



THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRST

December 24, 2023

VOLUNTARY

Canonic Variations on *Vom Himmel hoch*
BWV 769

Johann Sebastian Bach
(1685-1750)

INTROIT

Of the Father's Love Begotten

arr. Paul Wohlgemuth
(1927-1987)

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see,
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,
When the virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heaven adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Powers, dominions, bow before Him,
and extol our God and King!
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Every voice in concert sing,
Evermore and evermore!

—Latin text by Prudentius; English translation by J. M. Neale.

✠ CANDLE PROCESSION

Please rise as the candle passes your pew.

✠ CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

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!
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!
2. **Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.**
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
3. **Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,**
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

✦ LITANY

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.

Glory to God in the highest!

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Glory to God in the highest!

For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.

Glory to God in the highest!

He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Glory to God in the highest!

To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.

Glory to God in the highest!

And the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Glory to God in the highest!

LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL NO. 119 (SEATED)

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

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 in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
3. **Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!**
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n 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!"

LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

ANTHEM

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

arr. Gerre Hancock
(1934-2012)

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!

– Traditional Polish carol

LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

♠ CAROL 121

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

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 all 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!**

SERMON

Singing with the Angels

John W. Wurster

1. **Angels we have heard on high,
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

2. **Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

3. **Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

OFFERING

*Gifts may be given anytime at www.saintphilip.net
or text "SPPC" to 73256 and follow the prompts*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Holly and the Ivy

Matthew Owens
(b. 1971)

The holly and the ivy,
When they are both full grown,
Of all the trees that are in the wood,
The holly bears the crown.
*O the rising of the sun
And the running of the deer,
The playing of the merry organ,
Sweet singing in the choir.*

The holly bears a blossom,
As white as the lily flower,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ,
To be our sweet Savior.
O the rising of the sun...

The holly bears a prickle,
As sharp as any thorn,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
On Christmas Day in the morn.
O the rising of the sun...

The holly bears a berry,
As red as any blood,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
For to do us sinners good.
O the rising of the sun...

The holly bears a bark,
As bitter as any gall,
And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ
To redeem us all.
O the rising of the sun...

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give thanks and praise . . .

Therefore we now join our voices with the choirs of heaven

and the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:



You are holy, O God of majesty . . . even as we remember the mystery of faith:



O God, once again, pour out your Holy Spirit . . .

With the confidence of the children of God, we pray as Jesus taught:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power,

and the glory, forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE SHARING OF GOD'S GIFTS

COMMUNION SOLOS

Lullay Thou Little Tiny Child

Donald Geoffrey Hope

Lullay thou little tiny child,
By, by lully lullay.
O sisters too, how may we do
For to preserve this day
This poor youngling for whom we sing,
By, by lully lullay.

Herod the king, in his raging,
Charged he hath this day
His men of might, in his own sight
All children young to slay.

That woe is me, poor child for thee
And ever morn and day
For thy parting neither say nor sing
By, by lully lullay.

Sweet was the Song

Anonymous

Sweet was the song the virgin sung
when she to Bethlem Juda came
and was delivered of her sonne,
that blessed Jhesus hathe to name.
Lulla, lulla, lullaby,
sweet babe, quoth she;
thy sonne and eke a Saviour borne,
which hath vouchsafed from on high
to visit us that were forlorne.
La lulla, lalullaby sweet babe, sung she,
and rockt him featlie on her knee.

THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

John 1 (*selected verses*)

PASSING OF LIGHT

Please keep lit candles upright as you pass the light.

CAROL 122

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

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| <p>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,
sleep in heavenly peace.</p> <p>2. Silent night, holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born!</p> | <p>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,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.</p> <p>4. 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.</p> |
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CHRISTMAS BLESSING

VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo
BWV 729

J.S. Bach

Please extinguish candles.

WORSHIP NOTES

✦ Please stand, if able. **Bold** type indicates congregational responses.

Communion is served tonight by intinction. Please come to the stations via the center aisle, receive a piece of bread, dip it into the chalice of grape juice or take a small cup of grape juice from the tray. Return to your seat via the side aisles. Please indicate to the servers if you'd like gluten-free bread. Persons with difficulty coming forward can be served in the pews by signaling the servers. Because the table of Jesus Christ is open to all, everyone is welcome to receive communion tonight.

SERVING TONIGHT

Pastors

Keatan King, Omar Rouchon and John Wurster

Musicians

St. Philip Choir | Cecilia Duarte and Sarah Bertrand, soloists | Keith Weber, organist
Matthew Dirst, organist and interim choir director

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

We are glad you are here! Please scan the QR Code to access our digital guest-book. We invite you to sign in and let us know you are worshipping with us.



Merry Christmas

*Thank you to those who have contributed poinsettias this Christmas to adorn our chancel.
The list is continued on the next page.*

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we remember:</i>
Orlean Anderson	Ruth & Orlean McCallum
Orlean Anderson	Kenneth L. Anderson Jr.
Bill & Ginny Camfield	Our parents, William & Maurine Camfield and Rudy & Alma Kindig
Jan Meyer	My parents, Don & Valerie Meyer
Barbara Runge	Rusty Howard
Barbara Runge	Eugene & Ruth Howard
Barbara Runge	Glen & Affie Tate
Barbara Runge	Bill & Martha Runge
Jenilee Simmons	Douglass L. Simmons
David & Hallie Spence	Paxton Williams
Sally Alcorn	Fred C. Alcorn, my husband; Cecile & Carl Stuebing, my parents
Molly Boren Whitney	Cliff Cleveland, my beloved son
Jane Cooper	Lillian Bantau, Dan Cooper, & Kathy Mason
Janet Davis	Don Davis, Ruth Ewing, & John Burnett
Janet & Carl Eskridge	Rita & John Hannah
Susan & Robert Estill	Our parents
The Ewing children, grandchildren, & great grandchildren	Jack & Ruth Ewing
Jan Fox	Jack Fox
Nancy Higgs	My mother, father, & brother
Dick & Sue Howard	Our mothers, Lunetta & Pattye Sue
Gil & Oak Kim	Our moms
Amanda Kirtley	My mother, Pamela Kirtley
Jane Larkin	Lee R. Larkin & John P. Larkin
Susan & Jim Leonard	James Henry Leonard
Susan & Jim Leonard	James H. Leonard
Susan & Jim Leonard	Doris Leonard
Susan & Jim Leonard	Stanley & Beedie Heaps
Celie Matteson	Parents, Pete & Gussie Heilbron
Bonnie & Greg Moore	Our parents, Ross & Gertrude Neeley
Bonnie & Greg Moore	Our parents, Gene & Betty Moore
Lynn & Stuart Red	Ellen Red, David Red & Dick Schissler
Rhonda Sands	My parents, Mary Ann & Tom Sands & my brother, Rod Sands
The Schissler Family	Dick Schissler
Sally Slick	My husband, Bill Slick

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we remember:</i>
Aileen Todd, Allison & Chris Newport	Harry Todd & James Newport
Julie Wangler	My husband, Thomas Wangler
Linda Weinmann	Don Weinmann
Hope Wilmarth	Lance Wilmarth
Jennifer Wilson	My mother, Helen Wilson
Butch & Anne Wilson	Our parents: Ken & Marion Takehara and Mac & Beverly Wilson
Ruena Wood & Family	Rev. Dr. Stuart Wood
John Wurster & Deb Burks	Darnall Burks
<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those we honor:</i>
Bob & Lee Ardell	The wonderful staff of St Philip
Linda Bevill	Wilbert Parada & Dimas Parada
Sharon Coufal	Grandsons Gabi Vann & Andres Vann
Liz Crowell	Nancy Scott
Susan & Robert Estill	Mary Jane & Phillip McDaniel
Jan Fox	Bennett, Asher, & Shiloh
David & Suzanne Kerr	St. Philip Choir
Jane Larkin	Jim, Penny & Amelia Larkin
John Lemen	Matthew Dirst
Bonnie & Greg Moore	Our grandson Sebastian
Cathy Patterson	Jane Malczewskyj & the Bell Canto
Lynn & Stuart Red	Nan Schissler
Jenilee Simmons	Sheryl Curtain & family
Jenilee Simmons	Doug W. Simmons & family
David & Hallie Spence	Mary Linda Williams
Ruthie & Al Waldrop	Will, Lauren, Annie & Mary Louise Waldrop
Ruthie & Al Waldrop	Nancy & Justin Marlen
Ruthie & Al Waldrop	Virginia Waldrop
Jennifer Wilson	My father, Victor Bill Wilson