



GOOD SAMARITAN
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*Followers of Jesus, with open minds
and hearts to serve*

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2024 | Harris Academy | 5 p.m.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nanci Slagle

THE BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

The figure of the Christ child is placed in the crèche.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, you have on this night given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary; Bless this crib and these images which show forth the wonders of his lowly but sacred birth at Bethlehem; mercifully grant that as he humbled himself to be clothed with our humanity, so all those who, beholding the same, shall ponder and adore the mystery of his holy Incarnation, may be found worthy in him to be clothed with his divinity: who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please stand as you are able.

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Adeste fideles



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,



1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;



1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

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;

Refrain

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.

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

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through our Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Hark the Herald

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!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you.**People** And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

*Isaiah 52:7-10**Reader* A Reading from the book of Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;
 for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;
 for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;
 and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.**People** Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM *(Read responsively by verse)*

Psalm 98

Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvellous things, *
whose mighty hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**O Lord, you have made known the victory; *
you have openly shown your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

You remember your mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen your victory, O God.

**Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice and sing.**

Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.

**With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before our sovereign, the Lord.**

Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.

**Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord, who is coming to judge the earth.**

In righteousness shall God judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

THE SECOND LESSON

Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)

Reader Today's second lesson is taken from the book of Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, whom God appointed heir of all things, through whom God also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

[For to which of the angels did God ever say,

“You are my Son; today I have begotten you”?

Or again,

“I will be his Father, and he will be my Son”?

And again, when God brings the firstborn into the world, God says,

“Let all God's angels worship him.”

Of the angels he says,

“He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire.”

But of the Son he says,

“Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.”

And,

“In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same, and your years will never end.”]

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.

THE SEQUENCE

Celtic Alleluia

O’Carroll & Walker

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - - ia! ____

Words and Music: Fintan O’Carroll and Christopher Walker (b.1947) © 1985 OCP Publications, 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213 [www.ocp.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you, Jesus 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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Jesus Christ.**

Repeat The Sequence - Celtic Alleluia

We invite all 1st through 5th graders to join Story Share with our Good Sam’s kids & youth leaders.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. James T. Said

Please stand as you are able.

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

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

Form IV

Litanist Holy God, wherever we are, you are there. Stir our hearts wherever we may go that we may see you and offer thanksgiving for the life you have given us. Hear these prayers we offer as we say, Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Litanist For the church in every place: May we be ever mindful of the richness of the family of the God's people, those next to us here, those in neighborhood churches, and those worshipping today across the globe. Help us to grow into a unity of mission and ministry in our common devotion to Christ that we might be faithful witnesses of your love. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Litanist For those in civil authority: That they be guided by hope and not fear. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Litanist For this faith community; amid joys and sorrows: Let us remember those who have gone before us; those who have sacrificed for us. Let us give thanks for this gathering of God's people and for the renewal of life we are given. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Litanist For the gifts of creation, for the sun that lights our day and the moon and stars that shelter the night: May our eyes be open to the beauty around us. Help us to protect and nurture the creation and ever proclaim its wonders. Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**
Litanist For those at greatest risk among us: Let us pray for those who are lonely or neglected, and for those facing illness and disability. Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**
Litanist For those who have died, for those who are dying, and for those who grieve, that they might find hope in your promise of lasting life. Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**
Celebrant As is our custom, whom else shall we pray for?
Celebrant Lord, gather up our prayers with those of all your people in every place and time, and guide us to Christ, preparing the way for us by making every valley filled and every mountain low. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(a brief silence may be kept)

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of God be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Our Mission: We are open-minded followers of Jesus who focus on loving, serving, and including all people. No exceptions.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE OFFERTORY

There's a Star in the Sky

The people's offerings are collected to support the ongoing work and ministry of our community. If you wish to make a gift by text, simply send the dollar amount you wish to give to 73256 with the keyword GoodSams, followed by a space, and then a dollar amount. For example, "GoodSams 25"

Please stand as you are able.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2

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.**

The Presider continues

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

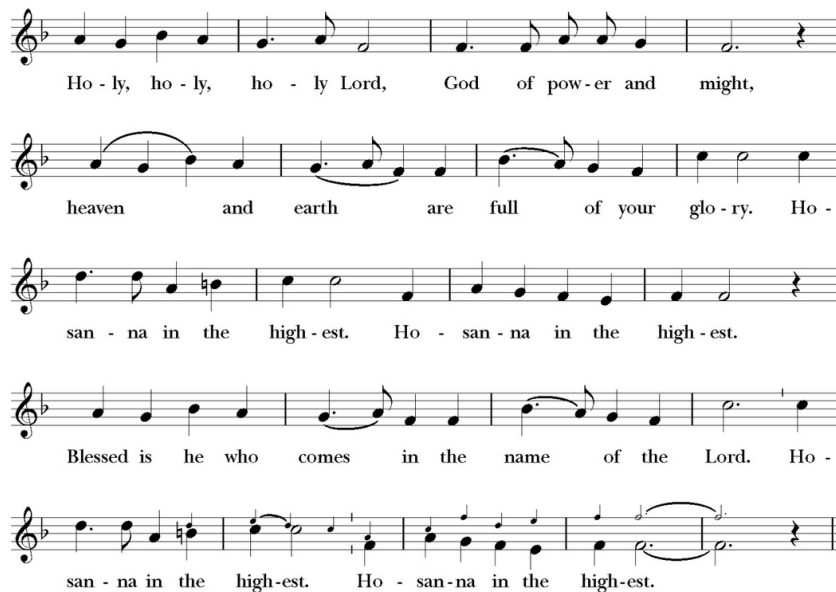
You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

THE SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy (S-125)

Proulx



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself, yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

The Celebrant continues

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

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 THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant 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.

All who are followers of Christ, regardless of your church background (or not!), are warmly welcome to receive the gifts of bread and (non-alcoholic) wine in Holy Communion. Come forward and the priest will place a piece of bread into your palm. Gluten-free bread is available; simply ask the minister. You may either drink from the cup or cross your arms over your chest to pass the wine. Receiving bread only is still considered full communion if you prefer not to receive the wine at this time. If you do not wish to receive bread and wine, we welcome you to come forward anyway and to cross your arms over your chest. The priest will say a prayer for God's blessing upon you.





1. See a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2. Lo, with - in a sta - ble lies He who built the star - ry skies,
3. Sa - cred In - fant, all di - vine, What a ten - der love was Thine,
4. Teach, O teach us, ho - ly child, By Thy face so meek and mild,



1. See, the gen - tle Lamb ap - pears, Prom - ised from e - ter - nal years.
2. He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the cher - u - bim.
3. Thus to come from high - est bliss Down to such a world as this!
4. Teach us to re - sem - ble Thee In Thy sweet hu - mil - i - ty.



Hail, O ev - er - bless - ed morn! Hail, re - demp - tion's hap - py dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"

Text: 77 77 with refrain; Edward Caswall, 1814–1878.
 Music: John Goss, 1800–1880.

Please stand as you are able.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

PRIESTLY BLESSING

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,

DISMISSAL

Celebrant
People

Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the spirit.
Thanks be to God!

Our worship is over; now our service begins!

Good Samaritan News

Coming up at Good Sam's...

Sunday, December 29th at 10 a.m. - Last Sunday Service at Harris Academy

Sunday, January 5th at 10 a.m. - First Service at the New Church (3949 S. Green St.) – Epiphany on Green Street

Sunday, January 5th - Recycle Sunday

Saturday, January 11th at 10 a.m. - Bishop Jennifer's Blessing of the New Church ((3949 S. Green St.) with guest preacher, The Very Rev. Gray Lesesne, D.MIN

Saturday, January 11th at 5 p.m. - Good Sam's Foodies Dinner at Homey Hot Pot

Sunday, January 12th at 10 a.m. - First Sunday after the Epiphany

Tuesday, January 14th at 6:30 p.m. - Book & Fellowship Group

Monday, January 20th at 10 a.m. - MLK Day of Service with #ChurchThatServes

Tuesday, January 21st at 6:30 p.m. - Community Mediation Group

December Office Hours

The Good Sam's office will be **closed** for the holidays from 12 p.m. on Tuesday, **December 24th** until 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, **January 2nd**.

With thanks to those who serve today!

Preacher & Presider
Assisting Clergy

The Rev. James T. Said
The Rev. Dr. Amy Lindeman Allen ,
The Rev. Dr. Calvin Brandenburg &
The Rev. Yvonne Brandenburg

Readers

Steven Hamner & Steven Kellermeyer

Litanist

The Rev. Dr. Calvin Brandenburg

Chalice

Karen Farmer & Becca Allen

Altar Guild & Prep

Pat Harris, Linda Farley, & Cheryl Hughes

Acolytes

Gabe Reynolds & Kaiya Demmings

Greeter

Deb Ruckman

Set-Up Team

The Saims, Schofields, & Farmers

Director of Music

Kendall Ludwig

Musician in Residence

Ann Lovko

Directors of Hospitality

Susan Davis & Burnie Wilkins

Tech Team

Bryon Russell, Brian Weidner,

& Zach Hunt

Bishop's Committee Member on Duty
Dir. of Children's, Youth, & Family Ministries

Mike Kennedy

Barbie Russell

Children's Formation Leader

Angela Reynolds

Nursery Assistants

Audrey Davis & Alora Winegard

Parish Administrator

Brianna Bleiler



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