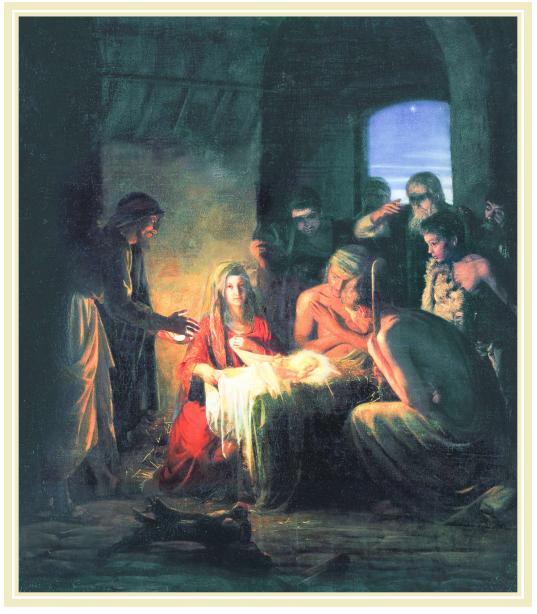
# ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH Established 1680 · Charleston, SC



The Birth of Christ, by Carl Heinrich Bloch (1834-1890)

# THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY HOLY EUCHARIST DECEMBER 24, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

# WELCOME

To all who are spiritually weary and seek rest, to all who mourn and long for comfort, to all who struggle and desire victory, to all who sin and need a Savior, to all who are strangers and want fellowship, to all who hunger and thirst after righteousness, and to whoever will come-this church opens wide her doors and offers her welcome in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

We welcome to St. Philip's all newcomers and visitors! We are delighted to have you with us this evening and invite you to fill out the visitor card in your pew or online using the QR code at right. Completed cards may be placed in the offering plate. We pray God will bless your time with us!



**Restrooms are available** in the Parish House, located at the corner of Church and Cumberland streets. A greeter or usher will be happy to direct you.

Headsets for the hard of hearing are available in the video/ sound booth at the end of the north side aisle.

# CONCERNING THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

— John 1:14

The unique claim of Christianity is that God has given a full revelation of Himself by becoming incarnate, or human, in Jesus Christ. For 20 centuries, Christians have borne imperfect witness to the conviction that God is at work in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, fulfilling His purposes for all people and all creation. Christmas is a season of joy and fulfillment, a time to celebrate the presence of God in our midst. During Christmastide, we focus on the glory of the Incarnation, the fact that God came among us in human form in order to save us from sin and death and reconcile us to Himself. On Christmas Eve and the two following Sundays, we join with Mary, Joseph, shepherds, and angels as they experience the wonder of Jesus' birth. We thank God for the gift of His Son, for God's willingness to share the experience of human life with us. The Christmas season is the beginning of the story of Jesus, which ultimately leads us to His saving death and resurrection. As we celebrate His birth, we are called to remember that His nativity was the beginning of our salvation. We also are called to remember that Christmas is not just a day or a season but also an experience that we should constantly share with the world around us. The joy, peace, and love of Christmas does not end once Christmastide is over. Each moment of our lives should be devoted to worshipping Emmanuel, "God with us," and to sharing the gift of His presence with others. O come let us adore Him!

### **ABOUT THE SERVICE**

We welcome you to this Christmas Eve celebration of the Holy Eucharist. The Christian tradition of gathering in the church in the evening for the celebration of the Feast of the Holy Nativity is an ancient one the world over. This order of service is designed to assist you in participating fully in the liturgy. We encourage you to respond and sing with the joy of the angels of Bethlehem.



# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Selections by the Charles Towne Brass Quintet

THE INTROIT

Hodie Christus Natus Est N

Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

Hodie Christus natus est! Gloria in excelsis Deo! Alleluia! The angels sang to the shepherds three, as they knelt on bended knee, "Christ is born this holy morn! Hurry to Bethlehem and see! The shepherds left the hillside bare, traveled over the meadows fair, Till in awe the Child they saw, lying in a manger there. May we, like those three shepherds poor, come, the Christ Child to adore; May we here, every year, worship within the church's door. Then may we, with joyful call, carry the news outside this hall; Thus we'll share, everywhere, God's great gift to one and all.

Text & music: Michael Bedford (b. 1949)

Il Est Né, Le Divin Enfant

Audrey Snyder (b. 1953)

Il est né, le Divin Enfant, Jouez hautbois, résonnez musette. Il est né, le Divin Enfant, Chantons tous son avènement.

Depuis plus de quatre mille ans Nous le promettaient les prophètes, Depuis plus de quatre mille ans Nous attendions cet heureux temps.

He is born, the holy Child. Hear the flute and the pipes resounding. Sing to welcome the infant mild.

Ah, such beauty and charm are thine. All perfection and grace undying. This, thou lovely Child divine.

Text: Traditional French carol trans. Audrey Snyder (b. 1953) Music: Traditional French carol arr. Audrey Snyder We have printed the entire service in this booklet and have printed special instructions in italics. We hope this will help you feel at home at St. Philip's. Please let us know if we may provide additional information to you.

As a courtesy, please turn off all cell phones.

The service begins with the ◀ Introit, which is derived from the Latin word *introitus*, meaning "entrance." The international status of "O Come All Ye Faithful" ranks it as one of the most widely loved and sung of all Christmas carols. The original Latin hymn is found in several manuscripts copied by John Francis Wade of Douay, France. The earliest copy dates from about 1743. The original hymn had four stanzas. Two additional stanzas were added around 1794. Stanza two reflects the present Prayer Book form of the Nicene Creed. The tune was found in the same manuscript as the words and it is believed to be a composition of John Wade. The Hymnal 1982 Companion

The liturgy begins with the **Acclamation**, which is an "eager expression" of praise. ►

In this **Collect for Purity**, we ask God to cleanse our hearts and minds of anything that comes between Him and us, anything that would impede our worship of Him. We offer to  $\blacktriangleright$  Him our whole selves, so that we might decrease and that He might increase, to the glory of Jesus Christ.

This is the summary of the law of God as given by Jesus Himself. God, who is Love,  $\blacktriangleright$  requires of us that we love Him and one another.

Once we are reminded of ► God's holiness and the law's demands, our imperfections move us to beg God's mercy.

#### THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 12 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!

*Refrain:* O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

God of God, light of light, Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb, Very God, begotten, not created. *Refrain* 

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above; Glory to God in the highest. *Refrain* 

See how the shepherds, summoned to His cradle, Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps. *Refrain* 

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, We would embrace thee, with love and awe; Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain* 

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n. Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. *Refrain* 

Words: Latin, 18th cent.; tr. Frederick Oakeley and others. Music: *Adeste Fideles*. Descant and accompaniment by David Willcocks (1919-2015)

## THE WORD OF GOD

#### THE ACCLAMATION

*The People standing, the Celebrant says* 

Blessed be God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.PeopleAnd blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.CelebrantAlleluia, unto us a child is born:PeopleO come, let us adore him. Alleluia.

# THE COLLECT FOR PURITY AND THE SUMMARY OF THE LAW *The Celebrant prays*

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.* 

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets. MATTHEW 22:37-40

THE KYRIE

CelebrantLord, have mercy upon us.PeopleChrist, have mercy upon us.CelebrantLord, have mercy upon us.

#### THE GLORIA, HYMN 42

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.

*Refrain:* Gloria in excelsis Deo, 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. *Refrain* 

Words: Traditional French Carol, alt. by Earl Marlatt, 1937. Music: French Carol Melody arr. by Edward Shippen Barnes, 1937. Arrangement copyright 1937 by the D. Appleton-Century Company Inc.

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd with thy spirit.CelebrantLet us pray.

The People kneel.

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Ghost he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.* 

The People are seated for the reading of God's Word.

#### THE LESSON

#### Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup> The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. <sup>3</sup> You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. <sup>4</sup> For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. <sup>5</sup> For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. <sup>6</sup> For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. <sup>7</sup> Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

The People stand and sing the hymn.

#### THE SEQUENCE HYMN 236

Once in Royal David's City Bentham Kotz, *soprano* 

*(Solo)* 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.

*(All sing)* 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 and lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

> And through all his wondrous childhood, he would honor and obey, Love and watch the lowly maiden in whose gentle arms he lay; Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

**Isaiah 9:2-7:** Isaiah, writing in the 8th century B.C., shares a vision of the new age and a new ruler for Judah. Christians understand these words to address not only the realities of Isaiah's day but also to the coming of God's Messiah, Jesus.

◄ The Scriptures teach that much of our spiritual renewal is by the washing of the Word of God, which cleanses our minds and purifies our hearts. This portion of the service is known as the Liturgy of the Word, and it consists of the readings, the sermon, the creed, and the prayers of the people.

Irby

◄ "Once in Royal David's City" was written and first published in Cecil Frances Alexander's Hymns for Little Children as a commentary on the third article of the Apostles' Creed, "who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary." The Hymnal 1982 Companion

Gloria

The word **Gospel** means ► "Good News," the great good news about Jesus the Messiah. We stand for the Gospel reading to show the importance we place on Jesus' words and actions. It is customary for all to face the Gospel book and the person reading from it. The Gospel procession itself reminds us that Christ came to dwell among us and that all Christians are to share the Gospel with others. For he is our childhood's pattern, day by day like us he grew; He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew; And he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love. For that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, We shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; When like stars his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Words: Sts. 1-2 and 4-6, Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.; Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850 -1929); Descant and accompaniment by David Willcocks © 1970 Oxford University Press

#### THE GOSPEL

The People remain standing. The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

Luke 2:1-20

#### People Glory be to thee, Lord Christ.

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.<sup>2</sup> This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>And all went to be registered, each to his own town. <sup>4</sup>And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, <sup>5</sup> to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. <sup>6</sup>And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. <sup>7</sup>And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. <sup>8</sup> And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. <sup>10</sup> And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. <sup>11</sup> For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. <sup>12</sup> And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" <sup>15</sup> When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup>And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. <sup>17</sup>And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. <sup>18</sup> And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. After the Gospel, the Priest says

PeopleThe Gospel of the Lord.Praise be to thee, Lord Christ.

#### THE GOSPEL PROCESSION

Hodie Christus natus est; hodie Salvator apparuit; hodie in terra canunt Angeli, laetantur Archangeli; hodie exsultant justi dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia! *ie* Benjamin Britten (1913-1976) Today Christ is born; today the Saviour has appeared; today the angels sing, the archangels rejoice;

today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

From "A Ceremony Of Carols," Opus 28 by Benjamin Britten; Gregorian Chant from the liturgy of Vespers on Christmas Day.

Hodie

The People are seated.

#### THE SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED

#### All stand and say in unison

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible; and in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end. And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

# All kneeling, the Celebrant or other person appointed says the following prayers.

#### Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who by thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers and supplications and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word and live in unity and godly love. *Silence* 

#### Reader Lord, in thy mercy:

### People Hear our prayer.

We beseech thee also so to lead the nations of the world into the way of righteousness; and so to direct and dispose the hearts of all their leaders, especially the President of the United States, the members of Congress, and the Justices of the Supreme Court, that thy people may enjoy the blessings of freedom and peace. Grant that our leaders may impartially administer justice, upholding integrity and truth, to the punishment of wickedness and vice and to the maintenance of thy true religion and virtue. *Silence* 

#### Reader Lord, in thy mercy:

#### People Hear our prayer.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all Bishops, Priests, and Deacons, and especially to thy servants Foley, our Archbishop; Chip, our Bishop; and all the clergy of this Diocese, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present, that with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. *Silence* 

#### Reader Lord, in thy mercy:

#### People Hear our prayer.

Prosper, we pray thee, all those who proclaim the Gospel of thy kingdom among the nations, and strengthen us to fulfill thy great commission, making disciples of all nations, baptizing them and teaching them to obey all that thou hast commanded. *Silence* 

*Reader* Lord, in thy mercy:

### People Hear our prayer.

◄ The Nicene Creed is a statement of what the Christian community believes to be true about God. It was born of rigorous intellectual debate in the fourth century, culminating in councils of the whole church at Nicaea in 325 and at Constantinople in 381. Originally, the entire service was viewed as our confession of faith. However, since the sixth century, the church has recited the Nicene Creed at the Eucharist. The word creed comes from the Latin credo for "I believe."

◄ Christians pray, and when we worship the living God, we bring before Him our concerns for ourselves and others, for the world, and for the church. We also thank God for hearing and responding to our prayers. The Prayers of the People always follow a particular structure: Praying for the Universal Church, its members, and mission; the nation and all in authority; the welfare of the world; concerns of the local community; and those who suffer and those in trouble.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. And we commend to thy gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. *Silence* 

*Reader* Lord, in thy mercy:

#### People Hear our prayer.

We remember before thee, O Lord, all thy servants who have departed this life in thy faith and fear, that thy will for them may be fulfilled, and we beseech thee to give us grace to follow the good examples of St. Philip and all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

*Reader* Lord, in thy mercy:

#### People Hear our prayer.

#### The Reader concludes with this Collect.

Grant these our prayers, O Heavenly Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate; who liveth and reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.* 

#### The Celebrant says the following

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

## THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION OF SIN

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### The Priest stands alone and says

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* 

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him. Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. MATTHEW 11:28 God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. JOHN 3:16 This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. 1 TIMOTHY 1:15 If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. 1 JOHN 2:1-2

### All stand.

#### THE PEACE

CelebrantThe Peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd with thy spirit.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the Name of the Lord.

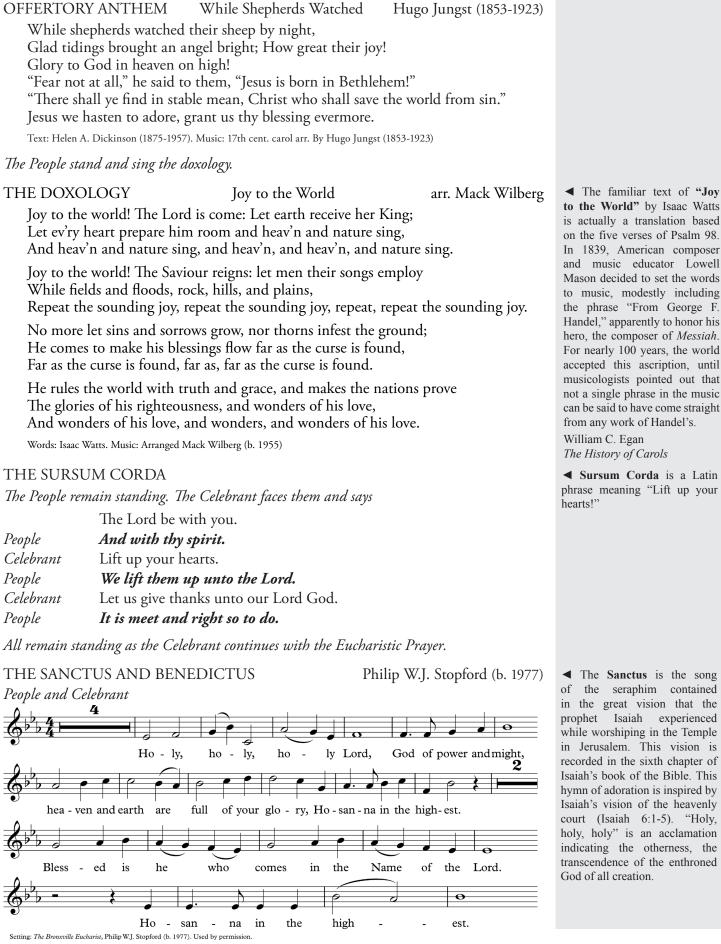
WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In the **Confession of Sin** ► and **Absolution**, our sins, both individual and corporate, have been acknowledged and confessed, and we have been powerfully and authoritatively reassured of God's acceptance and complete forgiveness through Jesus Christ.

The priest has declared that the sins of all those who are  $\blacktriangleright$  repentant and believe on Jesus Christ are forgiven. We are assured of God's forgiveness by His Word.

The **Peace** is a particularly good time to welcome visitors and newcomers. Please take a moment to extend God's peace to those around you. That peace, which the world cannot give, comes only through the mediation of Jesus Christ. This peace is not rooted in  $\blacktriangleright$  our circumstances but in the presence, promise, and power of Christ's redeeming work.

# THE HOLY COMMUNION



to the World" by Isaac Watts is actually a translation based on the five verses of Psalm 98. In 1839, American composer and music educator Lowell Mason decided to set the words to music, modestly including the phrase "From George F. Handel," apparently to honor his hero, the composer of Messiah. For nearly 100 years, the world accepted this ascription, until musicologists pointed out that not a single phrase in the music can be said to have come straight from any work of Handel's.

William C. Egan The History of Carols

◀ Sursum Corda is a Latin phrase meaning "Lift up your

◀ The Sanctus is the song of the seraphim contained in the great vision that the Isaiah experienced while worshiping in the Temple in Jerusalem. This vision is recorded in the sixth chapter of Isaiah's book of the Bible. This hymn of adoration is inspired by Isaiah's vision of the heavenly court (Isaiah 6:1-5). "Holy, holy, holy" is an acclamation indicating the otherness, the transcendence of the enthroned God of all creation.

#### The People kneel, and the Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic Prayer.

All glory be to thee, Almighty God our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his Holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and of thine almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify with thy Word and Holy Spirit these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink, ye all, of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty with these, thy holy gifts, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this, our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ and through faith in his Blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

The People join the Celebrant in this portion of the Eucharistic Prayer.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him. And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. Amen.

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

# THE LORD'S PRAYER

#### People and Celebrant

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 words from the Last  $\blacktriangleright$ Supper that Jesus spoke about the bread and the wine are rehearsed here. These are known as the **Words of Institution**.

The Lord's Prayer, so called because Jesus gave this prayer to His disciples as an example of how to pray, has been a part of Eucharistic liturgies since the year 400 A.D. The doxology that begins "For thine is the kingdom" was added in early centuries of the church's practice. The link between our daily bread and the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist is an ancient connection. In the Lord's Prayer, we ask for daily ► bread, meaning the things we need to get through each day. But as a part of that, the sacramental bread also symbolizes God's presence, which is something that is also essential to our getting through the day.

## THE PRAYER OF HUMBLE ACCESS

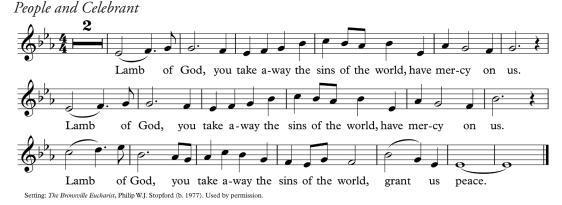
# People and Celebrant

We do not presume to come to this thy table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table; but thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Remaining kneeling, all are invited to sing the Agnus Dei.



Philip W.J. Stopford (b. 1977)



## Celebrant

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

# The People are seated.

# THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are warmly invited to receive Communion at the high altar or the standing stations in either one kind (bread only) or both kinds (bread and wine). You may stand or kneel to receive Communion. To receive the bread in the traditional way, please place your right palm over your left and the bread will be placed in your palm. You may consume the bread and drink from the chalice (please grasp the bottom of the chalice firmly and guide it to your mouth), or you may leave the bread in your palm and then dip it into the wine when the chalice is brought to you. Those who are not baptized or do not wish to receive Communion (including children who do not yet receive) are welcome to come forward for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM Ding Dong! Merrily on High 16th c. French Carol

Ding dong, merrily on high! In heav'n the bells are ringing;

Ding dong, verily the sky is riv'n with angel singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in Excelsis!

E'en so here below, below, let steeple bells be swungen,

And io, io, io, by priest and people sungen.

Pray you, dutifully prime your matin chime, ye ringers;

May you beautifully rime your evetime song, ye singers.

Words: trans. by G.R. Woodward (1848-1934) Music: 16th c. French carol, arr. Stephen Mager, ©2000 Oxford Univ. Press.ARR.

Prayer of Humble The Access was adapted from a pre-Reformation prayer that would be said by the priest before conducting services. Martin Luther's last written words were "We are all beggars." Though we come to the table empty-handed and unworthy, our Lord's property is always to have mercy. Those who come to the table in faith are assured of God's pardon and mercy through the Cross of Christ and nourished spiritually by the sacrament.

■ During Communion: When we gather together, we remember Jesus. Through repeating the words and actions of Jesus' last meal with His disciples, we join the story and make it our own. We don't just watch the drama or listen to it unfold, we enter into the story as we, too, take the sacrament. The congregation is encouraged to sing all hymns.

COMMUNION HYMN 36

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* 

Text: William Chatterton Dix, c. 1865 Music: *Greensleeves*, English, before 1642

## COMMUNION HYMN 20 Of the Father's Love Begotten Divinum Mysterium

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, bare the Savior of our race; And the babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed his sacred face, evermore and evermore!

O ye heights of heav'n, 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 ring, evermore and evermore!

Thee let old men, thee let young men, thee let boys in chorus sing; Matrons, virgins, little maidens, with glad voices answering: Let their guileless songs re-echo, and the heart its music bring, evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee, Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving and unwearied praises be, Honor, glory, and dominion and eternal victory, evermore and evermore!

Text: Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; Tr. J. M. Neale, 1854, Henry W. Baker, 1859 Music: *Divinum Mysterium*, 13th century Plainsong, Made V

#### COMMUNION HYMN 21

O Little Town of Bethlehem Forest Green

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.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King and peace to men on earth!

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

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!

Text: Phillips Brooks, 1867. Music: Forest Green, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

COMMUNION HYMN 19 It Came Upon It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious so From angels bending near the earth to touch the "Peace on the earth, good will to men, from hea The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the ang	eir harps of gold: ven's all-gracious King	Noel g."
Still through the cloven skies they come with pe And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on how And ever o'er its Babel sounds the blessed angels	veary world; vering wing,	,
Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has Beneath the heav'nly strain have rolled two thou And man, at war with man, hears not the tiding O hush the noise, ye men of strife, and hear the	s which they bring;	
O ye, beneath life's crushing load, whose forms a Who toil along the climbing way with painful st Look now! for glad and golden hours come swif O rest beside the weary road and hear the angels	eps and slow, tly on the wing;	
For lo! the days are hast'ning on, by prophets see When with the ever-circling years shall come the When peace shall over all the earth its ancienct s And the whole world give back the song which n Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1849. Music: <i>Noel</i> , Arthur Seymour Sullivan.	e time foretold, plendors fling,	
COMMUNION HYMN 28 Angels from the F	Pealms of Glory	Regent Square
Angels from the realms of glory, wing your fligh Ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Mes	t o'er all the earth;	Tageni Squure
<i>Refrain:</i> Come and worship, come and worship Shepherds in the fields abiding, watching o'er yc God with man is now residing; yonder shines th	our flocks by night,	C
Sages, leave your contemplation, brighter vision Seek the great Desire of nations, ye have seen his		
Saints before the altar bending, watching long ir Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple sh		
Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: <i>Regent Square</i> , Henry Thomas Stuart (1813-1879)		
THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER		
Celebrant Let us pray.		
The people kneel and join in saying this prayer		
Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily that		
in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of		
thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son,		
the blessed company of all faithful people; and are a	llso heirs, through ho	pe, of thy ever
lasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as		

thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

There will be a brief pause while congregational candles are being lit. Candlelight will be passed to adults only. We recommend that small children not carry candles. Tip only the unlighted candle when lighting your candle. Guard your candle from paper, clothing, and hair. We have been blessed by being here. Now, at the end of the service, we are reminded that God takes loving delight in blessing us abundantly. We leave in peace, forgiven, and fed, sent out with a purpose in the name of Jesus Christ. ►

Charles Wesley's **"Hark!** ► **The Herald Angels Sing"** was originally considered the Christmas equivalent of "Jesus Christ is Risen Today" and was sung to the same tune (*Easter Hymn*) with four-line stanzas with alleluias at the end of each line. The tune was adapted from a Mendelssohn composition. Mendelssohn thought the melody with another text might become popular but not as a hymn. After his death, the music was adapted for use with Wesley's text.

As the celebration ends, we are charged to "go forth." The Eucharist is therefore not an exclusive gathering that  $\blacktriangleright$  separates us from the world but a challenge to reach out beyond our own church to the world around us.

### KNEELING HYMN 33

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 heav'n afar, heav'nly hosts sing alleluia; Christ the Saviour is born! Christ the Saviour 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.

Text: Joseph Mohr, 1818. Music: Franz Gruber, 1818; harmonized by Carl Reincke

### THE BLESSING

After the blessing, the People stand and sing the closing hymn.

THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN 27Hark! The Herald Angels SingMendelssohnHark! The herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!<br/>Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!<br/>Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;<br/>With the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!Mendelssohn

*Refrain:* Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!

Christ, by highest heav'n 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 as man with man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain* 

Mild he lays his glory by, born that man no more may die, Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give us second birth. Ris'n with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, Hail, the Sun of righteousness! Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain* 

Words: Charles Wesley, alt. George Whitefield Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn, arr. William H. Cummings. Public domain.

## THE DISMISSAL

The priest dismisses the people, and the people respond: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

CLOSING VOLUNTARY

In dulci jubilo

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)



#### Preacher

The Rev. Jeffrey S. Miller

#### Ushers

Cordes Ford, Bruce Freshley, David Wright, John Settle, Dubose Egleston

#### **Chalice** Martha Vetter, Jeffrey Fitzgerald, Gerry McCord, Foster Gaillard

Acolytes Rose Fitzgerald, Tilley Fitzgerald, Cecilia Ford, Simon Ford, Mills Egleston, John Settle, Owens Settle, Miles Gardner

> Acolyte Mentor Chase Patterson

**Lector** Gantt Folline

#### **Greeters** Elizabeth Bowles, Tammy Gottshalk

**Flower Guild** All Teams, ECW, and volunteers

Altar Guild Elizabeth Bowles, Cam Stuhr, Barbara Bremer, Pat Wardlaw, Derrill Hagood

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### Join us for worship:

- Christmas Day (10:00 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist)
- December 31 (8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist)
- January 7, Epiphany observed (8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. ~ Holy Eucharist): Please join us for a fellowship brunch in the Parish Hall following the 10:30 service!

#### Now in Recess

- Sunday School, Rector's Forum (resume January 7)
- inSPIRE/eSPIRE mailing (resumes January 10)
- Wednesdays Alive! service/supper/class (resumes January 24)
- Rector's Bible Study (resumes January 25)
- Middle School Youth Group (resumes January 5)
- High School Youth Group (resumes January 7)

#### Office closed for Christmas and the New Year

• The church office will be closed until Tuesday, January 2, at 8:30 a.m. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please call the Rev. Bill Christian at (843) 327-0791.

#### Mere Anglicanism Conference: January 18-20

#### Charleston Music Hall - Registration closes January 3 or earlier if capacity is reached

• Learn about the world-class speaker panel, view session topics, and register at mereanglicanism.org.

**Foundations** with the Rev. Andrew O'Dell begins January 7. This semester-long course explores the foundational beliefs of the Christian faith in an environment that allows for conversation and connection. For those who feel led to join St. Philip's, the class will culminate in the service of Confirmation when the bishop makes his annual visitation in the spring. Register at **stphilipschurchsc.org/foundations** or scan the QR code at right.



### Thank you, St. Philip's!

- The Angel Tree project was a huge success because of your generosity! Look for a report from the Home Missions Team in the first inSPIRE of 2024.
- Thank you to the ladies of the ECW (Every Church Woman), the Flower Guild, and to all the other volunteers who helped "green" the church.
- The Compassion Committee of St. Philip's would like to thank all of you who helped deliver the poinsettias to our church family members who have lost a loved one this year, who are on our prayer list, or who are unable to get to church, and to our faithful and hardworking staff and clergy.

#### Save the date:

- January 4: Grandmothers' Brunch (10:00 a.m.) and Grandparents@Prayer drop-in (11:00–11:45 a.m.)
- February 3: Parish Oyster Roast (3:00–6:00 p.m.)

Please check your email inbox or visit stphilipschurchsc.org/news for further information about the above announcements and the rest of this week's news.

M Co. '81 Classmates Elsie, Julius, Ruth, Paul, and Linda Miss Lea Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Aldrich John and Anne Allison Elizabeth Tarrant Anderson Dr. and Mrs. R. Maxwell Anderson George and Mary Patricia Anderton Patsy Riley Andrews Arthur Hunt Applegate Robert James Arnold Douglas and Evelyn Asbury Dr. Frank Walton Avery Mary Pitts Ayers The Rt. Rev. and Mrs. John A. Baden Helen Lebby Barkley Matthew Baird Barkley Roy and Vivian Bass Kerin Beaton Richard S. Bearss Mr. and Mrs. Jess J. Bee Mr. and Mrs. P. Samuel Bee Dr. and Mrs. Earl B. Benson Mr. Earl B. Benson, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Julius A. Blake Julius A. Blake, Jr. Mr. and Mrs. J.A. Boatwright Diana Morris Boulware Robert H. Bowles, MD Jim Bradin James and Fredrica Bremer **Jamie Bremer** Mr. G. M. Brockbank Sara Paige Brogdon Clarence F. Brown Ethel Marie Brown Mildred C. Brown Benjamin Wyatt Burris Homer Clayton Burrous Mrs. Mary Ann Rourke Butler Lesley Schoepf Cabell

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# An Anglican Congregation

142 Church Street | Charleston, SC 29401 (843) 722-7734 | www.stphilipschurchsc.org

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Friday

### Clergy

The Rev. Jeffrey S. Miller, *Rector* The Rev. Andrew R. O'Dell, *Senior Associate* The Rev. Brian K. McGreevy, *Assistant for Hospitality Ministry* The Rev. William K. Christian III, *Assistant for Pastoral Care* The Rev. Justin C. Hare, *Assistant for Young Adult and Family Ministry* The Rev. Dr. William P. Rhett, *Priest Associate* The Rev. Gerry L. McCord, *Deacon Clergy contact information is available at stphilipschurchsc.org/clergy* 

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