



St Mark's
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
love is our tradition



The Fourth Sunday in Advent
With Christmas Pageant
December 24, 2023
Rite 2 Year B

GATHERING IN THE LORD'S NAME

Prelude

Two pieces

Carl Schalk

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn 56 (1982 Hymnal-Blue Book)

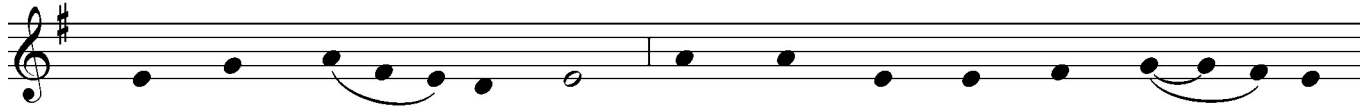
O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

Verses 1-2, 7



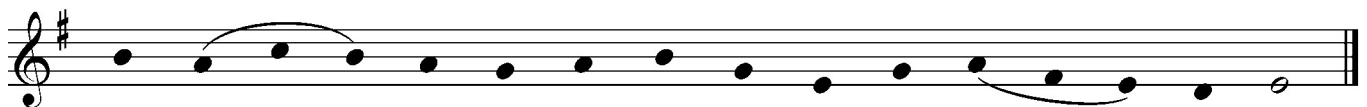
(Dec. 23) 1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som
(Dec. 17) 2 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, who or - derest
(Dec. 22) 7 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind in one the



1 cap - tive Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile
2 all things might - i - ly; to us the path of know - ledge
7 hearts of all man - kind; bid thou our sad di - vi - sions



1 here un - til the Son of God ap - pear. Re - joice! Re - joice!
2 show, and teach us in her ways to go. Re - joice! Re - joice!
7 cease, and be thy - self our King of Peace. Re - joice! Re - joice!



Em - man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

In King Herod's royal court there were those who knew the stars, and recognized a new light beaming in an unexpected location. These travelers set out to find what this light might shine upon. They ignored Herod's demand to come back with the one they discovered. They followed the light and presented gifts to this new king, leaving by routes on which Herod could not find them or find the baby Jesus.

As we light this candle let us remember to follow the light that we come to know as true, and to be brave enough, when needed, to go the other way home.

The Opening Acclamation

Presider. This time is like no other time. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The children will show us the way!

The Collect *(Please remain standing)*

Presider. The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Presider. Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

AMEN.

Gloria, Hymn 96 (Blue Book)

Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

Please Turn Page

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

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

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

PROCLAIMING & RESPONDING TO THE WORD

(Please be seated)

The Prophecy of Isaiah:

Today we celebrate good news of great joy: God has sent his Son to be with us.

Hymn 66 (Blue Book)

Come, thou long expected Jesus

Stuttgart

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: '1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free; from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.' The music is written in a simple, hymn-like style with block chords and a steady rhythm.

The Arrival in Bethlehem

And while they were there, Mary gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in a soft cloth, and laid him in a manger Joseph had filled with straw.

Hymn 102 (Blue Book)

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Once in Royal David's City'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'I Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry I was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.' The score includes various musical notations such as notes, rests, and slurs.

I Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a
low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her
ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
I was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.

The Shepherds

In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their sheep.

Hymn 87 (Blue Book)

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Mendelssohn

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

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!

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

The Adoration of the Shepherds

The angels gathered round Mary and Joseph and the baby.

And the shepherds ran to find them : Mary, Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

The Magi

Strangers saw this wild star and followed it from far, far away to see what it shines upon. So Now we all come, following the star to share in the light of the world.

Hymn 83

O Come All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in the key of D major and 4/4 time. The score consists of six systems of music. Each system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are: 'I O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O I come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels; I come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels; Refrain O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.'

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Children's Creed *(Please stand as you are able)*

**I believe in God above, I believe in Jesus' love,
I believe in the Spirit too, who comes to show us what to do,
I believe that I can be, kind and loving, Lord like thee. AMEN.**

The Prayers Of the People

(Stand or kneel as you are able)

Intercessor: Let us give thanks to God, always and for everything, saying,
We thank you God.

For the beauty and wonder of creation, **We thank you God.**

For our daily food, for our homes, and families and friends, **We thank you God.**

For minds to think and hearts to love, **We thank you God.**

For health, strength, and skill to work, and time to rest and play, **We thank you God.**

For those who are brave and courageous, patient in suffering and faithful when times
are hard, **We thank you God.**

For all who work for peace, justice, and truth, **We thank you God.**

For any special prayers of the people here **We thank you God.**

For Mark, Mary and Joseph and all the saints whose lives show us the light of Christ,
We thank you God.

The Peace *(Please stand)*

Children The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

(The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord)

(Please be seated)

Advent and Christmas Greetings from the Rector

THE HOLY COMMUNION



SCAN ME TO DONATE

Invitation to Holy Communion

Offertory

Hymn 101

Away in a Manger

Cradle Song



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
* 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

At the Presentation, Doxology

Old 100th

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. AMEN.*

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Presider. It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who say this song to proclaim your glory:

Sanctus

Hirten

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, Hea-ven and earth are full of your glor-y, Ho - san - na
in___ the high-est, Bless'd is the One who comes in the name of the Lord,
Ho - san - na in___ the high-est._____

(Please stand or kneel as you are able)

Presider: 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

**All: We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection.
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider: 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 St. Mark 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, and with the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior has taught us, we pray:

The Lord's Prayer

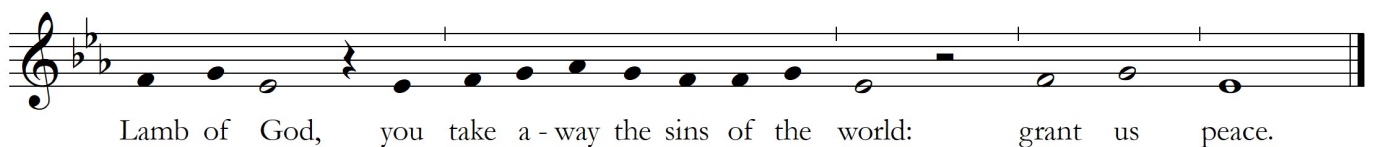
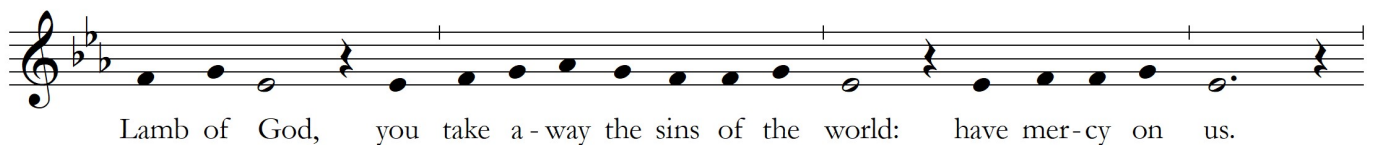
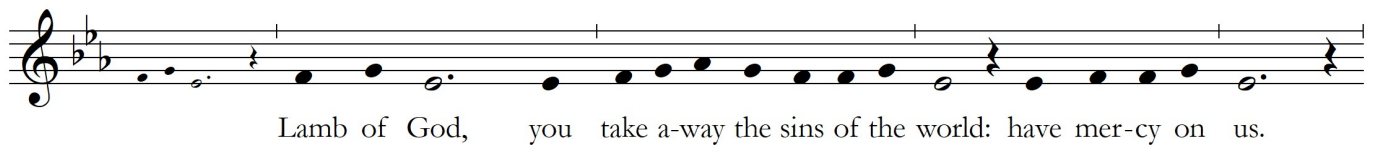
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. AMEN.**

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Fraction Anthem, Agnus Dei

Hirten



The Holy Communion: *ALL are welcome to share in Communion.*

Holy Communion

Come forward as the ushers direct you. When you arrive at the rail you may put out your hands to receive the bread/wafer. You may then either consume it, dip it lightly into the chalice, or take a sip of wine from the chalice. If you prefer a blessing only - cross your arms across your chest.

If you have any mobility concerns please alert the usher
and the clergy will bring communion to you.

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

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

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

The Blessing
Hymn 100 (Blue Book)

Joy to the world!

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,

Presider: Let us go forth in the name of Christ for our eyes have seen God's salvation.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

Joy to the world

Carl Schalk

The Bible texts of the Old Testament, Epistle and Gospel lessons are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA, and used by permission. The advent candle prayer is adapted from Gertrud Mueller Nelson. The Advent Prayers of the People is from www.theadventproject.org/.

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RECYCLE THIS BULLETIN by placing it on one of the tables at the side or front entrance.

Please join us for our Christmas Services:

Christmas Eve Prelude: Tonight at 10:00 PM.

Christmas Eve Service: Tonight at 10:30 PM

Christmas Day: Tomorrow at 10:30 AM

Lessons and Carols: December 31 at 10:30 AM

Please Remember in Your Prayers This Week:

Parishioners: Keith MacKay, Tamara Orr, Betty Leviner, Phillip Jones, Lisette Johnson, Becky Lee, Robin Goodman, Carole Shahda, Mike Oliver, Steve Row, Ethel Kutteroff, Margaret Franklin, Phyllis Iverson, Julette Iverson, Marsha Iverson, Diane Hoover, David Christiana, Samantha Ridley, Bill Piercy, and Doris Enroughty.

Our extended family and friends: Malynda Irby, Wayne Purintun, Clair Schreck, Ginny Jones, Debbie Kaufman, Ronnie, Judy Conkle, Bev and Larry Green, Caroline, the Tracy Family, Bianca Constance, Shelby, the Hardison family, Nicholas, the Sonant family, the Fiedler family, the Lord and Walton family, Richard Wallace, Alice, Garry Land, Wayne and Sue, Marsha and David, Teagan and the Kuehnle family, Will, Robin, Denise Early, Gloria Wiley, William Higgins, Henry Pegram, Rick, Gene Shelton, Karen Sokohl, Rick McGeorge, Amy Burks, the Henderson family, Mary-Margaret, Kristy Rose, Martha, Carolyn Campbell, Randi Smith, Nancy Strite, Marion Broome, Hollis Daniels, and Donna Raubenstine.

Those celebrating birthdays this week: especially Charles Hicks, Brent Graves, Tommy Clifton, Terance Prokosh, and Kevin Cutro.

Those celebrating anniversaries this week: especially Bobbie and Buck Aiken, and Mary and Steve Clark.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Pray for altar and flower guilds and choirs.

Metro Richmond Cycle of Prayer: We pray for persons in financial need in Metropolitan Richmond: For the inclusion of all (regardless of race, age, or residency) in the economic health of Metropolitan Richmond.



2023 Christmas Pageant Participants

Cast:

Narrator: Elizabeth Kaufman

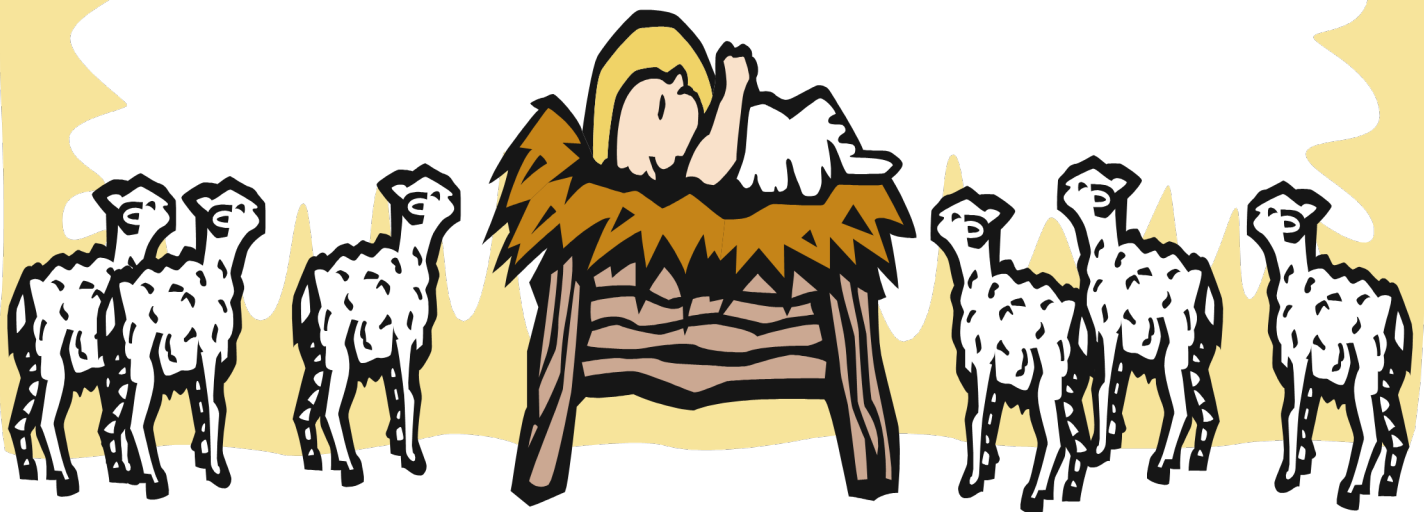
Holy Family: Dustin & Ellen Landers with baby Griffin
and big brother Odin

Tess Downey, Thomas & Grace & Miller McDuff, Sam & Will Francis,
Charlotte & Asher Tooley, Claire & James Cutro, Luna, Coen & Isak
Cilyk, Max & Ethan Williams, Fielding Boschen, Bea & Fozzy Bogard,
Eleanor Herman, and other friends and family

Vergers: Elizabeth Kyser

Chalicer: Patrick McDuff

Acolytes: Reeves and Hunter Marie Boschen



The cover of this bulletin is part of a series commissioned for the Reverend Edward "Pope" Meeks Gregory.

Rev. Gregory was Curate of St. Mark's from 1954 to 1969. He was instrumental in the racial integration of the church and full inclusion and equity for all.

This particular silhouette appeared on the cover of *The Living Church*, a national church magazine.

Copies of all Rev. Gregory's silhouettes are now in the collection of the Virginia Historical Society.

All are Welcome Here

Diverse, Urban, Eucharist Centered, Service-Oriented

Thank you for joining us.

Please let us know how we may encourage you to serve the Lord with us by filling out the “Welcome” card found in the rack in front of you and placing it in the Offering Plate.

You may also speak to any clergy or greeters following the worship service.

Founded in 1866 to serve the working people of Richmond, St. Mark’s Church is an active member of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia, 110 West Franklin Street, Richmond, VA, 23220, 804-643-8451, and the Anglican Communion.

The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia
The Rt. Rev. Gayle Elizabeth Harris, Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia



St Mark's

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

love is our tradition

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