

Christmas Services

2020



DBF

ST. MARK'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BERKELEY, CA
The Nativity of Our Lord, Christmas Eve: Family Eucharist
December 24th, 2020; 4:30PM – Facebook Livestream

Welcome to St. Mark's!

This Christmastide, we invite you to share in our joy at the dawn of salvation, the invitation to a new start for the whole world in the birth of Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. Wherever you may find yourself this Christmas, whether at peace or in need of peace, healthy or in need of healing, clear of conscience or in need of forgiveness, know that this holiday is for you; this Child, and the light which shines from his face, is for you. As we receive him afresh, let our joy be a sign to the world that the Light still "shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

- (John 1:5)

Music in Preparation for Liturgy

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Johannes Brahms (1833 – 1897)

In dulci jubilo

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Christmas time is here

Vince Guaraldi (1928 – 1976)

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Entrance Rite

Entrance Hymn 83 (stanzas 1-3, 6)

O Come all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

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.
God from God, light from light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only begotten Son of the Father;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: I bring you good news of great joy:

People: **A Savior has been born to you. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: Unto us a child is born.

People: **Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: He is Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

People: **We worship and adore him. Alleluia.**

Hymn 96 (stanzas 1-4)

Angels we have heard on high
Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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.

See him in a manger laid
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Collect of the Day

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 CHRISTMAS STORY

ADAPTED BY JEROME W. BERRYMAN (B.1937)

SCENE I: THIS NIGHT IS LIKE NO OTHER NIGHT...

This night is like no other night. It is a time to dream and sing our way to Bethlehem. The children will show us how to go. The little town we seek sits in the hill country some ten miles south of Jerusalem. For thousands of years the houses there have gathered together on the hilltop like a family breaking bread. "Bethlehem" means 'House of Bread.' In the center of the village is a small inn. On this night it is overflowing with people seeking sleep and a place to eat. Behind the Inn is a dark stable. A gray donkey chews his barley and broken straw while a weary steer leans and rests after the day's plowing in the valley. A sheep nearby is nearly asleep. All is still and quiet in the little town.

Hymn 79 (stanza 1)

¶During the hymn, the donkey, the steer and the sheep arrive at the crèche.

O Little Town of Bethlehem
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.

Gloria

Saint Louis

SCENE 2: MARY AND JOSEPH COME TO BETHLEHEM

As night gathers, the last few travelers come slowly up the road. Look, there is a young woman about to be a mother. She is walking with her husband. They are Joseph and Mary from Nazareth! They have walked for six days to come to this city where King David was born, so long before. They have come, like so many others, because the Roman Emperor wants to count each one, so he can take their money in a tax. But it is late, and Mary is so weary. Where will they sleep? There is no room in the inn. They decide to sleep with the animals.

Hymn 102 (stanzas 1 & 6)

Once in Royal David's City

Irby

¶During the hymn, Mary and Joseph arrive at the crèche.

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.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
set at God's right hand on high.

SCENE 3: JESUS IS BORN

Stars brighten slowly in the sky. All creation holds its breath. Suddenly, from the stable comes the cry of a newborn child! Mary gently wraps the baby in a blanket and lays him in the feed box that Joseph filled with straw.

Hymn 101 (stanzas 1 & 2)

Away in a Manger

Cradle Song

¶During the hymn, baby Jesus arrive at the crèche.

The first stanza will be sung by Charlie Blessing Kouts Alon.

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

The cattle are lowing,
the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus
no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side
until morning is nigh.

SCENE 4: THE ANGELS SING ... SHEPHERDS COME

In the hills outside Bethlehem, shepherds watch their shadowy sheep. All at once, the dark is split by light, and in the midst of the light is something even brighter. It is the face of an angel. The fearful shepherds hear sounds in the sky, and a voice says dearly, "Do not be afraid. Listen, I bring you news of great joy, a joy to be shared by all people. Today in the City of David a Savior is born! He is the Christ, the Lord." Then, more angels appear, a whole heavenly host of them, praising God and singing: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will to all people, everywhere." The shepherds run with joy across the fields to Bethlehem to the barn behind the inn. There they find the Holy Family, and creep forward, overwhelmed with mystery, to find Nativity itself in the center of all that love.

Hymn 109 (stanzas 1 & 2)

The First Nowell

The First Nowell

¶During the hymn, shepherds and an angel arrive at the crèche.

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

SCENE 5: THREE WISE KINGS FOLLOW A STAR

Three camels plod up the road that leads to Bethlehem. They have come from the East, far beyond the Arabian Desert. The camels carry three kings, the wise ones. They are following the wild star, the destiny they had never seen before, and they are following it, wherever it goes, to find the King its shining shows them.

Hymn 128 (stanza 1)

We Three Kings

Three Kings of Orient

¶During the hymn, the three kings arrive at the crèche.

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.
O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to thy perfect light!

SCENE 6: WHAT CAN I GIVE HIM?

The kings' journey ends in a new kind of King. Their restlessness rests at last. They fall to their knees and give Him bright gold, sweet-smelling frankincense, and bitter myrrh, brought so far with such love. So, now we all come, following the star, to find God-with-us. We come, as people have come all through the ages, to bring our own gifts to this Child, God's gift to us. Come forward, now. Bring your gifts of stars and of yourselves to place around the manger. Show us the way into the Mystery of Christmas, as we sing, for this night is holy.

Hymn 115 (stanzas 1, 2, & 3)

What Child is This?

Greensleeves

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.*

Why lies he in such mean estate.
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain.

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

Celebrant: Almighty God, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation; bless this creche which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

People: **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn 110

The snow lay on the ground

Venite adoremus

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.
Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

Refrain:

Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.

'Twas Mary, daughter pure of holy Anne,
that brought into this world the God made man.
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;
the ass and oxen shared the roof with them.

Refrain

Saint Joseph, too, was by to tend the child;
to guard him, and protect his mother mild;
the angels hovered round, and sung this song,
Venite adoremus Dominum.

Refrain

And thus that manger poor became a throne;
for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host,
to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Refrain

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP p. 367

Sursum Corda

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant: [...] Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

**All: 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.**

Celebrant: Therefore, according to his command, O Father

People: We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues [...] By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Fraction

¶The presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Agnus Dei

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, **Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, **Have mercy on us.**

Celebrant: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, **Grant us peace.**

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world.

All: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should come under my roof.
But speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.**

A Form for Spiritual Communion

In times like these where it is imprudent or impossible for all to receive Holy Communion, it is still possible to make an act of spiritual communion. The following devotion can be made at any time when you are prevented from being present at the Eucharist, but we encourage you to use it during these weeks of live-streamed services especially, at the time while communion is being administered and the ablutions performed. This form comes from a book of devotion, "The Habit of Holiness," by Martin Warner.

Make an Act of Spiritual Communion to unite your intention with that of the whole Church:

Lord Jesus Christ, saving Victim, Priest divine,
in union with the faithful at every altar of your Church
where your body and blood are offered to the Father,
I make an oblation of praise and thanksgiving.
I believe that you are truly present in the Eucharist.
To you I offer my soul, my body, and my life.
Come to my heart, embrace me with your love.
Conform my will to the pattern of your perfect obedience,
so that loving all that you love, I may never be separated from you,
but live to the glory of God. Amen.

Pray 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.

Meditate on the soul's mystical union with Christ; 14th c. poem, 'Anima Christi' is a good place to start:

Soul of Christ, sanctify me.
Body of Christ, save me.
Blood of Christ, inebriate me.
Water from the side of Christ, wash me.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
Within thy wounds hide me.
Suffer me not to be separated from thee.
From the malicious enemy defend me.
In the hour of my death, call me
and bid me come to thee,
That with thy saints I may praise thee
For ever and ever.

Offer a prayer of thanksgiving; this is one by St. Richard of Chichester:

Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits thou hast won for me,
for all the pains and insults thou hast borne for me.
O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother,
may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly,
and follow thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

The Grace

+The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be
with us all, evermore. Amen.

Communion Music

Communion Hymn 111

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin, mother, 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.

Post Communion Prayer

All: Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Christmas Blessing

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

May God, who sent his angels to 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 his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 100

Joy to the world

Antioch

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 men 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.

Postlude

From Heaven above to earth I come Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)



Christmastide at Saint Mark's Episcopal Church

Thursday, December 24, 10:30 p.m.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ: Holy Eucharist (Livestream)

Friday, December 25, 10:00 a.m.

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist (Zoom)

Sunday, December 27, 10:00 a.m.

The First Sunday after Christmas: Morning Prayer (Livestream)



Staff

Rector	The Rev'd Blake Sawicky – priest@stmarksberkeley.org
Assisting Priests	The Rev'd Michael Hiller, The Rev'd Louis Weil, The Rev'd Jim Stickney, The Rev'd Kenneth Schmidt
Director of Music	George Anton Emblom – music@stmarksberkeley.org
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Sexton	Joel Contreras

Vestry

Sr. Warden	Lisa Key – seniorwarden@stmarksberkeley.org
Jr. Warden	Paul Porter – juniorwarden@stmarksberkeley.org
Treasurer	treasurer@stmarksberkeley.org
Clerk	Nancy Evans Judith Berling, Fran Carlson, Iris Commins, Kathi Day, Joseph Lough, Nathan Oliver, Marcia Russell, Margo Strakosch, Anna Weidman, Kevin Zamzow-Pollock

To send a general message to the vestry you can email: vestry@stmarksberkeley.org

Parish Office Contact Information

Email	office@stmarksberkeley.org .
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Christmas

John Betjeman (1906-1984)

The bells of waiting Advent ring,
The Tortoise stove is lit again
And lamp-oil light across the night
Has caught the streaks of winter rain
In many a stained-glass window sheen
From Crimson Lake to Hookers Green.

The holly in the windy hedge
And round the Manor House the yew
Will soon be stripped to deck the ledge,
The altar, font and arch and pew,
So that the villagers can say
'The church looks nice' on Christmas Day.

Provincial Public Houses blaze,
Corporation tramcars clang,
On lighted tenements I gaze,
Where paper decorations hang,
And bunting in the red Town Hall
Says 'Merry Christmas to you all'.

And London shops on Christmas Eve
Are strung with silver bells and flowers
As hurrying clerks the City leave
To pigeon-haunted classic towers,
And marbled clouds go scudding by
The many-steepled London sky.

And girls in slacks remember Dad,
And oafish louts remember Mum,
And sleepless children's hearts are glad.
And Christmas-morning bells say 'Come!'
Even to shining ones who dwell
Safe in the Dorchester Hotel.

And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all,
Seen in a stained-glass window's hue,
A Baby in an ox's stall?
The Maker of the stars and sea
Become a Child on earth for me?

And is it true? For if it is,
No loving fingers tying strings
Around those tissued fripperies,
The sweet and silly Christmas things,
Bath salts and inexpensive scent
And hideous tie so kindly meant,

No love that in a family dwells,
No carolling in frosty air,
Nor all the steeple-shaking bells
Can with this single Truth compare -
That God was man in Palestine
And lives today in Bread and Wine.