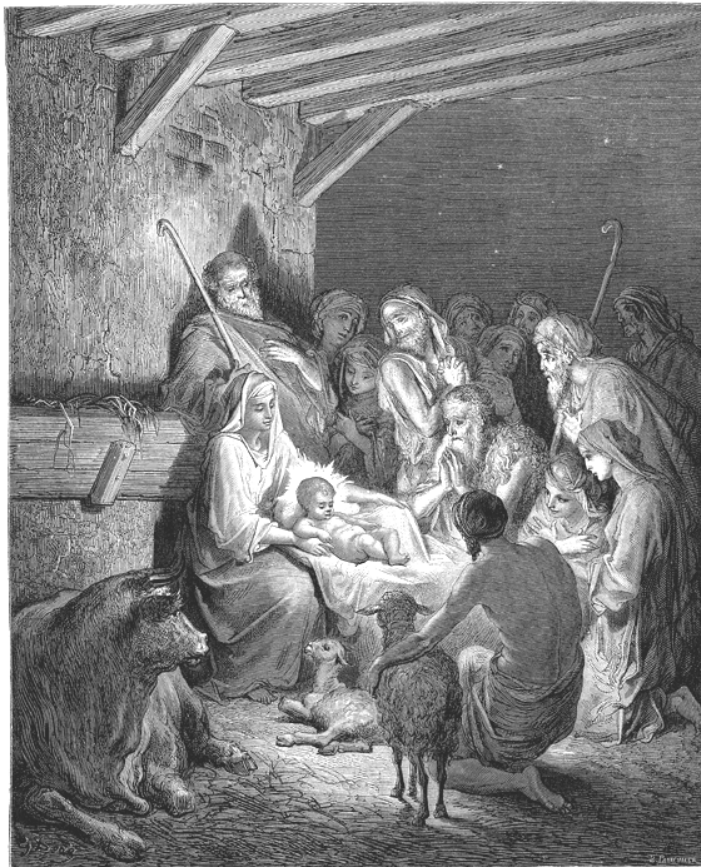


The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord
Virtual Holy Eucharist
With the Prayer of Spiritual Communion
December 24th, 2020



THE NATIVITY

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



St. Edmund's
Episcopal Church

The Word of God

Prelude

Adventus: O Come Emmanuel

The Modern Brass Quintet

Invitatory

Celebrant Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once again the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Babe lying in a manger.

Celebrant Let us go forth in peace.

People ***In the name of Christ. Amen.***

Station at the Christmas Creche

During the Hymn, the Celebrant carries the baby Jesus to the Creche and places him in the manger.

The Creche is censed.

Hymn 115 What Child is this

GREENSLEEVES

Unison or harmony

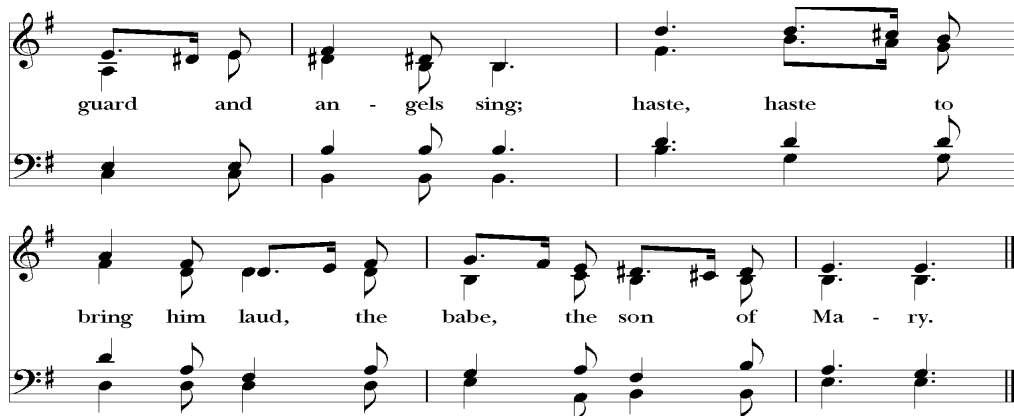
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where
3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

Refrain

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds



guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to
bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

Celebrant
People
Celebrant

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

And we beheld his glory.

Let us pray.

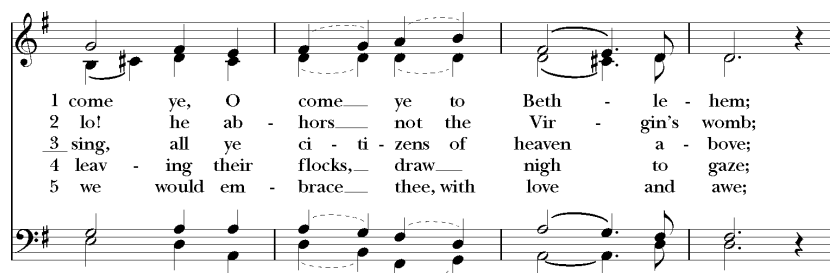
Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your love in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary. May your blessing be upon this crèche that it may be to us a sign of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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 -



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

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: ***And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

Celebrant: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people;
People: ***For unto us is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord!***

Celebrant: O God, who has caused this holy night to shine with the illumination 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.***

The Liturgy of the Word

The Hebrew Scripture

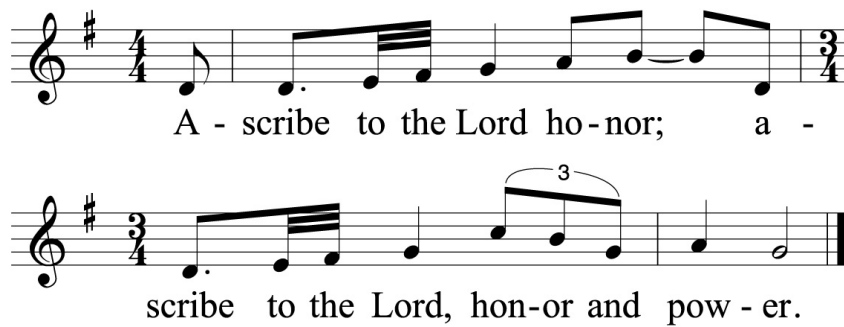
Isaiah 9:2-7

The lector says, "A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah".

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness-- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Lector says The Word of the Lord.
The People respond ***Thanks be to God.***

A period of silent reflection follows the reading



- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods. **(Refrain)**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts. **(Refrain)**
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth. **(Refrain)**

The Lector says, A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

After the Reading

Lector: The word of the Lord.

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

A period of silent reflection follows the reading.

Anthem

Cantique de Noel
Joseph Garate, Tenor

Adolphe Adam

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born.

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Deacon: The Holy † Gospel of our Lord † Jesus Christ according to St. † Luke.

People: ***Glory to you, Lord Christ***

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.]

After the Reading

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: ***Praise to you, Lord Christ***

The Sermon

The Reverend Jenifer M. Chatfield,
Rector

A period of silent reflection follows the sermon

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.*

*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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world.

Leader Gracious God

People ***Hear our Prayer***

Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honoring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, we may celebrate the light of this holy night.

Leader Gracious God

People ***Hear our Prayer***

Grant reconciliation to those surrounded with conflict and violence, that they may live in the peace of this holy night.

Leader Gracious God

People ***Hear our Prayer***

Let us pray for all who are cold, hungry, or alone this night. Embrace with your tender care all who wander alone or have no place to lay their head, that they may experience the hope of this holy night.

Leader Gracious God

People ***Hear our Prayer***

Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, or ill, especially those suffering with Covid-19. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we remember in our own hearts that they may feel the comfort of this holy night.

Leader Gracious God

People ***Hear our Prayer***

Let us pray for parents, families, and newborn infants. Strengthen families in the bonds of love and commitment, that they may delight in the joy of this holy night.

Leader Gracious God

People ***Hear our Prayer***

Let us pray for ourselves and for the blessings of Christmas. Open our hearts to your presence, that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy Night.

Leader Gracious God

People ***Hear our Prayer***

Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night.

Leader Gracious God

People ***Hear our Prayer***

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Offertory 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 in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant *People* *Celebrant* *People*

The Lord be with you. And al-so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant *People*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S125

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the Highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord,
Hosanna in the Highest.**

The Celebrant continues:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life. On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

***We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;***

The Celebrant continues:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that

they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to Jesus in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Edmund our Patron, Joseph and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

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

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 Fraction

Celebrant: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ our Lord is born to save!

People: *Let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

The Book of Common Prayer reminds us that if one is unable to actually consume the consecrated bread and wine due to extreme sickness or disability, the desire is enough for God to grant all the benefits of communion (BCP, p. 457). When being present at a celebration of the Eucharist is absolutely impossible, this act of prayer and meditation can provide the means by which you can associate yourself with the Eucharistic Action and open yourself to God's grace and blessing.

Celebrant Let us pray together,

Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Communion Anthem

In Silent Night

Mitchell Southall

In silent night, when all is calm and all is bright;
In silent night, O holy night, the baby from heaven is born on this night.
The Child, innocent Child is born.

In silent night, as darkness flies and all is light.
In silent night, O holy night, the Baby in radiance lay sleep on this night.
The Child, the holy Child is born.

In silent night, this Son of God and son of man
Shall one day cry, and later die upon a cross for you and me.
The Child, the Prince of Peace is born.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

All in unison: God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To Christ be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

As the hymn begins, please light a candle at home.

Post Communion Hymn # 111

“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.

The Christmas Blessings †

Celebrant: May Almighty God, who sent the Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with light and grace and holiness.

People: **Amen!**

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

People: **Amen!**

Celebrant: May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you all peace and favor.

People: **Amen!**

Celebrant: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People: **Amen!**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go into all the world as heralds of our newborn King!

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

The Twelve Days of Christmas
The Modern Brass Quintet

John Harbison

† † †

Announcements

WELCOME AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

CHRISTMAS BRASS QUINTET Please join us in welcoming *The Modern Brass Quintet* to St. Edmund's!
Dan Rosenboom and David Washburn, Trumpets
Dylan Hart, French Horn
Steve Suminski, Trombone
Doug Tornquist, Tuba

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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www.SaintEdmunds.org

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