



Christmas Eve  
The Eve of the Nativity of  
Our Lord Jesus Christ

# **The Celebration of Holy Communion**

7:30 pm  
December 24,  
2022

4905 E. Yale Avenue  
Denver, CO 80222



✧ *Please rise in body or spirit.*

# Introit

Grace Ringers

*Ding Dong Merrily on High*, arr. Linda Lamb

## ✧ Opening Hymn

Red 234

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

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, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal,  
lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;  
Son of the Father, begotten, not created; *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;  
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest; *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory given.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

Words: John F. Wade, ca. 1743; trans. By Frederick Oakeley, 1841, and others

Music: (ADESTES FIDELES, Irr): John F. Wade, ca. 1743; harm. From *Collections of Motetts or Antiphons*, 1792

## ✧ Opening Prayer

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

# ✦ Acclamation

From *Angels We Have Heard on High*



Two staves of music in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The first staff contains a melodic line with a long slur over it, starting on a whole note G4 and ending on a half note G4. The second staff continues the melody with a first ending (marked '1.') and a second ending (marked '2.').

Glo ————— r - ia


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

## Lighting the Christ Candle

We celebrate the coming of Christ...Shine in your church gathered today.

**O holy Child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray. Cast out our sin and enter in, be born to us today. We hear the Christmas angels, the great glad tidings tell. O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

A child is born for us. A gift is given to us. Emmanuel, God with us, bringing your kingdom of peace to all people on earth. Christ, we celebrate you here today! Let us light this Christ candle, completing this circle as we rejoice in the light that shines in the darkness and declare with joy and with hope that the Lord has come, as together we sing:



Three staves of music in 3/4 time, key of D major. The melody is simple and joyful, with lyrics written below the notes.

We light this Christ - mas can dle, Je - sus is born, as a

gift from God bring-ing hope and love, we sing out with joy. Al-le -

lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Christ the Lord is born.

# Prayer of Confession

**Lord of Christmas Peace, we have done wrong.  
We have tarnished the gift you gave freely.  
We have buried you so deeply in our hearts,  
the world doesn't see you.  
We have not followed Christ,  
we have ignored your teachings,  
we have lived lives of apathy against your love,  
we have built fences and fortresses to push people away,  
and we have silenced the screams of those in need.**

**Forgive us, we pray.  
Free us from our sin,  
free us from our captivity,  
free us to a life lived in joy  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Silence for personal confession.*

## Choral Anthem

Chancel Choir

*On Christmas Night (The Sussex Carol)*  
arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

## First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

“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 shout for joy,  
for in plain sight they see  
the return of the Lord to Zion.

Break forth; shout together for joy,  
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."

This is the word of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 98

*Response:*



O sing to the Lord a new song, for he has done marvelous things.  
His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.  
The Lord has made known his victory;  
he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.  
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel.  
All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God. **℣**

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;  
break forth into joyous song and sing praises.  
Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre,  
with the lyre and the sound of melody.  
With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. **℣**

Let the sea roar and all that fills it,  
the world and those who live in it.  
Let the floods clap their hands;  
let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord,  
for he is coming to judge the earth.  
He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity. **℣**

# ✠ Hymn of Preparation

Red 240

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King;  
    peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!”  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
    join the triumph of the skies;  
    with th'angelic host proclaim,  
“Christ is born in Bethlehem!”  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
    late in time behold him come,  
    offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
    hail th' incarnate Deity,  
    pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
    Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the new-born King!”

Words: Charles Wesley, 1739; alt. by George Whitefield, 1753, and others (Lk. 2:8-14)  
Music: (MENDELSSOHN): Felix Mendelssohn, 1840; arr. by William H. Cummings, 1856



# ✠ Gospel Reading

John 1:1-14

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 overtake 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.

This is the word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

# ✠ Gospel Response

Red 240

*Hark! the Herald Angels Sing*

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
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.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King!”

# Homily

The Rev. Seth O’Kegley-Gibson

# Prayers of the People

## The Offertory

Chancel Choir

*The Manger Carol (Austrian Carol)*  
arr. Mary E. Caldwell



*We offer our prayers, presence, gifts, service, and witness.  
Physical offerings may be placed in the offering plates  
that are being passed or brought/mailed to the church office.  
Online donations may be made using the QR code to the left.*

## ✦ The Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!

Words: Thomas Ken, 1674

Music: (OLD 100th LM): Attr. to Louis Bourgeois, 1551

## The Great Thanksgiving

*In our United Methodist tradition, the Eucharist, or Holy Communion, is a gift from our abundant God. All are welcome to receive Communion. All that we ask is that you love God, earnestly repent of your sin, and seek to live in peace together. Ushers will guide you from your pews forward using the outside aisles. Gluten-free is available at both stations. We would be happy to serve you in your pew if that is easier for you. Please just let an usher know.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**



...And so, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven,  
we proclaim your glory, and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

...And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,  
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving  
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,  
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

...Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,  
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever. **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, forever. Amen.**

## Giving of the Bread and Cup

### Hymns during Communion

#### *Away in a Manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay close by me forever, and love me, I pray;  
bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

### *What Child is This?*

What child is this who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. *Refrain.*

### *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*

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, noels 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.

### *The First Noel*

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
in fields where they lay keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star shining in the east, beyond them far;  
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.  
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel, born is the King of Israel.

## Prayer After Communion

**Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## ✦ Candlelight Carol

Red 239

*Silent Night, Holy Night*

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, sleep in heavenly peace.

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

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, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend thy light;  
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;  
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!

Words: Joseph Mohr, 1818, alt.; sts. 1, 2, 3 trans. By John F. Young; st. 4 trans. anon (Luke 2:6-20)  
Music: (STILLE NACHT, Irr.): Franz Gruber, 1818

## ✦ Christmas Blessing

## ✦ Hymn of Celebration

Red 246

### *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ;  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness,  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

# *Grace United Methodist Church*

4905 E. Yale Avenue  
Denver, CO 80222

(303) 756-1595  
grace4denver.org

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 10:30a- 3:30p

## *Clergy & Staff*

**The Rev. Seth O’Kegley-Gibson, MM, OSL**  
pastor@grace4denver.org

Lead Pastor  
(720) 432-7627

**The Rev. Mary MacDonald**  
deacon@grace4denver.org

Associate Pastor  
& Youth Director

**Jan Teves**  
office@grace4denver.org

Office Secretary & Bookkeeper  
(303) 756-1595

**Steven Burchard**  
music@grace4denver.org

Director of Music

**Anita Lockwood**

Organist/Pianist

**Gerardo Collazo Burgos**

Grace Ringers  
Bell Choir Director

**Nathan Teves**

Custodian

## *The Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church*

**The Rev. Dr. Karen Oliveto**

Resident Bishop

**The Rev. Jessica Rooks**

District Superintendent

*Cover art by Ukrainian artist Ostap Lozynskyi, who tragically died in 2022 at the age of 38.*