



ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

in the heart of the historic Stockade District

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 P.M. - DECEMBER 24, 2025
SUNG MASS FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

The Reverend Thomas J. Pettigrew, *Rector*
The Reverend Abigail Bee, *Parish Deacon*
Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO, *Director of Music*

PRELUDE

THE ENTRY HYMN, Hymnal 83—*Adeste fideles*

1. O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;
Refrain: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
2. God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of God the Father;
Refrain
3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;
Refrain

Sung by all

4. See how the shepherds,
summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither
bend our joyful footsteps;
Refrain
5. Child, for us sinners
poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee,
loving us so dearly?
Refrain
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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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. Amen.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS—HYMNAL S-202

Sung by all

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Incarnation

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

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

A READING from the Letter of Paul to Titus

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

V. The Word of the Lord

R. Thanks be to God

HYMN—Hymnal 94 -*Winchester Old*

Sung by all

1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2. 'Fear not,' said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
'Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3. 'To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
the Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

4. 'The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid.'

5. Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful 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.'

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO SAINT LUKE

R. Glory be to thee, O Lord.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see~ I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise be to thee, O Christ.**THE PROCESSION OF THE BAMBINO AND BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE***(Children are encouraged to join Father around the crèche)*

Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

Dear friends: as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crib, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

God our Father, on this holy night thy Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. Amen.

THE RECTOR'S GREETING TO THE CHILDREN**THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

R. And with thy spirit.

1. O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
3. How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him,
still the dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Celebrant *People*
The Lord be with you. And with thy spi - rit.

Celebrant *People*
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Celebrant
Let us give thanks un - to our Lord God.

People
It is meet and right so to do.

The Celebrant sings the Proper Preface of Christmas

THE SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT, HYMNAL S-114

Sung by All

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 EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

(people kneel)

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 Savior 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, ourselves, 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. **Amen.**

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Sung by All

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE FRACTION

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

THE AGNUS DEI, HYMNAL S-158

Sung by All

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 INVITATION

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.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

All baptized Christians may receive communion. If you wish to not receive, you are invited to come forward and cross your arms, indicating that you wish to receive a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available.

COMMUNION HYMN—Hymnal III— *Stille Nacht*

Sung by All

1. Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Said by All*

(people kneel)

Almighty 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 BLESSING

(people kneel)

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ☩ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE RETIRING PROCESSION, HYMNAL 87— *Mendelssohn*

Sung by all

1. Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!*

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Refrain

3. Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings,
light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Refrain

MINISTERS OF TODAY'S LITURGY

Celebrant & Preacher	The Rev'd Thomas J. Pettigrew, Rector
Deacon of the Mass	The Rev'd Abigail Bee, Parish Deacon
Organist	Dr. Brian J. Taylor, AAGO
Master of Ceremonies	Mr. David Kennison

Friday, December 26— 9:00 a.m.— Low Mass for St Stephens Day

Saturday, December 27— 9:00 a.m. — Low Mass for St John the Evangelist

Sunday, December 28—10:00 a.m— Solemn High Mass—The First Sunday of Christmas

Monday, December 29—9:00 a.m.— Low Mass for the Feast of the Holy Innocents

DURING THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS, Father Pettigrew would like to bring communion to those members of our parish family who are shut-in or unable to attend Mass. If you know of anyone who might not be on our list already and would like to received communion during the Christmas Season, please speak to Father Pettigrew or send an email to rector@StGeorgesSchenectady.org

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. GEORGE'S

EPIPHANY FEAST OF LIGHTS — On Sunday evening, January 4th join us for “A Feast of Lights for Epiphany.” This service celebrates in lessons and music the light of Christ come into the world, being made manifest through the appearance of the Wise Men, Jesus’ Baptism in the River Jordan, and his first miracle at the wedding in Cana. Much of it is done be candlelight as we prepare to carry the light of Christ into the world. This is a family-friendly service and also one to which we can invite friends and neighbors. Pre-service music begins at 4:45 p.m. The service begins at 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 4th — A Feast of Lights for Epiphany — 5:00 p.m. High Altar

Tuesday, January 6th— Solemn Mass for the Feast of Epiphany— 7:00 p.m.— High Altar