

CHRISTMAS EVE

Holy Eucharist for Children and their Families

Thursday, December 24, 2020 at 3pm

Livestreamed worship available at [facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos](https://www.facebook.com/stpaulsnorwalk/videos).

St. Paul's on the Green | 60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

THE GATHERING RITE

The Welcome *the Rev. Daniel Simons, Priest-in-charge*

Opening Hymn

1 O come, all ye faith-ful, joy - ful and tri - umphant; O come ye; O come ye to
Beth - le - hem! Come, and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels! O come, let us a -
dore him; O come, let us a -dore him; O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!

words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Fredrick Oakley (1802-1880) and others
music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

The Collect of the Day

The people's responses are in bold.

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and lying humbly in a manger, you show us how much God loves the world. Let the light of your love always shine in our hearts, until we reach our home in heaven, and see you on your throne of glory. **Amen.**

The Christmas Story *Luke 2:1-20*

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.

Reflecting on the Christmas Story *Fr. Daniel, Javier, and Floki*

The Prayers of the People

God of Love, on this holy night, you sent your son to be born among us, making us your children and holy, too. With prophets, shepherds, and magi, may we seek Jesus and find him in everyone we meet.

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

God of the angels whose song was "Peace on earth, goodwill to all," we pray for the leaders of this nation, and this world. May conflicts end, divisions cease, and justice prevail.

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

God of the shepherds who shared good news of great joy, we pray for the Church and all who minister in it. May we be messengers of hope, inclusion and love for your people everywhere.

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

God of the manger, you came to us a helpless baby, cradled in straw because there was no room at the inn. We pray for those who are homeless or hungry, sick or in need. Who would you like to pray for?

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

God of heaven and earth, we pray for those who have died and those who mourn. Who would you like to pray for?

God of Love, **hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant concludes with

Son of God, child of Mary
Born in the stable at Bethlehem,
Be born again in us this day
That through us the world may know
The wonder of your love. **Amen.**

Greetings from the Priest-in-charge

GIVING TO ST. PAUL'S

Now more than ever, the work and mission of St. Paul's depend on the generous support of its friends and members.

Please consider making an offering to St. Paul's by credit card. Visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/givebycard, or use the QR code to the right.

For other means of giving, visit stpaulsnorwalk.org/donate.

Thank you for your generous support!



THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The Offertory

The Altar-Table is prepared with gifts of bread and wine for Communion. During this time, give thanks for all the ways God blesses you, and consider ways you can extend that blessing to others. Learn more ways to give on the previous page.

Carol at the Offertory



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing; the poor ba - by wakes,
3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus, no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for - ev - er and love me, I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je - sus; look down from the sky,
Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
and fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

words: sts. 1-2, *Little Children's Book for Schools and Families*, c. 1885; st. 3, *Gabriel's Vineyard Songs*, 1892
music: *Mueller*, James R. Murray (1841-1905)

The Great Thanksgiving

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Holy One, our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, always and everywhere to give God thanks and praise. Angels and shepherds, rejoicing in the birth of the baby Jesus, were filled to the brim 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, putting aside the burdens that oppress us, join with them in the song that never ends:

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

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 baby, lived a human life, and taught us how to love another. He kept on giving—not for himself, but for us—until he gave up even his life so that we might be free.

On the night before he died, he shared supper with those who were most important to him. He took bread, gave it to them and said, “Take, eat. This is my Body. It is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave it to them and said, “Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood. It is shed for you. Do this in 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, the Prince of Peace, the Word made Flesh, the Child of Bethlehem, 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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

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 Communion

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

All share the bread and wine of communion, at whichever table we are gathered around.

Anthem at the Communion *sung by the choir*

Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, love divine;
love was born at Christmas:
star and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and all men,
love for plea and gift and sign.

words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)

music: John Rutter (b. 1945)

The Prayer after Communion

The Celebrant and people pray

We bless you, Creator of all, for in the Holy One of Bethlehem and in this holy meal you have visited your people, and in our humanity you have revealed the face of divinity. Gather into your arms all the peoples of the world, so that in your embrace we may find blessing, peace, and the fullness of our inheritance as your children. Amen.

THE SENDING RITE

The Blessing

May the God of Hope, who sent the angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

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

The Hymn

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.

words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.
music: *Antioch*, Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

Celebrate Christmas Eve tonight at 5:30pm and 11pm,
and Christmas Day at 11am!

All worship is livestreamed via the St. Paul's Facebook page.

St. Paul's on the Green

The Rev. Daniel Simons, *Priest-in-charge*

60 East Avenue, Norwalk, Connecticut 06851

stpaulsnorwalk.org | info@stpaulsnorwalk.org