A Christmas Greeting to Our Visitors

Welcome to the Church of St. Michael & St. George and to our celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. As we keep this holy day with traditional songs, readings, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we invite you to share in our joy at the dawn of salvation, the promise of a new start for the whole world. Wherever you may find yourself this Christmas, whether at peace or in need of peace, healthy or in need of healing, having a clear conscience or in need of forgiveness, know that you are in the right place, that there is room at Jesus’ crib for you. Tonight as we ponder afresh the mystery of his Incarnation let our prayers, and above all our joy, be a sign to one another and to the world that “the Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.” (John 1:5)
The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

A Carol Service of Preparation and Praise

at
Ten-Thirty o’clock

The Congregation may remain seated for the singing of congregational carols

Verse 1 is sung by the Choir alone; all join in singing on verse 2
Carol  ❁ Sung by the Choir

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,
    Nowells ringing
    Tidings bringing,
    Christ the Babe is Lord of all.
Flocks were sleeping,
  Shepherds keeping
    Vigil till 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!

Words: Polish Traditional; par. Edith M. G. Reed (1885–1933)
Congregational Carol

1 It came upon the midnight clear, that
2 Still through the cloven skies they come with
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
4 For lo! the days are hastening on, by

glorious song of old, from angels bending
peaceful wings unfurled, and still their heavenly
world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly
prophets seen of old, when with the ever-

near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
music floats o’er all the weary world;
hyman have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
circling years shall come the time foretold,

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
above its sad and lowly plains they
and warring human kind hears not the
when peace shall over all the earth its
Carol

Sung by the Choir

This endrys night
I saw a sight,
A maid, a cradle keep,
And ever she sung
And said among
“Lullay, my child, and sleep,”

Lullay my child, and weep no more,
Sleep and be now still
The King of bliss thy Father is,
As it was his will.”

I may not sleep,
But I may weep;
I am so woe-begone;
Sleep I would, but none.”

Here shall I be hang’d on a tree,
And die as it is skill;
That I have bought less will I nought,
It is my Father’s will.”

Words: Anonymous; Fifteenth-Century English
Music: Conrad Susa (b. 1935)
Congregational Carol

1 O lit-tle town of Beth-le-hem, how still we see thee lie!
2 For Christ is born of Mary; 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-der-ing 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;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky,
How Jesus the Savior did come for to die
For poor orn’ry people like you and like I.
I wonder as I wander out under the sky.

When Mary birthed Jesus ‘twas in a cow’s stall,
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from God’s heaven a star’s light did fall,
The promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing,
A star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of God’s angels in heav’n for to sing,
He surely could have it, ‘cause he was the King.

Words: Traditional Appalachian Folk Carol; collected by John Jacob Niles (1892–1980)
Music: Traditional Appalachian Folk Carol; arr. Matthew O’Donovan (2012)
Congregational Carol

Words: Edward Caswall (1814-1878)
Music: Humility; John Goss (1800-1880)

1. See amid the winter's snow, Born for us on earth below; 
   See the tender Lamb appears,

2. Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies; He who, throned in height sublime,
   News to-day; Wherefore have ye left your sheep nood to - day; Wherefore have ye left your sheep

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say What your joyful news to-day; Wherefore have ye left your sheep

4. 'As we watch'd at dead of night, Lo, we saw a wondrous light; Angels singing "Peace on earth"

5. Sacred infant, all divine, What a tender love was thine, Thus to come from highest bliss

6. Teach, O teach us, Holy Child, By thy face so meek and mild, Teach us to resemble thee,

Hail, thou ever-blessed morn: Hail, redemption's happy dawn;

Sing through all Jerusalem, Christ is born in Bethlehem.
The Festal Procession

The Festal Procession, beginning and concluding at the Altar, dates from the very earliest days of Christian worship. The use of the liturgical procession was widely developed in the Middle Ages in the Sarum Use – the worship of the English Church in Salisbury, England. The Procession symbolizes the journey to find the Christ Child lying in a manger, ultimately culminating in the Station at the Crèche, and the return home “by another way” (Matthew 2:12). Through this procession, we join the Shepherds, the Magi, and all those today and in times to come who seek the Saviour of the World.

The Use of Incense

The use of incense in the liturgical rites of the Church has its origins in antiquity. Deeply imbued with mystic symbolism, the practice of offering incense in liturgical worship dates from the Old Testament before the time of the Second Temple. It is symbolic of the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven: “Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice” (Psalm 141:2). On this Feast of the Nativity of Christ, we look also to the Gospel of Matthew (2:11) and the precious offerings of the Wise Men: “…And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” Christian worship is fully sensory and, through the offering of incense at this Solemn Eucharist of the Incarnation, we join our prayers with those of the whole communion of saints in worship of the Christ Child and we offer an additional dimension to our worship with our entire being.
The Solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ at Eleven o’clock

The service follows the Order for Holy Eucharist beginning on page 323 of The Book of Common Prayer

The choral setting of the Mass Ordinary is the Mass of the Holy Night based on carol tunes by Robert Lehman (2003)

All stand as the Clergy and other Ministers enter

Choral Introit

God is with us.

Hear ye people, even to the uttermost end of the earth.

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light. The people that dwell in the shadow of death, upon them the light has shined. For unto us a child is born! For unto us a son is given! And the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful! Counsellor! The mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of peace.

Hear ye people, even to the uttermost end of the earth.

God is with us. Christ is born!

Words: From the Orthodox Great Compline for Christmas Eve
Music: John Tavener (1944-2013)

The Procession begins with these words

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. A-men.
Hymn at the Procession

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O
2 God from God, Light from Light eternal,
3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
4 See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
5 Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
2 lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
3 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
4 leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
5 we would embrace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
2 only been Son of the Father;
3 glory to God, glory in the highest;
4 we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
5 who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
Station at the Creche

V. The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us:
R. And we beheld his glory, full of grace and truth.

Let us pray.

Most merciful and loving God, who hast made this day holy by the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we thy people may enter with joy into the celebration of this day, and may also rejoice for ever as thine adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¶ People Amen.

¶ The Processional Hymn continues following the Station

The Collect for Purity

Said by the Celebrant

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ¶ People Amen.
Gloria in excelsis  Sung by the Choir

Glory be to God on high,
and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant  The Lord be with you.
People  And with thy spirit.
Celebrant  Let us pray.

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting.  People Amen.

Then all are seated
The Lesson

The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, and not increased the joy: they joy before thee according to the joy in harvest, and as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For thou hast broken the yoke of his burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian. For every battle of the warrior is with confused noise, and garments rolled in blood; but this shall be with burning and fuel of fire. For 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, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

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

* All stand for the singing of the Gradual Hymn
Hymn at the Gradual

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
Music: IN DULCI JUBILO; 14th-c. German

All are seated at the conclusion of the Hymn
The Epistle

For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

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

\[\textit{All stand for the singing of the Hymn and Gospel Procession}\]

Hymn at the Sequence

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed on the ground,
2 “Fear not,” said he, for might-y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;
3 “To you, in Da-vid’s town, this day is born of Da-vid’s line
4 “The heaven-ly Babe you there shall find to hu-man view dis-played,
5 Thus spake the ser-aph, and forth-with ap-peared a shin-ing throng

1 the an-gel of the Lord came down, and glo-ry shone a-round.
2 “Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.
3 the Sa-vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:
4 all mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and in a man-ger laid.”
5 of an-gels prais-ing God, who thus ad-dressed their joy-ful song:

6 “All glory be to God on high
and on the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease.”

Words: Nahum Tate (1625-1715)
Music: Winchester Old; The Whole Booke of Psalms, 1592
And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.
who for us men and for our salvation
    came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
    and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
    to judge both the quick and the dead;
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
    and glorified;
who spake by the Prophets.
And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead, ✩
    and the life of the world to come. Amen.

¶
The Deacon bids the People to prayer and all kneel

Prayers of the People

¶
The Deacon says these Prayers

A

lmighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.
We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

*Additional petitions and thanksgivings may be included here*

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Michael and All Angels, Blessed George, and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ’s sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.

*People Amen.*

Confession of Sin

*The Deacon says*

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

*Deacon and People, kneeling*

Almighty God,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
maker of all things, judge of all men:
We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins
and wickedness,
which we from time to time most grievously have committed,
by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty,
provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us.
We do earnestly repent,
and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings;
the remembrance of them is grievous unto us,
the burden of them is intolerable.
Have mercy upon us,
have mercy upon us, most merciful Father;
for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ’s sake,
forgive us all that is past;
and grant that we may ever hereafter
serve and please thee in newness of life,
to the honor and glory of thy Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

¶ Then the Celebrant stands, pronounces Absolution and may say the Comfortable Words
¶ All stand

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
     People And with thy spirit.

¶ Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord

The Rector’s Christmas Greeting

¶ The Holy Communion ¶

Anthem at the Offertory

A Patre Unigenitus
   Is through a maiden come to us.
Sing we of him and say ‘Welcome!
     Veni Redemptor gencium’.

Agnoscat omne seculum
   A bright star made three kings to come
Him for to seek with their presents,
     Verbum supernum prodiens.

A solis ortus cardine
   So mighty a lord is none as he,
And to our kind he hath him knit,
     Adam parens quod polluit.

Make we joy now in the fest
     In quo Christus natus est.
Maria ventre concepit,
The Holy Ghost was aye her with.
In Bethlehem born he is,
    Consors Paterni luminis.

O Lux beata Trinitas!
    He lay between an ox and ass,
Beside his mother-maiden free:
    Gloria tibi Domine!

Words: Anonymous; Fifteenth-Century English
Music: Carl Rütti (2011)

Following the singing of the Carol, all stand to sing the following

Hymn at the Presentation

1. Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
4. See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;

and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glori--ri--a
The Great Thanksgiving

_Celebrant_ The Lord be with you.
_People_ And with thy spirit.
_Celebrant_ Lift up your hearts.
_People_ We lift them up unto the Lord.
_Celebrant_ Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
_People_ It is meet and right so to do.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,
Sanctus and Benedictus qui venit  

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed ☩ is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

The People kneel. Then the Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer

ALL GLORY BE TO THEE, ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ’s holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body
and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. All AMEN.

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.

¶ The Celebrant breaks the Bread and a period of silence is kept; then is sung

Agnus Dei

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
    have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
    have mercy upon us.
O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
    grant us thy peace.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.
The Invitation and Ministration of Communion

All Christians baptized with water in the Name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive the Bread, extend your palms, crossed and upward; when offered the Chalice, please assist in guiding it. Those who do not wish to receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing; please indicate this to the Priest by crossing your arms over your chest.

Carols at the Communion

A Spotless Rose is blowing, Sprung from a tender root, Of ancient seers’ foreshowing, Of Jesse promised fruit; Its fairest bud unfolds to light Amid the cold, cold winter, And in the dark midnight.

The Rose which I am singing, Whereof Isaiah said, Is from its sweet root springing In Mary, purest Maid; For through our God’s great love and might, The Blessed Babe she bare us In a cold, cold winter’s night.

Words: Anonymous; Fourteenth-Century English
Music: Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

In dulci jubilo
Let us our homage shew; Our heart’s joy reclineth In præsepio
And like a bright star shineth Matris in gremio.
Alpha es et O,
Alpha es et O!

O Patris caritas,
O Nati lenitas!
Deeply were we stained Per nostra crimina;
But thou hast for us gained Coelorum gaudia.
O that we were there, O that we were there!

O Jesu parvule! I yearn for thee alway! Hear me, I beseech thee, O Puer optime! My prayer let it reach thee, O Princeps gloriae!
Trahe me post te,
Trahe me post te!

Ubi sunt gaudia, where, If that they be not there? There are angels singing Nova cantica, There the bells are ringing In Regis curia:
O that we were there, O that we were there!

Words: Traditional German
Music: Traditional German Carol; arr. Robert Lucas Pearsall (1795–1856)
Hymn at the Communion

*Sung by all, kneeling*

Silent night, holy night, all is calm,
Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake
Silent night, holy night, Son of God,

All is bright round yon virgin mother and child,
At the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,
Love’s pure light radiant beams from thy holy face,

Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is
With the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at thy

Peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.
Born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
Birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848)
Music: Stille Nacht; Franz Gruber (1787-1863)
The Postcommunion Prayer  
Said by all, kneeling

A
LMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING GOD, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

M
AY ALMIGHTY GOD, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness.  
People Amen.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior’s birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel.  
People Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.  
People Amen.

People Amen.

All stand

The Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the People and they respond

V. Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
R. Thanks be to God.

Hymn at the Retiring Procession

The Hymn is found on the facing page

Organ Voluntary

Fantasia super In dulci jubilo

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685–1750)

The Rector, Clergy, and Staff of The Church of St. Michael & St. George wish you a very blessed and joyous Christmas.
1 Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mercy mild,
late in time behold him come,
born to raise us from the earth,

Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Risen with healing in his wings,

with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788)
Music: MENDELSsoHN; Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)
EVE OF THE NATIVITY
December 24, 2017

10:30 PM
Carol Service of Preparation and Praise

11:00 PM
Festal Eucharist

“Study for Head of the Christ Child for the ‘Vision of Saint Jerome’”
c. 1526-1527
Parmigianino
The Art of Parmigianino
by David Franklin

The Rev. Andrew John Archie RECTOR
The Rev. Blake Andrew Sawicky ASSISTANT TO THE RECTOR
The Rev. Peter James Speropulos CURATE
The Rev. Anne Kelsey PRIEST ASSOCIATE
Robert Wylie Lehman ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER
Nicholas Frazier Bideler ASSISTANT ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

THE CHURCH
OF ST. MICHAEL & ST. GEORGE
6345 Wydown Boulevard
P.O. Box 11887
St. Louis, MO 63105
www.csmsg.org