

# Lessons and Carols

*December 31, 2023*



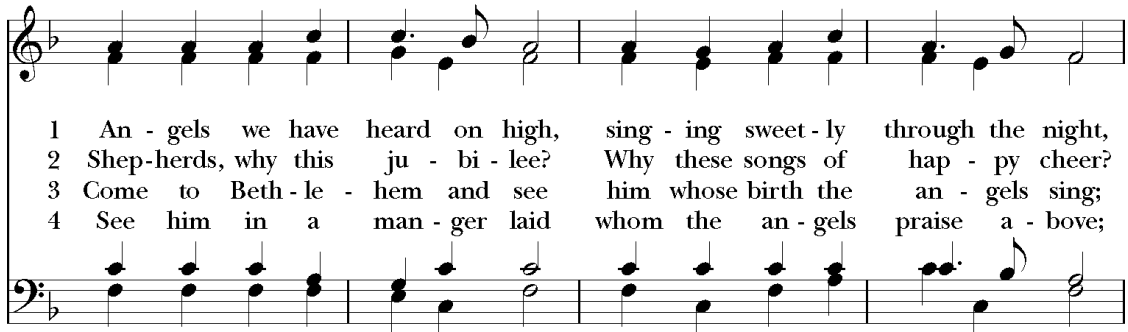
**Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church**

The Rev. William Petersen, Celebrant  
Holly Simons, Minister of Music

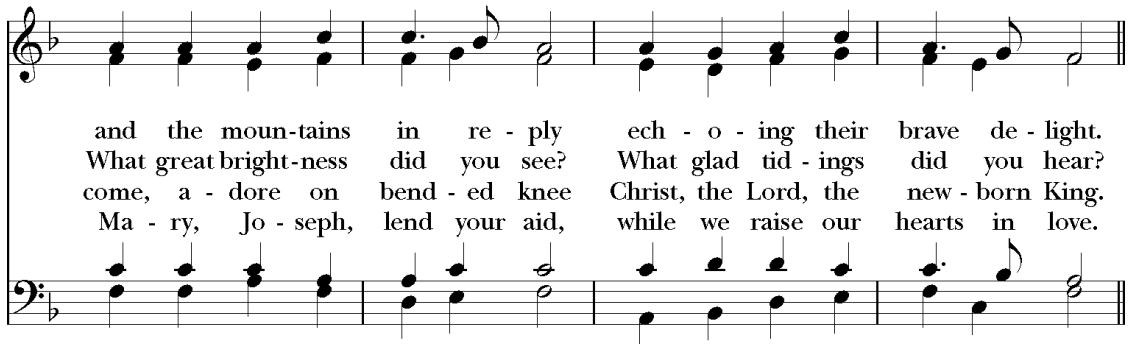
Please stand as you are able

# Gathering Song

#96 ~ Angels we have heard on high (v 1,3,4)



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

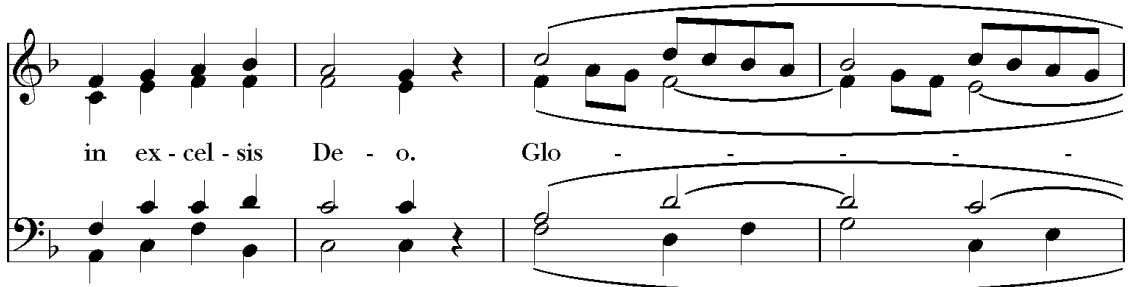


and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

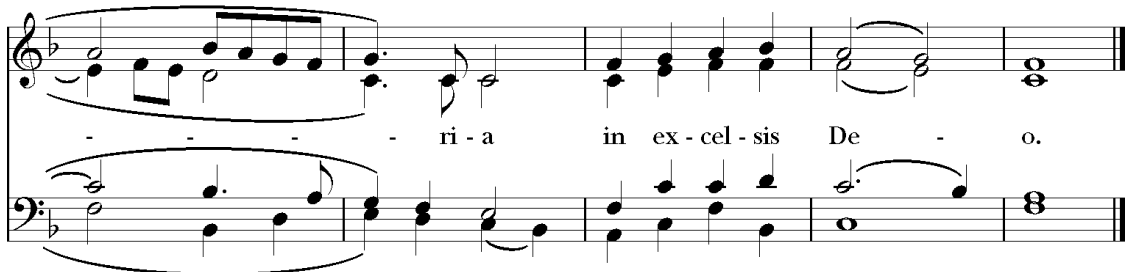
*Refrain*



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## Dialogue

*Celebrant* Jesus, the bright Morning Star, shines light in the world.

*People* **By day and night he shines for all to see.**

*Celebrant* Jesus was born in the midst of injustice and poverty

*People* **that the world may see the justice and richness of God.**

*Celebrant* God so loved the world that God sent Jesus,

*People* **so that all who believe in him may not perish but have eternal life.**

*Celebrant* Jesus is the light of the world.

*People* **Jesus is the light of our lives.**

*Celebrant* Sing to God a new song!

*People* **A song of hope, joy, and peace around the world.**

## Opening Prayer

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*People* **Gracious God of heaven and earth, you have thrown a lifeline to us in our darkness— a beam of light that shines through Jesus. Though born in a manger, he is the firstborn of all creation. Though crucified on a cross, he is the Lord of life. Fill us with the wonder and joy of his presence in the world and in our hearts. Amen.**

*Please be seated*

## Lessons and Carols

**First Reading:** Genesis 1:1-5, 14-18

*In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.*

*Then God said, “Let there be light”; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.*

*And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night; and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so.*

*God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good.*

**Christmas Carol #89 ~ It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (v 1,3,4)**

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that  
 2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with  
 3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the  
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing  
 peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly  
 world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly  
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold;  
 mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;  
 hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;  
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from  
 a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they  
 and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the  
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven’s all - gra - cious King.” The world in sol - emn  
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its  
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and  
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.  
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.  
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!  
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

**Second Reading: Micah 5:2-5a**

*But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.*

**Christmas Carol #78 ~ O Little Town of Bethlehem (v 1,3,5)**



1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
\*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.  
5 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

### Third Reading: Luke 1:26-35, 38

*In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.*

### Christmas Carol #114 ~ Twas in the moon of wintertime (v 1,3,4)



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time, when all the birds had  
2 (With - in a lodge of) bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was  
3 (The ear - liest moon of) win - ter - time is not so round and  
4 (O chil - dren of the) for - est free, the an - gel song is



fled, that God the Lord of all the earth sent  
found, a rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en -  
fair as was the ring of glo - ry on the  
true; the ho - ly child of earth and heaven is



an - gel - choirs in - stead; be - fore their light the  
wrapped his beau - ty round; but as the hunt - er  
help - less in - fant there. The chiefs from far be -  
born to - day for you. Come kneel be - fore the



stars grew dim, and won - dering hunt - ers heard the hymn:  
braves drew nigh, the an - gel - song rang loud and high:  
fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver - pelt.  
ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.

*Refrain*

Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is

(Fine)

born, in ex - cel-sis glo-ri - a.

*Optional Interlude*

1-3  
2 With - in a lodge of  
3 The ear - liest moon of  
4 O chil-dren of the

**Fourth Reading: Matthew 1:18-25**

*Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.” All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel,” which means, “God is with us.” When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.*

**Christmas Carol #107 ~ Good Christian Friends Rejoice (v 1,3)**

- 1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
- 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.  
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!  
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!  
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

**Fifth Reading: Luke 2:8-20**

*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.*



## Christmas Carol #93 ~ Angels, From the Realms of Glory (v 1,3,4)



1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er  
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your  
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions  
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in



all the earth; ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry,  
 flocks by night, God with you is now re - sid - ing;  
 beam a - far; seek the great De - sire of na - tions;  
 hope and fear, sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing,



now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:  
 yon - der shines the in - fant Light: come and wor - ship,  
 ye have seen his na - tal star:  
 in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:



come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

## Sixth Reading: Matthew 2:1-11

*In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."*

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Christmas Carol**

#115 ~ What Child is This (v 1,2)

*Unison or harmony*



1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on  
 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where  
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,



Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with  
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for  
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -



an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

*Refrain*



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds



guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to



bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

*Please stand or kneel as you are able*

### **Responsive Prayer**

It is you, loving God, who lights our path with truth.

**Your Word, Jesus, is truth.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**to gather in wonder with the shepherds.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**to kneel in reverence with the wise ones.**

In his light, draw all to the manger

**to sing for joy with the angels.**

In the brightness of his life

**cast away the darkness of injustice, poverty, and hunger in the world.**

It is you, loving God, who meets us on our way.

**In the light of Jesus, show the world the way of life.**

**Amen.**

*Please be seated*

### **The Offering**

**#100 ~ Joy to the world (v 1,4)**

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

- 1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
- 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
- 3 far as the curse is found, far
- 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,

*Please stand or kneel as you are able*  
**Offering Prayer**

Good and loving God,  
 we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of  
 your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.  
 With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the  
 coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Offering** *Having listened to the Word of God, affirmed our faith,  
 confessed our sins, received forgiveness and shared in the peace, we are  
 prepared for the drama and miracle of the Holy Communion. At the  
 offertory, we gratefully offer back to God some of what God has given us,  
 symbolically in the bread and wine, and in the money we give.*



*For everyone's safety, we will not pass the traditional plate during  
 today's service. Instead, an offering plate is available at the entrances to the worship space, or  
 you may visit [wolfesaints.com/donate](http://wolfesaints.com/donate).*

**Holy Eucharist** [New Zealand Prayer Book Alternative Great Thanksgiving A]

God is here.

**We praise God together.**

Let us say thank you to God  
**who has done so much for us.**

God, you made us, and the world and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again.

**Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people. And so with thanks we praise you.

**Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them. "This is my body," he said. "Do this, and know that I am with you."

**Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said "This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you."

**Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever,

we are glad to share that life and live in him.

**Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus,

and through this food give us strength to live as your people.

**Amen. We are alive in Jesus.**

Help us care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us.

Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land we worship you and say:

**We praise you. We thank you. We bless you. Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER** (*sung to tune of Away in a Manger; lyrics: Mark Vitalis Hoffman*)

*Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name! Your kingdom among us, Your presence proclaimed! What You want to happen, grant that it be done On earth as in heaven, now for everyone.*

*For bread that is needed, provide us each day; As we forgive others, our sins take away; Don't bring us to testing more than we can bear, But save us from evil by Your loving care.*

*For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign. And Yours is the power, all things You maintain. To You be the glory, resounding again From all of creation, forever! Amen.*

### **Invitation to Communion**

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal.  
Come, behold and receive your God.  
*Please be seated*

### **Holy Communion**

#### **Prayer After Communion**

**We give you thanks, O God, that in this bread and cup of Christ's very life, you give us food for our journey. As you led the magi by a star, as you brought the holy family home again, guide us on the way unfolding before us. Wherever we go, may our lives proclaim good news of great joy in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Lease stand as you are able*

### **Blessing**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!

**Praise God, all creatures here below!**

You are the shepherds telling the story.

**We tell it in the streets and across the land.**

You are the wise ones worshipping with thanksgiving.

**We worship with gifts of song and service, talents and treasures.**

You are the angels announcing peace.

**We live with joy and go now in peace.**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

# Sending Song

## #99 ~ Go Tell It On A Mountain

*Refrain*



Go tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and



ev - ery - where; go tell it on the moun - tain, that



Je - sus Christ is born!

1 While shep - herds kept their  
2 The shep - herds feared and  
3 Down in a low - ly



watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -  
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang  
man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born, and

*Repeat Refrain*



hold, through - out the hea - vens there shone a ho - ly light.  
out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sa - vior's birth.  
God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

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**About All Saints'** ~ We welcome you to a church that is clear about the Christian faith that stands in the rich tradition of Christian worship that encourages people to grow in the faith they profess, that believes we ought to live so as to make a difference in the world. If you are looking for such a church, then All Saints' Episcopal Church is for you - we invite you into our community of faith.

**How to use this Worship Bulletin** ~ We follow the order of worship from The Book of Common Prayer as it is printed in this bulletin. Leader parts are in regular print; the congregation parts are in **bold** print. Notes and directions are printed in *italics*. Hymn numbers are noted in this bulletin and can be found in The Hymnal 1982 found in the pew racks.

**All are invited to receive Communion in this church.**

**The Common Cup as an Option** Following guidance from Bishop +Rob to clergy and discussion with our Worship and Music Team and Vestry, we will offer the option of receiving wine by common cup as we offer the option of gluten free bread during Holy Communion. The Eucharistic Ministers will continue to distribute wine via individual cups and if you desire the common cup\*, please ask Pastor Bill (just as you would for gluten free).

**\*Note:** *For sanitation concerns and at the direction of our bishop, we will no longer offer the opportunity for Intinction (the dipping of the bread/wafer into the wine. The common cup is only available for drinking from.*

**Facility Information** ~ Handicap accessible restrooms are located downstairs in the hallways exiting the Parish Hall and upstairs in the hallway exiting the sanctuary. A small restroom is located off the narthex lobby at the rear of the worship space. We welcome children in worship, but should you (or they) need, an unstaffed nursery area is located off the narthex lobby.

**Seeking a Church Home?** ~ If you would like additional information about All Saints', are seeking a faith community to call home, or interested in exploring your faith, please speak with the rector.

**Masks are not required** in the building at the present time. However, if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, then you are encouraged to do so.

**Sharing of the peace** will be done from your seat only.

**Offering plates** are available at entrances to the worship space or giving online @ [wolfesaints.com](http://wolfesaints.com).

**We continue to livestream** for those unable to worship in person.

Ministers: All the People of All Saints' Bishop: The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld Rector: The Rev. William "Bill" Petersen Priest Associate: The Rev. Elizabeth Preysner Minister of Music: Holly Simons Sunday School Teacher: Danielle Pierpont Parish Administrator: Debra Hoyt Sexton: Mark McLaughlin
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