SAINT
BARTHOLOMEW'S
CHURCH
IN THE CITY OF
NEW YORK

Christmas Eve

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

A Quiet Christmas Eucharist at 12:05 pm

December 24, 2021

325 PARK AVENUE AT 51ST STREET
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022

EVERYBODY NEEDS A PLACE

We invite you to make this place yours.

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

What we are for

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families.

What we are against

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

What we value

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility as New Yorkers, Americans and global citizens. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

Welcome!

**Merry Christmas! Thanks for joining us for worship this afternoon.
We are glad that you are here to celebrate with us.**

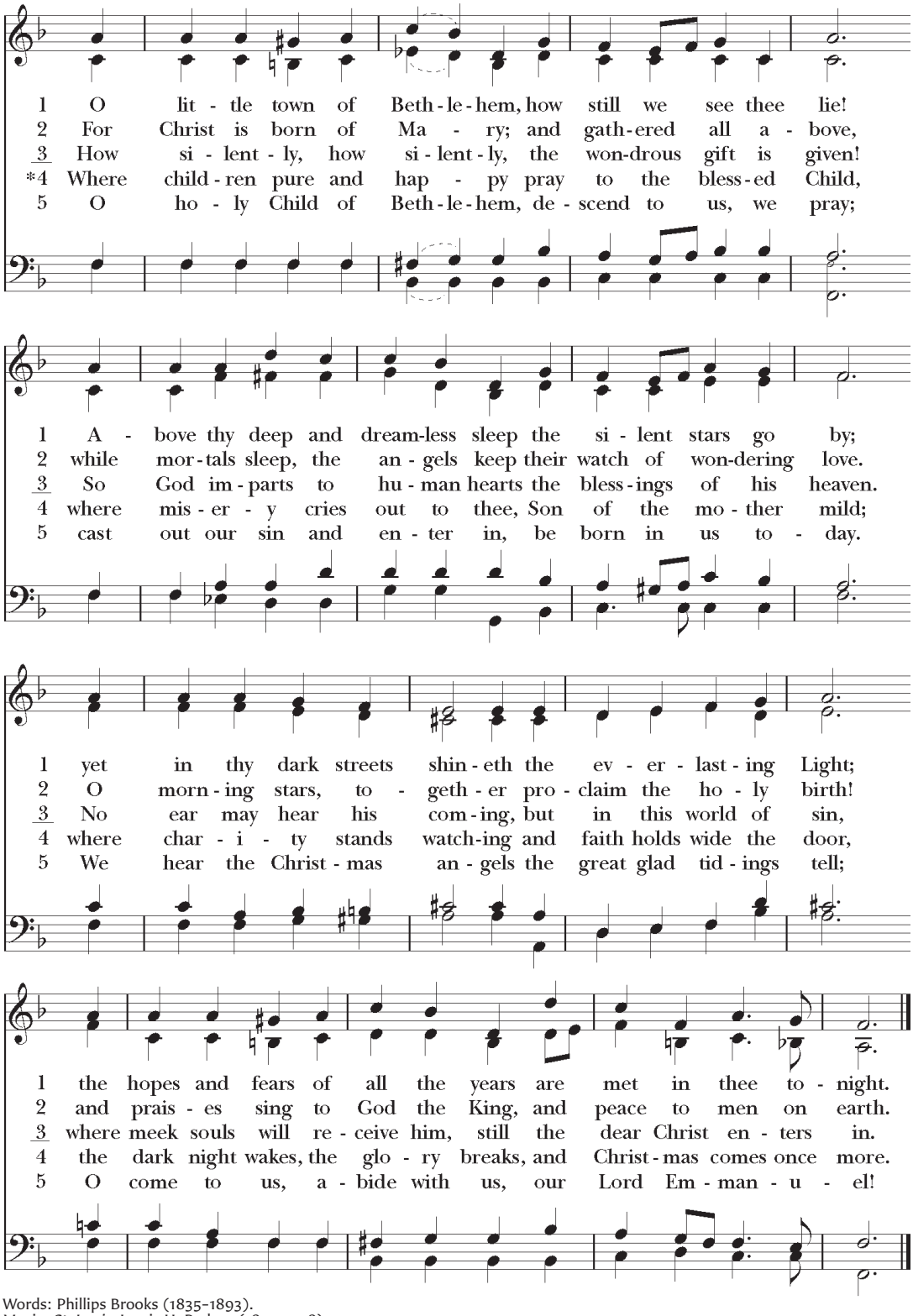
**Because of the continued spread of COVID-19, masks are required for all worshippers.
We also ask that, when possible, you allow space between your party and others.**

**We appreciate your patience and cooperation as we continue to prioritize
the health and safety of our whole community.**

Prelude

The people stand as the hymn begins.

Hymn 79



Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893).
Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831–1908).

The Opening Acclamation

Presider Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Presider Behold I bring you glad tidings of great joy for all people: today is born in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

Gloria in excelsis

All **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.**

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Ministry of the Word

The Collect for the Nativity of our Lord

Presider May God be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.
Almighty God, you gave us your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with your light. By your grace adopt us as your children and enlighten us with your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
All **Amen.**

The people sit.

The Lesson Isaiah 9:2–7

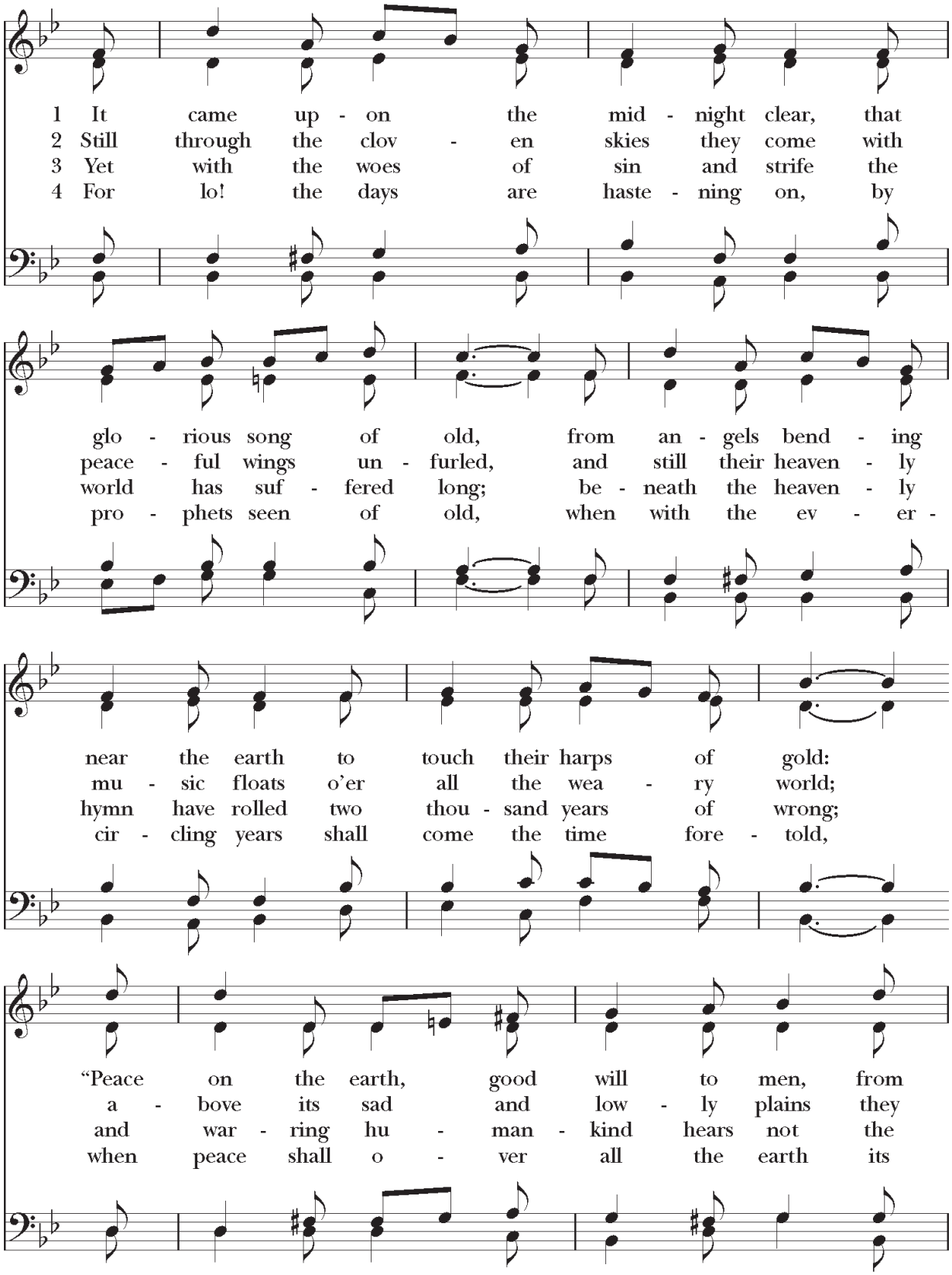
Lector A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

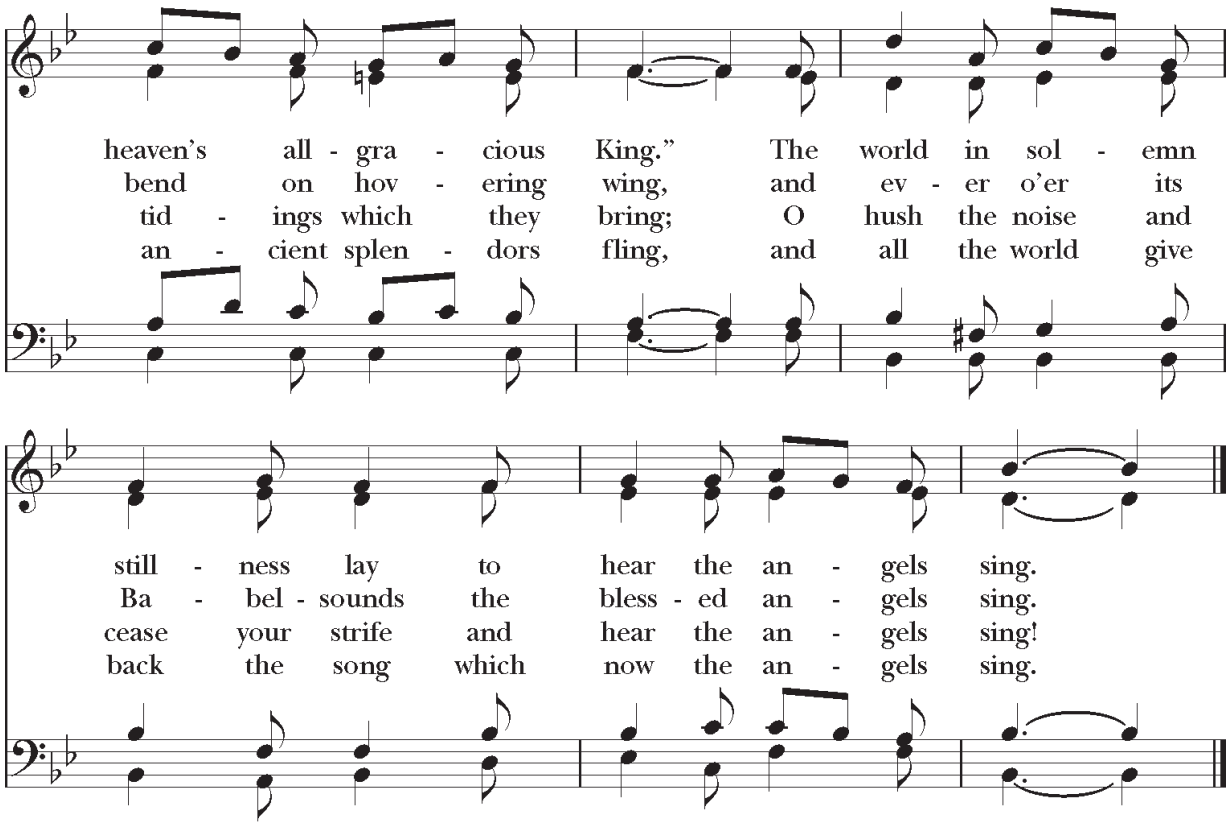
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their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

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

The people stand.

Hymn 89


1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by
pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -
cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its



Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876), alt.
Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900).

The Holy Gospel Luke 2:1–20

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Deacon In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

After the preacher introduces the sermon, the people sit.

The Sermon The Reverend Deacon John F. Wirenius

The people stand with the presider.

The Nicene Creed

All **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Lector God of wonder, on this sacred day you become one of us. Startle us with your good news, and be born in our hearts, we pray.

Lector Prince of Peace, you disarm the forces of violence. End all war and hatred, and unite every people and nation.

God of wonder,
People **be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Lector Child of the Stable, you appear among the poor and the excluded. Reveal yourself to us in the forgotten and the dismissed.

God of wonder,
People **be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Lector Word made Flesh, you sanctify our bodies with your presence. Teach us to treat all human bodies with care and respect.

God of wonder,
People **be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Lector Vulnerable Savior, you know what it means to suffer and be in need. Comfort those who yearn for your healing.

God of wonder,
People **be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Lector Delight of the Angels, you travel the distance between heaven and earth. Bring all who have died to the glories of your eternal home.

God of wonder,
People **be born in our hearts, we pray.**

Presider God of wonder, you arrive in our lives in ways we can neither anticipate nor fully understand: may we so marvel at the mystery of your Incarnation that we neither reject it without thinking nor accept it without being transformed. In the name of Jesus Christ, whose birth changes everything.
People **Amen.**

The Peace

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The people exchange a sign of God's peace with one another and then sit.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

Please place your offering in one of the basins being passed. You may also donate by scanning the QR code to the right with your mobile device or visit stbarts.org/give. To fulfill your 2021 pledge, you can schedule a one-time payment or a schedule of payments at stbarts.org/give. Or make your check payable to St. Bartholomew's Church, and direct it to the Stewardship office at St. Bart's, 325 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10022. Thank you for your commitment to St. Bart's!

Interlude

The people stand.

The Great Thanksgiving

Presider May God be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them up to God.**
Presider Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Presider It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, to give God thanks and praise. Angels and shepherds, rejoicing in the birth of the child Jesus, were filled with Christmas cheer, and, thousands of years later, their song still goes on. As we gather around this table, we hear faint echoes of the holy melody they sing and join with them in the hymn that never ends:

All **Holy, holy, holy God, God of power, God of might,**
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.

Presider Blessed are you, Creator of everything. All through our lives you give us what we need: love and care, food and shelter, family and friends. We thank you for the greatest gift of all, Jesus, your Child, the Christ. He took on flesh, becoming a tiny infant, lived a human life, and taught us to love one another. He gave of himself fully: to the disciples who followed him, to the sick who sought his touch, to the crowds who hung on every word. He kept on giving until he gave up even his life so that we might be free.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

And now, remembering his acts of love for us—his birth and baptism, his healing and teaching, his passion and death, his resurrection and ascension—we offer to you these gifts of bread and wine, made by human hands from the gifts of nature you first gave to us. May your Holy Spirit descend upon them, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.

May your Holy Spirit descend also upon us, that we may rise from this table, inspired by your love, to live lives of generosity and service to others.

All this we ask through Jesus our Emmanuel, in whom all our hopes are joined. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be yours, Great God of all, for ever and ever.

All **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Fraction Anthem

The presider breaks the bread. Silence is kept.

Presider The Word was made Flesh and dwelt among us:

People **And we have seen Christ's glory.**

The Invitation to Communion

Presider The One who was first held by Mary is held for us in this bread. The One whose body was laid in a manger is cradled in this cup. Take, then, this bread and wine: in them, God comes to us, so that we might come to God.

The people sit.

At the Communion

- *All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please follow the instructions of the ushers. At this time, communion is offered to the people in one kind (bread) only. The Episcopal Church teaches that the Sacrament is fully present even when received in only one kind.*
- *The clergy sanitize their hands immediately before the distribution of communion, and bread that is distributed to the congregation is kept covered on a separate table during the Eucharistic Prayer.*
- *Please keep six feet of distance from one another while approaching the communion station. After receiving communion from the priest, step aside, remove your mask and consume the bread. Ensure that your mask is completely on before returning to your seat.*
- *If you require a gluten-free wafer, simply request one from the communion minister when the bread is offered to you.*
- *Those who do not wish to receive communion are still invited to receive a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest to indicate you would like a blessing.*
- *If you are unable to travel to a communion station, please alert an usher so that communion can be brought to you.*

The people stand with the presider.

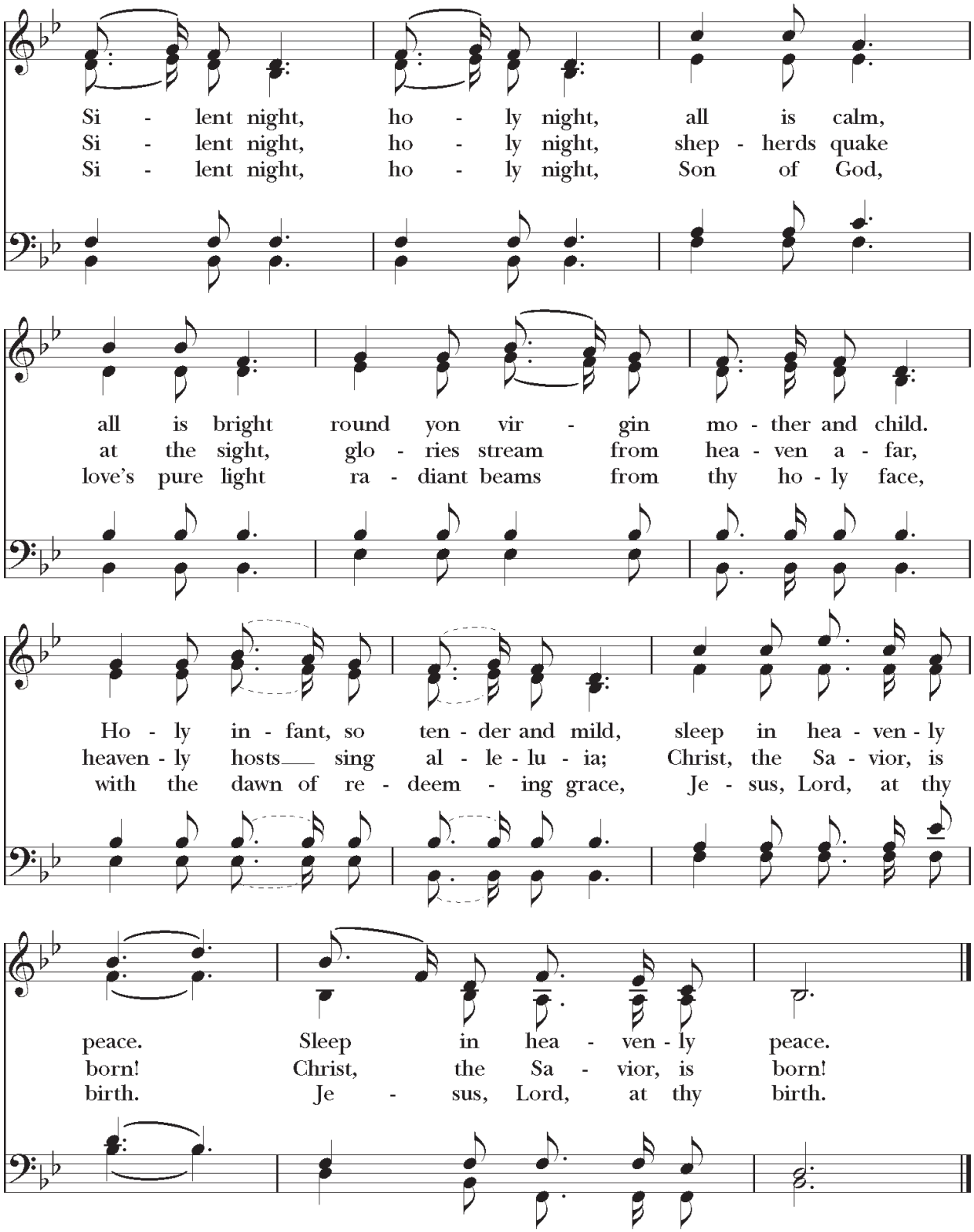
The Prayer after Communion

Presider Let us pray.

All **God of grace and peace, as you have shared your life with us through the child in the manger and this simple meal together, let us share your life with others as the body of Christ in the world; through Jesus, bread of heaven. Amen.**

The Blessing

Hymn 111



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885).
Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910).

The Dismissal

Presider Go forth with joy, glorifying and praising God for all you have heard and seen.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Service Participants

Presider The Reverend Meredith E. Ward
Preacher The Reverend John F. Wirenius

Ushers Ray Glynn, Luciana Lyrio
Lector Leslie Jeffries
Altar Guild Cynthia Brush

Associate Organist and Choirmaster Alexander Pattavina

Director of Facilities Corey Durney
Director of Maintenance Willie Gonzalez
Facilities Anthony Thomas

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS AND MUSIC AT ST. BART'S

At Christmas we have an opportunity to remember loved ones and offer thanksgiving for special blessings through gifts of flowers and music to the church. Together, we remember and celebrate.

(Listing as of December 15, 2021)

Thank You and May God Bless You!

To make a gift and/or commit your pledge for 2022, please visit stbarts.org/give.

Christmas Flowers

The Ushers and Greeters of St. Bart's
In loving memory of Dave Facer

Mary-Hart Bartley
In loving memory of those we love, but see no more

Palmer and Sarah Bessey
In loving memory of Palmer and Marion Bessey; James and Sarah Isherwood

Kathleen S. Breiten
In loving memory of David, Edna, Helen, James, Vincent and Mary

Bruce Brown
In loving memory of Dr. Anthony J. DeNapoli

Megan Burham
In thanksgiving for the Burnham Family

Aaron Clark

Alison Clarke
In loving memory of Pamela Josephine Clarke

The Curtin Family
In thanksgiving for Miriam K. Schneider

Kara Flannery
In loving memory of Mark Flannery

Elena & Gerald Seha Flick
In loving memory of those we love, but see no longer

Marilyn F. Foster
In loving memory of the Rev. Malcolm L. Foster

Margaret O'Neil Frank
In loving memory of Katharine O'Neil Bidwell

Edith N. Hernandez
In loving memory of Rosa Hernandez

Fletcher Hodges, III
In loving memory of Chantal S. Hodges

Sarah Kerner
In loving memory of Tilmon and Irene Cobb

Gerda Maynard
In thanksgiving for the Rev. Lynn Sanders

Susan Meredith Lay
In loving memory of my parents, Rosemarie and Theodore Lay

Andrew J. Mullins
In loving memory of Jamie Christine Mullins

Liza Page Nelson
In loving memory of my mother Jeanne Mann, my grandparents Genevieve, Minna, Louise & Nelson and my uncle Al

Dr. Elaine H. Olaoye
In loving memory of all the innocents who died of COVID

Dr. Elaine Olaoye
In loving memory of Dave Facer

Joanna A. Pickett
In loving memory of Doris and Johnny Johnson, William Johnson, Bob Bushnell, Howard Petit and Gay Clark Stoddard

Diane and Christie Posnak
In loving memory of Robert L. Posnak

Karen Schadow
In thanksgiving for my successful knee surgery and wonderful doctor

Miriam K. Schneider
In loving memory of Paul Scott Kunkel

Scott Semmel
In loving memory of Herbert Semmel and Doris Semmel, loving parents and grandparents

Richard Unger
In loving memory of George A. Goff, Thomas V. Steffel, Renato D. Alipit and Goro Morita

Andrew B. Wolf
In loving memory of my friends Emily Ayre, Madeline Turin, Lara Kinne and Dan Finnegan

Wil Yates
In loving memory of family and friends we love, but no longer see

Alice Yurke
In thanksgiving for Patricia S. Davis and Joan Waldron

Mark Zeisler
In loving memory of Peter, Helen and Eric Zeisler

Christmas Music

Mary Abraham and Rob Radtke
In honor of the musicians of St. Bart's

Robert Berger

Palmer and Sarah Bessey
In memory of Palmer and Marion Bessey; James and Sarah Isherwood

Catherine Belford Budd
In honor of the clergy of St. Bart's

Marianthe Colakis
In memory of Leonidas Colakis

Jennifer Collins
In memory of Beverly Tabern

Stephen Dohnalek
In memory of R. Neil Proffitt and Stephen & Wilma Dohnalek

Constance Evans
In memory of Millie Brinn, a dear friend

Robert and Karen Gutheil
In memory of Herman, Viola and Warren Gutheil; Bill and Paula Fisher

Christine Harrell
In memory of Don Harrell, who was a piano-playing fool

Dickie Ann Boal Johnson
In memory of Davie Lee and Bill Slates

Sarah Kerner
In memory of Richard and Virginia Kerner

Eric Leach-Rodríguez and Manuel Rodríguez-Leach
In memory of Altagracia Rodríguez & Jorge Alfredo Rodríguez

Timothy Martin
In memory of Don and Audrey Martin

Liza Page Nelson
In honor of Meredith Ward, Stephanie Spellers and Zack Nyein joining us at St. Bart's

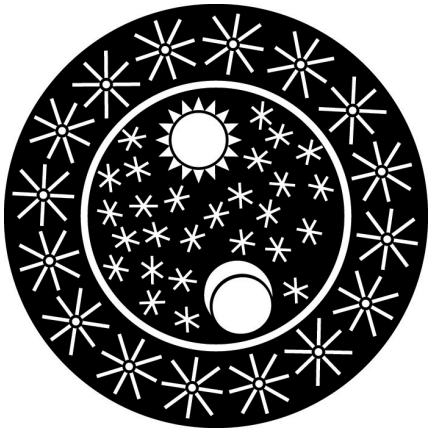
Steven Sakson
In memory of my mom, Alice

David and Rebecca Smith

Ekaterina Sukhanova
In memory of Boris Sukhanov

Christine Van Bree

Wil Yates
In honor of St. Bart's Radical Welcome and amazing clergy



ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S CHURCH

TRANSFORMING LIVES ⁘ TRANSFORMING THE CHURCH ⁘ TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

325 PARK AVENUE AT 51ST STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10022
212-378-0222 ⁘ CENTRAL@STBARTS.ORG

@STBARTSNYC

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