

The First Sunday after Christmas
December 28, 2025 10:15 a.m.

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,*



and the Word was God.

John Ch. 1

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to

Connect with God and one another,

Grow in faith and understanding, and

Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded

The Liturgy of the Word of God

Celebrant: The Reverend Dr. William Pugliese

✠ *Please stand as you are able.*

Welcome

The Reverend Dr. William Pugliese

Prelude

✠ Processional Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymnal #83

Verses 1,2,3,6



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O come ye, O come ye, to
2. ♪ God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal, ♪ lo! he ab - hors not the
3. ♪ Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion; ♪ sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of
6. ♪ Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, ♪ Je - sus, to thee be



Beth - le - hem; come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
Vir - gin's womb; on - ly be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
heav'n a - bove; glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
glo - ry giv'n; Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,



O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade Music: *Adeste fideles*, att. John Francis Wade

The Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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?

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?

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Glo - - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

Words: French carol, tr. James Chadwick Music: Gloria, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes

Collect of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147:13-21

- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; * praise your God, O Zion;
14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
16 He sends out his command to the earth, * and his word runs very swiftly.
17 He gives snow like wool; * he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *who can stand against his cold?
19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
20 He declares his word to Jacob, *his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
21 He has not done so to any other nation; *to them he has not revealed his
judgments. Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Galatians

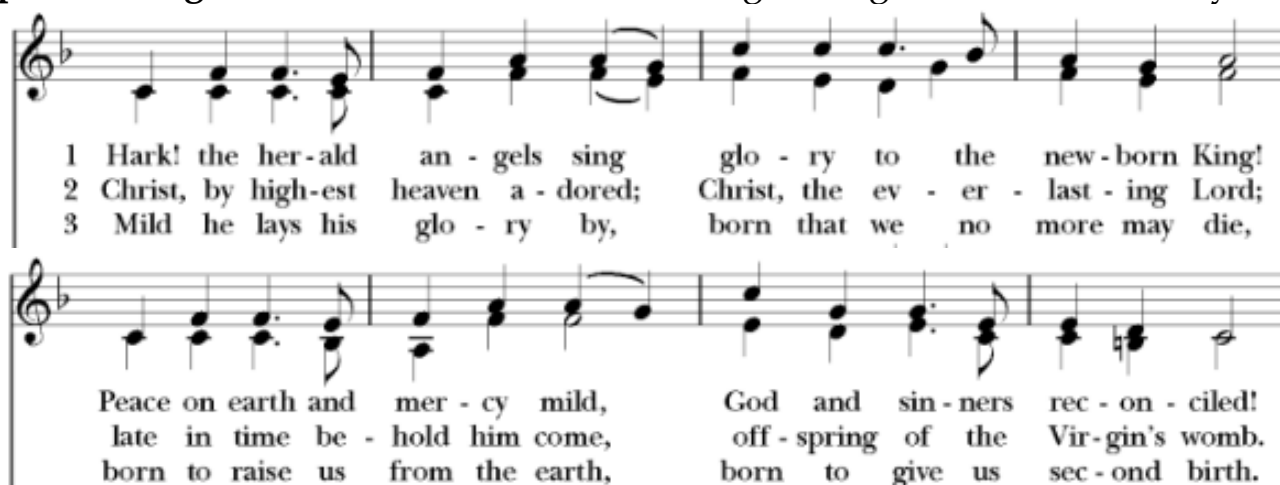
Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

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

✠ Sequence Song

"Hark the Herald Angels Sing"

Hymnal #87



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!

Words: Charles Wesley Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn

The Holy Gospel: John 1:1-18

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known. The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon: Rev. Dr. William Pugliese

✠ The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People:

Celebrant: Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who was with God in the beginning, who became flesh and lived among us, full of grace and truth.

Intercessor: Word of God, Light of the world, renew your Church, that it may bear witness to your glory and proclaim your grace in every place. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal Word, through whom all things were made, guide the nations and their leaders in wisdom, humility, and justice, that your peace may take root in the world you love.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Radiance of God's glory and exact imprint of God's being, draw all peoples into the light of your truth, and reconcile what is divided by fear and sin.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Living Word, dwelling among us, bless our families, our homes, and our communities, that they may reflect your love and mercy. Bless those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially Mary Lou, Travis, Ellaria, Cheryl, Ken, Sondra, Allan+ and Anne+, Henry and Pat. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Light that shines in the darkness, bring healing to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and comfort those who mourn or walk through shadow, especially those on our prayer list: Jenny, Peg, Lianne, Lisa, Jack, Jackie, Dewey, Noah, Eva, Karen, Drew, Mary, Christopher, the Panizari family, Danny, Darrell, Joseph, and Deb.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Heir of all things, seated at the right hand of God, receive into your eternal care all who have died, that they may share in the fullness of your glory.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, Word made flesh, Light of the world, receive our prayers, fill us with your grace, and send us forth to live to your praise; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code.



Offertory

"All Is Well"

1. All is well all is well. Angels and men rejoice.
For tonight darkness fell into the dawn of love's light.

Sing alle. Sing alleluia.

2. All is well all is well. Let there be peace on earth.
Christ is come go and tell that He is in the manger.
Sing alle. Sing alleluia.

3. All is well all is well. Lift up your voice and sing.
Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior

Sing alleluia. Sing alleluia. All is well.

CCLI Song # 355008 | Michael W. Smith | Wayne Kirkpatrick

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✠ Presentation Hymn *(Sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High")*

Praise God from Whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him all crea - tures
here be - low; Praise Him a - bove ye hea - venly host Praise
Fa - ther, Son and Ho - ly Ghost.



Words: Isaac Watts and James Chadwick Music: *Gloria*, French carol, Edwin Shippen Barnes

The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

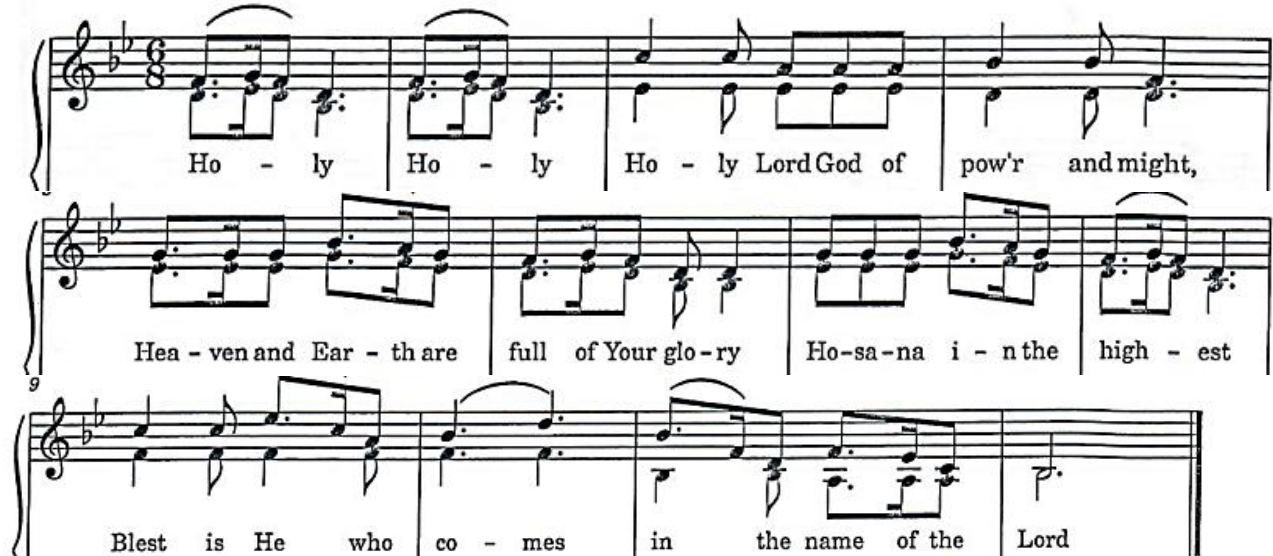
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where 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

"Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" (Sung to the tune of "Silent Night")



Words: Hymnal 1982 #S129 Music: *Stille Nacht*, Franz Gruber

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,

We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory.

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, Joseph, Stephen, John, the Holy Innocents, 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.

The Great Amen (*Sung to the tune of "Angels We Have Heard on High"*)



Music: *Gloria*, French carol

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 Breaking of Bread

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

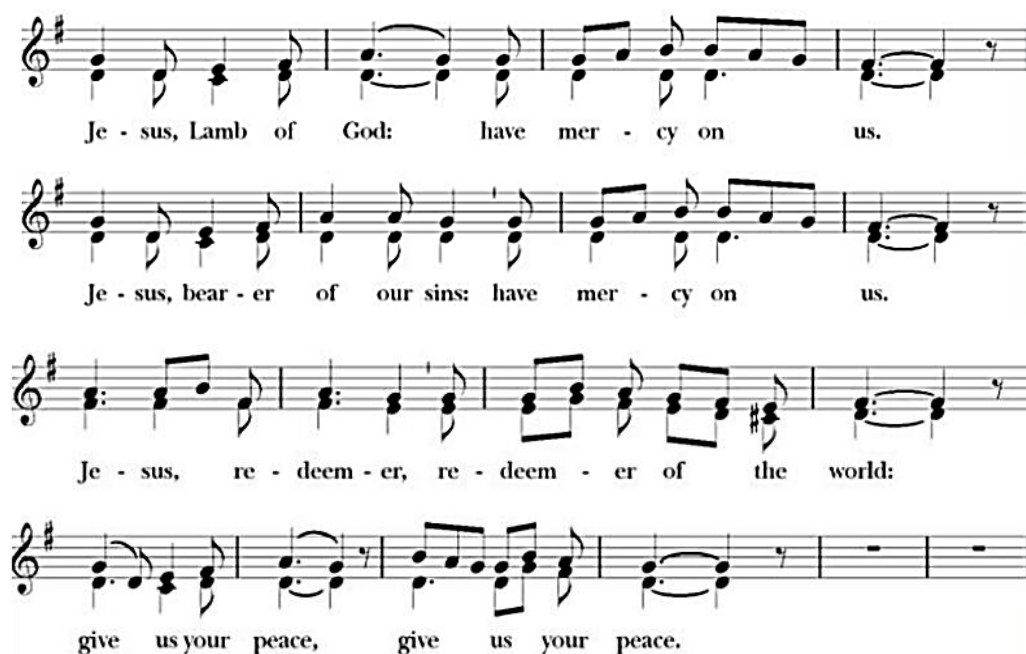
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem

"Jesus, Lamb of God"

Hymnal #S164

Deutsche Messe: F. P. Schubert



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

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

The Communion of the People

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion Music

"Once In Royal David's City"

Hymnal #102



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty Stood a low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a
2. He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is God and Lord of all, and his
3. We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's

mo - ther laid her ba - by In a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry
shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the
Word, the world's cre - a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this

was that mo - ther mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.

Words: Verses 1,2: Cecil Frances Alexander, Verse 3: James Waring McCrady Music: *Irby*, Henry John Gauntlett

"Love Came Down at Christmas"

Hymnal #84

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.

Words: Christina Rossetti Music: Gartan, harm: David Evans

✠Prayer of Thanksgiving

Let us pray.

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

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to be born among us, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness, and fill you with the light of his love; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

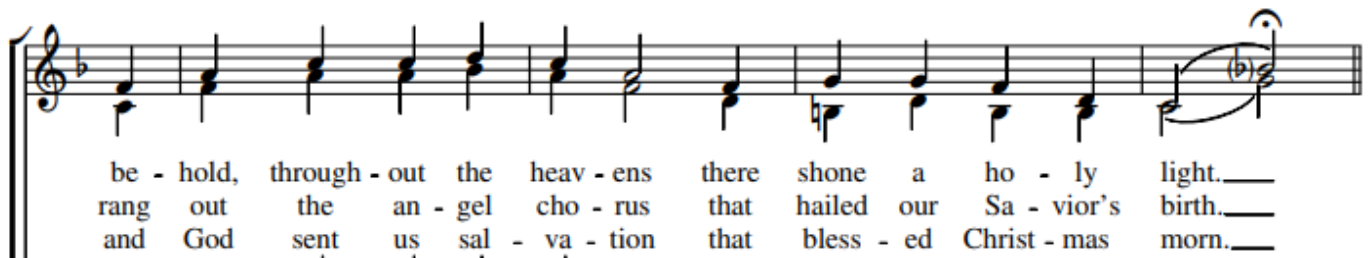
Recessional Hymn

"Go Tell It On The Mountain"

Hymnal #99

Refrain

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - 'ry - where;
 go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born!
 1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



Words: Afro-American Spiritual, adapt. John W. Work Music: *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, arr. Horace Boyer

✠ The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Assistants	December 28	January 4
Organist	Mary Butler	Mary Butler
Musicians	Adult Ensemble	Adult Ensemble
Ushers	<i>2 needed</i>	<i>2 needed</i>
Acolyte	<i>1 needed</i>	Kat Dittrich
Lector	Jim Fariss	Jim Fariss
Chalicians	Sandy White, John Holbert, Jim Fariss, Susan Considine	Jim Fariss, <i>3 needed</i>
Worship Slides	Karen Lance	John Holbert
Audio Visual	Allison Lord	Travis Collins

December Altar Guild: Karen Lance, Jenny Lui, Raymond Lui, Sandy White

Birthdays

December 28 Mary Lou Berg December 28 Cheryl Vecera
 December 28 Travis Collins December 29 Ken Howard
 December 28 Ellaria Paku January 3 Sondra Sarles

Anniversaries

December 27 Revs. Allan & Anne Weatherholt
 December 28 Henry and Pat Shirley

Attendance: December 21

8:00 am - 27 10:15 am In-person - 69 YouTube - 4 Facebook - 2 **Total: 102**

Readings for Next Sunday: The Epiphany (Transferred)

Isaiah 60:1-6 Psalm 72 Ephesians 3:1-12 Matthew 2:1-12

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The Reverend Pierre-Henry Buisson, Rector

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