

Christmas Day Morning Prayer

December 25, 2020 | 10am



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
515 SECOND STREET | WOODLAND, CALIFORNIA

ORDER OF SERVICE & READINGS

Ringing of the Bells

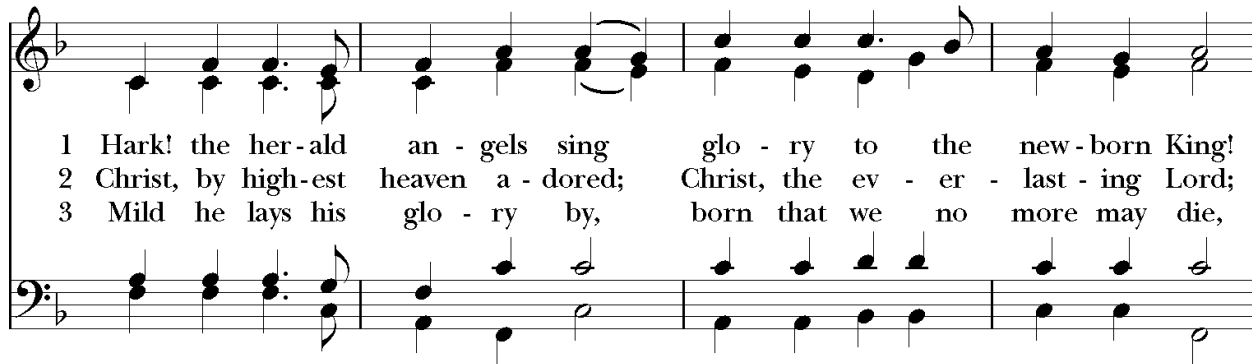
Organ Prelude

J.S. Bach, In Dulci Jubilo

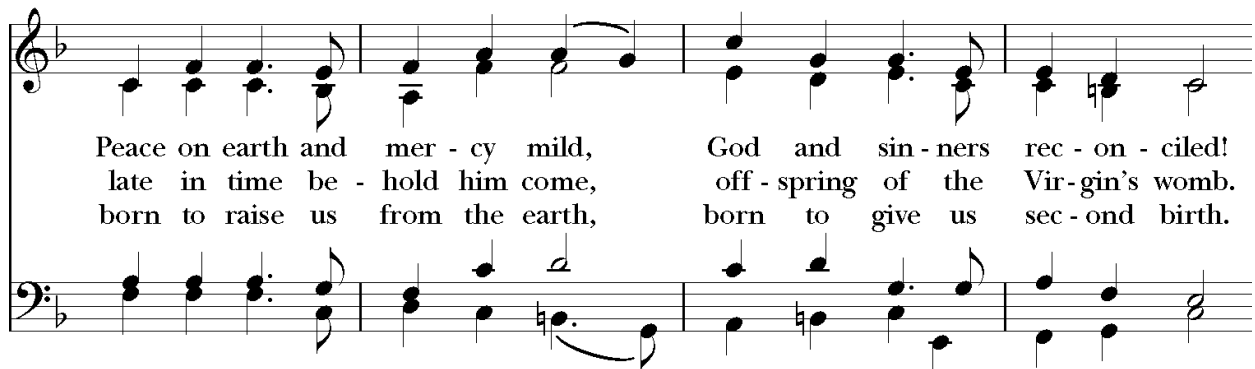
Welcome

Opening Hymn

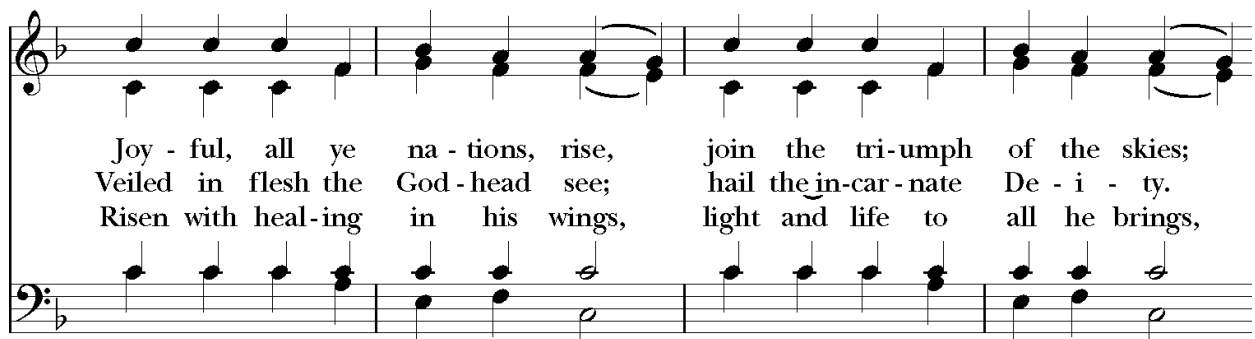
words: C. Wesley, music: *Mendelssohn*



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!

Opening Sentence

Officiant The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.
 - John 1:14

Confession & Absolution

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

***All* God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

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

Versicle

Officiant O God, let our mouth proclaim your praise.

People **And your glory all the day long.**

All **Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Antiphon

Officiant The Holy One is in our midst: O come let us worship.

All **O come let us worship.**

Invitatory

Psalm 67:1-5, *Deus misereatur*

All O God, be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of your countenance and come to us.
Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.
Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you

Psalm

Cantate Domino, Psalm 98

- ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- ² With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- ³ The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

- ⁴ He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- ⁵ Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- ⁶ Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- ⁷ With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.
- ⁸ Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- ⁹ Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- ¹⁰ In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

***All* Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God: as it was in
the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

Antiphon

Officiant Our God and Savior now draws near:

All **O come let us worship.**

The Lessons

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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.

Canticle 16

The Song of Zechariah, *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

All **Blessed are you, Lord, the God of Israel, ***
you have come to your people and set them free.
You have raised up for us a mighty Savior, *
born of the house of your servant David.
Through your holy prophets you promised of old
to save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us,
To show mercy to our forebears, *
and to remember your holy covenant.
This was the oath you swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,
Free to worship you without fear, *
holy and righteous before you,
all the days of our life.
And you, child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,
To give God's people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.
In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,
To shine on those who dwell in darkness
and the shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he 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.

Canticle 15

The Song of Mary, *Magnificat*

All **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior, *
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
you, the Almighty, have done great things for me,
and holy is your name.
You have mercy on those who fear you *
from generation to generation.
You have shown strength with your arm *
and scattered the proud in their conceit,
Casting down the mighty from their thrones *
and lifting up the lowly.
You have filled the hungry with good things *
and sent the rich away empty.
You have come to the help of your servant Israel, *
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,
The promise made to our forebears, *
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Gospel

John 1:1-14

The Gospel of Jesus Christ, according to Luke. 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.

Homily

The Rev. Carren Sheldon

Hymn

words: traditional, melody: *William James Kirkpatrick*



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 * 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Officiant Hear our cry, O God.

People **And listen to our prayer.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Help us, O God our Savior;

People **Deliver us and forgive us our sins.**

Officiant Look upon your congregation;

People **Give to your people the blessing of peace.**

Officiant Declare your glory among the nations;

People **And your wonders among all peoples.**

Officiant Do not let the oppressed be shamed and turned away;

People **Never forget the lives of your poor.**

Officiant Continue your loving-kindness to those who know you;

People **And your favor to those who are true of heart.**

Officiant Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning;
People **So shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Officiant 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.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Offerings of prayer and/or money are welcome at this or any time.
[Click here to donate: https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634](https://tithe.ly/give?c=409634)

Lord's Prayer

All **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.**

Blessing

Closing Hymn

words: Isaac Watts, music: *Handel*, arr. *Lowell Mason*

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 - every 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 and

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

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.

joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

found, far as, far as the sound - ing joy.

love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Concluding Sentence

Ephesians 3:20, 21

Officiant Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

All Amen.

Postlude *Saint-Saens*, Praise Ye the Lord of Hosts, from “Christmas Oratorio”

Christmas Day Coffee Hour: it's online & all are welcome!

Grab your beverage of choice, and join us online for Zoom “coffee hour” immediately following Morning Prayer, hosted by Margaret Wischart.

*Share your favorite Christmas stories from movies or books,
or just bring your ears to listen for inspiration.*



*St. Luke's is committed
to full inclusion for queer
folk in God's Church.*

Visit our website for information on how to get Involved

*Sign up for weekly e-mail updates for information on opportunities to help and to learn.
Contact our Church Administrator for details, at stlukechurchwoodland@gmail.com*

- **Book Study, Mondays, 5-6pm, via Zoom, [contact Mairic](#).**
- **"The Way of Love", Wednesdays, 7 pm, via Zoom, [contact Margaret](#).**
- **Queer Alliance, Thursdays, 6:30 pm via Zoom, [contact Mairic](#).**
- **Inquirers' Group, Tuesdays, starts 1/12, 5:15pm, 6pm, via Zoom, [contact Rev. Carren](#)**