETH KNORR
 "B" AND FRED MILLER BY SARAH BALCOM
 MY PARENTS FRANK AND LUCY MULLER BY MARLENE ROBBINS
 LOUIS AND ELIZABETH ROBBINS BY MARLENE ROBBINS
 OUR MOTHERS DAWN BADGER AND NANCY WANBAUGH BY STEVE AND CINDY BADGER
 DORI FERGUSON AND ERIC TIEGERMAN BY JIM AND CAROL FERGUSON
 JACK AND MARY JANE SKILLING BY BONNIE MUHEIM
 J. B. & ISABEL MCBRIDGE BY BETH KOPACK
 MARION AND ROBERT HECHT BY THE BECKER FAMILY
 MARGARET AND CLARENCE BECKER BY THE BECKER FAMILY
 AUSTIN SMITH BY EMMA SMITH
 MY PARENTS JIM & MARJORIE KELLY BY BARBARA BREEDEN
 MY PARENTS GEORGE AND ORA BREEDEN BY GEORGE BREEDEN
 BETH CHAMBERLIN BY CHRIS, HEIDI, CLAIRE, IAN, AND EMMA CHAMBERLIN
 MY BELOVED HUSBAND RADM HENRY STURGIS MORGAN BY SANDY MORGAN
 CHARLES CAMMARATA BY JOAN CAMMARATA
 THE SPEICHER AND GILLIS FAMILIES BY ALICE AND GIL GILLIS
 WILLARD AND JEAN BROWN BY KIM MORROW
 GEORGE AND NANCY HOLMES BY KATE AND HARRY CALDWELL
 JOE AND LOUISE CALDWELL BY KATE AND HARRY CALDWELL
 BARBARA AND EARLE TRAUB BY LIBBY & CHUCK BONITI AND KAY & JOHN HOLMAN



IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

MY LOVED AND LOVING WIFE BY LEN MORGAN
 OUR GRANDCHILDREN EMILY, CLAIRE, AND KOLLIN BY JOHN & PAM SMITH PURGASON
 OUR MANY BLESSINGS BY ANNE, ROY, AND JUDITH HAUGH
 OUR BLESSED AND LOVING FAMILY BY BRAD AND KATE CALLAHAN
 ST. MARGARET'S MUSIC PROGRAM BY JIM AND BETH KNORR
 MY HUSBAND SANDY ROBBINS BY MARLENE ROBBINS
 MY GRANDSON JACK HIGGINS BY MARLENE ROBBINS
 OUR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN BY JIM AND CAROL FERGUSON
 MARIE KAMPS' 104TH BIRTHDAY BY STEPHANIE, NICK, AND SAM CERUOLO



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