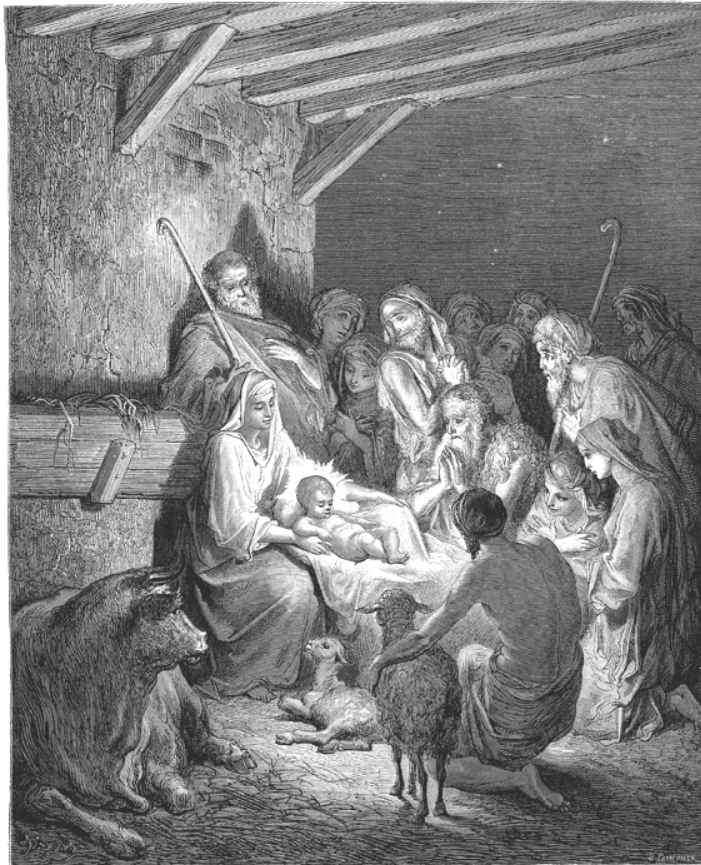


The Feast of the Nativity of our Lord
Ante-Communion
December 25, 2020



THE NATIVITY

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying
in a manger. . . . (Luke 2:16)

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

“ANTE-COMMUNION”

Ante Communion refers to the liturgy of the word that takes place before (Ante) the Eucharistic Prayer and Communion. As we cannot gather this year for Holy Communion, on this day when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, let us sing favorite hymns, hear the word of God proclaimed, and rejoice in the knowledge that our prayers for each other and the world will be lifted up along with the multitudes who celebrate around the globe.

Prelude

Wind in the Olive Trees

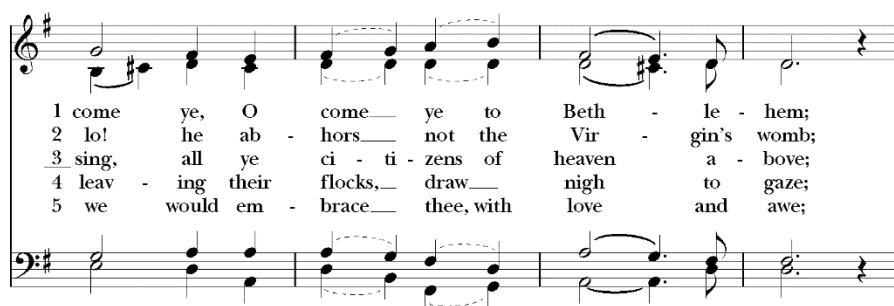
Dale Wood

Opening Hymn 83 O come, all ye faithful (Verses 1-3 & 6)

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;

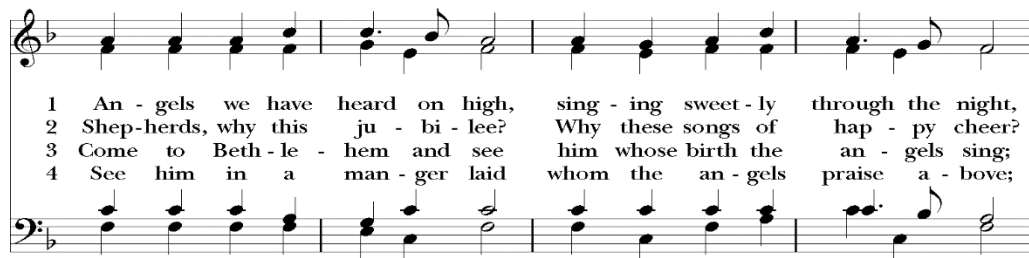
Refrain

Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high

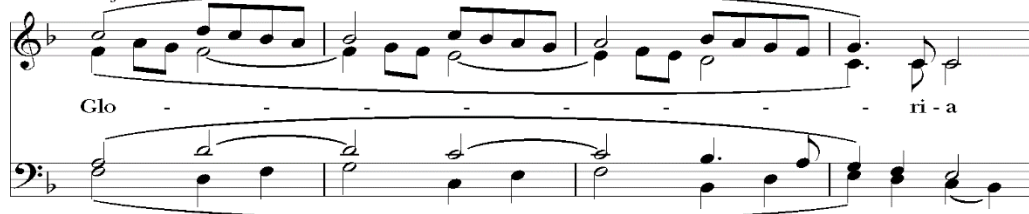


1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



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?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a



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



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

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.*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

The First Lesson

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 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.

The Lector says The Word of the Lord.

The People respond ***Thanks be to God.***

Hymn 102

Once in Royal David's City

*1. Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.*

*2. He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.*

3. *We, like Mary, rest confounded that a stable should display
heaven's Word, the world's creator, cradled there on Christmas Day,
yet this child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another.*

Gospel

John 1:1-14

The Gospeller says

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

The People respond

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.

The Gospeller says The Gospel of the Lord.

The People respond Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Reverend Jenifer M. Chatfield, *Rector*

Anthem

How Beautiful are the Feet (Messiah)

G. F. Handel

Rebecca Tomlinson, Soprano Soloist

How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!
Romans 10:15

Prayers of the People

Reader Let us pray for the coming of peace into the world, into our church, and into our homes, saying,
“Lord, hear our prayer.” Lord, as we celebrate the morning sun which brought the feast of the
Birth of the Holy Child, call forth the child from within each of us; cause us to wonder and
rejoice again in this most ancient feast. In joy we pray to you,

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader With the shepherds, we come to the birth of Christ seeking a simple celebration, where the
greatest gift will be ourselves given to you, our God, and to each other. In peace we pray to you,

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader As the magi came bearing gifts, may we, this Christmas, gift one another with the gold of
charity, the myrrh of kindness and the incense of prayer. In love we pray to you,

People Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader May the star of Bethlehem which shone brightly over the first manger stand guard over our city, our church, and our homes, filling them and the whole earth with light, peace and healing. In hope we pray to you,
People ***Lord, hear our prayer.***

Celebrant We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy birth you give hope to all the world.
People ***Amen.***

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the People
The peace of Christ be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Welcome & Announcements

The Blessing

May Almighty God, whose own Son took our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of holiness. ***Amen.***

May God, whose holy Angels proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. ***Amen.***

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

May the blessing of the eternal Majesty ✠ the incarnate Word, and the abiding Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

Minister Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

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,

WELCOME AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES AT ST. EDMUND’S Please visit our webpage at www.SaintEdmunds.org.

CHRISTMAS GRATITUDE The Altar Guild offers a heartfelt “Thank You” to all parishioners who made Christmas memorial or thanksgiving offerings (see Edmunds Notes for Christmas Thanksgivings and Memorials). Your generosity will make it possible to decorate the Chapel and Church throughout the year. We feel truly blessed and are grateful to all of you!

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED The Church Office will be closed from December 25th – January 1st.



Service Participants:

Preacher & Celebrant: *The Reverend Jenifer M. Chatfield, Rector*

Assisting: *The Reverend Canon Judith Heffron*

The Reverend Heather Blackstone, UCC. Director of Youth Ministries.

The Reverend Mark Dawson, Deacon.

Organist and Choirmaster: *Robert Hovencamp*

St. Edmund’s Choir: *Rebecca Tomlinson, Courtney Taylor, Kelly Krantz, Amber Farris-Peterson, Patty Tsai, Joseph Garate, Todd Strange, Brad Thurlow, Tim Smith, Mark Kelley*



*The Clergy, Vestry, and Staff of
St. Edmund's Church
Wish you a joyous and blessed Christmastide.*



St. Edmund's Episcopal Church

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San Marino, CA 91108 (626) 793-9167

www.SaintEdmunds.org

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