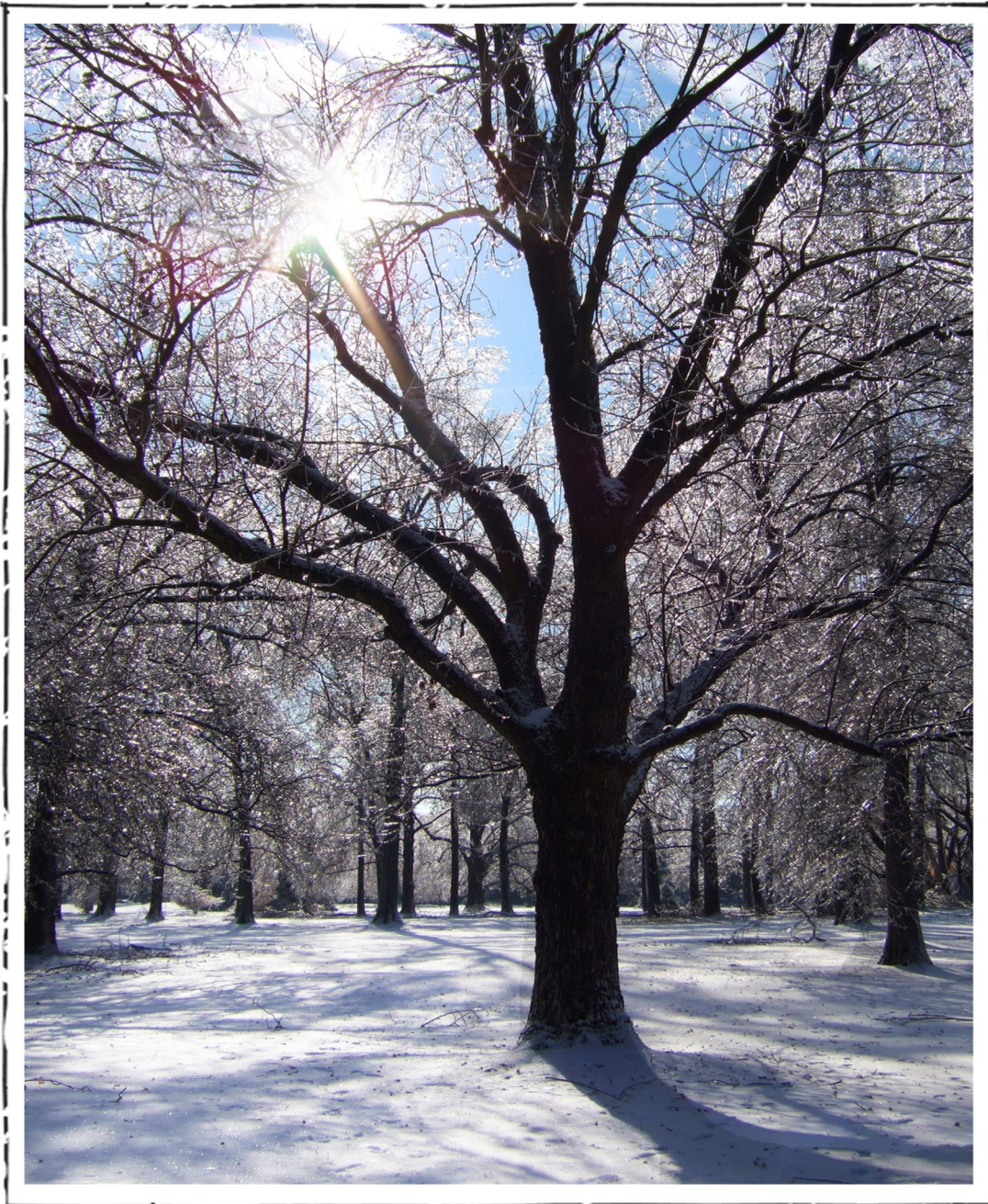




St. Francis' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS DAY
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 2023, 10:30AM



His life brings light to us all

The Presider invites the congregation to the crib.

People **Welcome all wonders in one sight!**
 Eternity shut in a span.
 Summer in winter, day in night,
 heaven on earth and God in humanity.

Great little one whose all-embracing birth
 brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

THE GREETING

Presider Grace, mercy and peace
 from God our Father
 and the Lord Jesus Christ
 be with you.

People **And also with you.**

THE BLESSING OF THE CRIB

Presider Dear friends, as we meet to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this
 crib, that all who worship his child, born of Mary, may come to share his life in glory.

People **God of Grace,**
 on this day
 your child Jesus Christ was born of Mary
 for us and for our salvation:
 bless this crib,
 which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth;
 may all who see it be strengthened in faith
 and receive the fullness of life he came to bring,
 who is alive and reigns for ever.
 Amen.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

Presider Christ the light of the world has come
to dispel the darkness of our hearts.
In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

Silence is kept.

Presider God of Grace,
you sent your child full of grace and truth:
forgive our failure to receive him.
Lord, have mercy.

People **Lord, have mercy.**

Presider Jesus our Savior,
you were born in poverty and laid in a manger:
forgive our greed and rejection of your ways.
Christ, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Presider Spirit of love,
your servant Mary responded joyfully to your call:
forgive the hardness of our hearts.
Lord, have mercy.

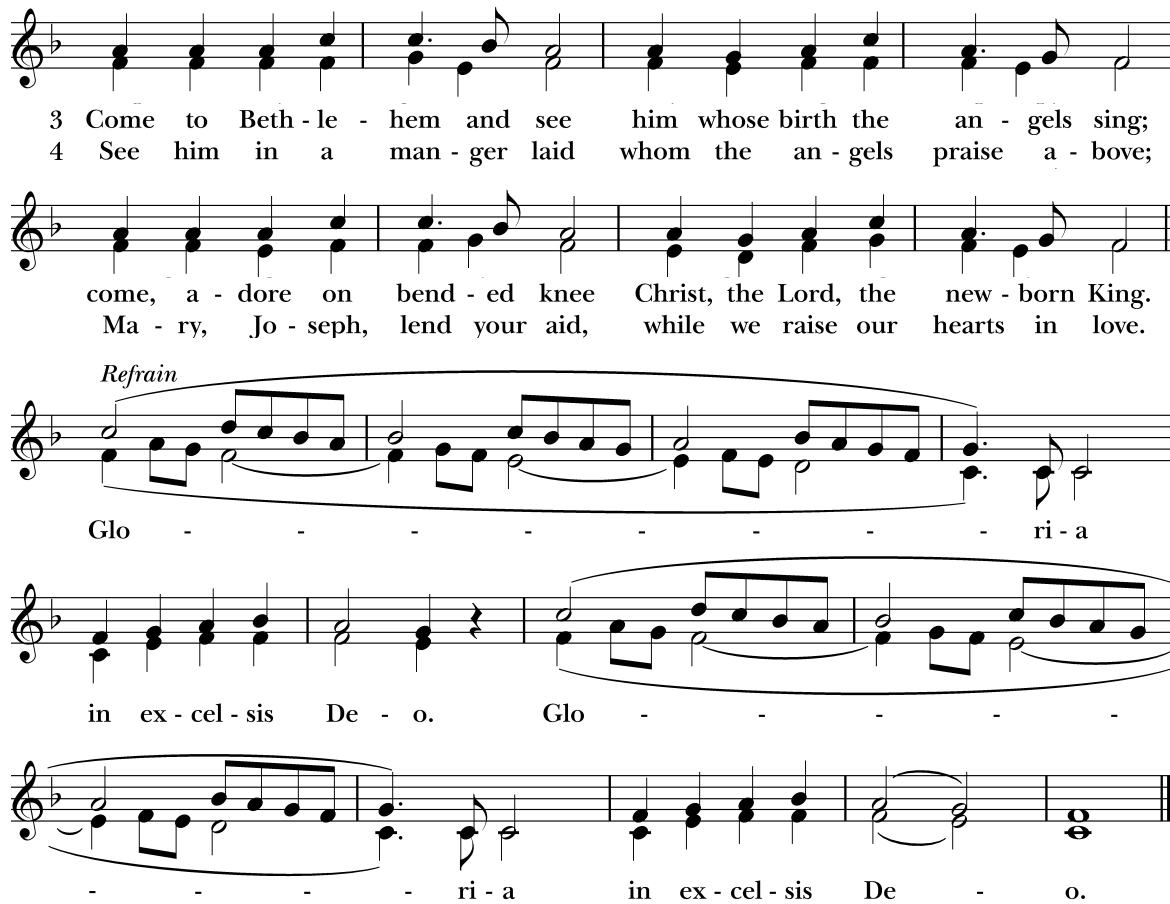
People **Lord, have mercy.**

Presider May the God of all healing and forgiveness
draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his child,
the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

H 96



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;

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Presider introduces a period of silent prayer with the words

Presider Let us pray in the peace of this Christmas celebration
that our joy in the birth of Christ will last forever.

Silence is kept.

Presider Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you
our Savior, and our eternal God.

People **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD *Seated*

THE FIRST LESSON

Reader	A reading from the Book of Isaiah.	62:6-12
	Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken." This is the Word of the Lord.	

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 97

The congregation reads the sections responsively as indicated by the Presider.

Group 1 The Lord is King;
 let the earth rejoice;
 let the multitude of the isles be glad.

 Clouds and darkness are round about him,
 righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

 A fire goes before him
 and burns up his enemies on every side.

Group 2 His lightnings light up the world;
 the earth sees it and is afraid.

 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord,
 at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

 The heavens declare his righteousness,
 and all the peoples see his glory.

Group 1 Confounded be all who worship carved images
 and delight in false gods!
 Bow down before him, all you gods.

 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice,
 because of your judgments, O Lord.

 For you are the Lord,
 most high over all the earth;
 you are exalted far above all gods.

 The Lord loves those who hate evil;
 he preserves the lives of his saints
 and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

 Light has sprung up for the righteous,
 and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

All together, the congregation proclaims:

Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy Name.

SECOND READING

Reader A reading from the letter to Titus. 3:4-7

 When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

 This is the Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL SEQUENCE HYMN GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

We sing the refrain and then verse 1. Stand.

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
watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night, be -
trem - bled when lo! a - bove the earth rang
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.

GOSPEL

Presider The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. 2:1-20

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

GOSPEL SEQUENCE HYMN GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

We sing the refrain and then verse 2. Music on previous page.

HOMILY *Seated*

THE REV. LAURIE ANZILOTTI

Sermon largely derived from the work of The Rev. Canon Whitney Rice, Canon for Evangelism and Formation for the Diocese of Missouri.

THE NICENE CREED *Stand*

**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 human.
 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Intercessor	In peace let us pray to the Lord.
	God, your child our Savior was born in human flesh.
	Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God,
People	hear our prayer.
Intercessor	There was no room for your child in the inn.
	Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,
People	hear our prayer.
Intercessor	Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your child to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in distress. Holy God,
People	hear our prayer.
Intercessor	Your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God,
People	hear our prayer.
Intercessor	The angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth." Strengthen those who work for peace and justice at Episcopal City Mission, Wyman Center, Eureka Food Pantry, and in all the world. Holy God,
People	hear our prayer.

Intercessor	Shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's redemption. Holy God,
People	hear our prayer.
Intercessor	Strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,
People	hear our prayer.
Intercessor	Heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God,
People	hear our prayer.
Intercessor	Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God,
People	hear our prayer.
Presider	God of Grace, angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ.
People	Amen.

THE PEACE

Presider	Unto us a child is born, unto us a child is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People	And also with you.
Presider	Let us share with one another a sign of Christ's peace. <i>We invite you to extend the peace of God to those in the congregation.</i>

GATHERING AT CHRIST'S TABLE

We return with thanksgiving the gifts God has given us. This includes bread and wine of the earth and financial offerings from our labor.

OFFERTORY *Seated*

INSTRUMENTAL

The table is prepared and bread and wine are brought forward.

Presider Word made flesh, life of the world,
 in your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
 by your Spirit may we share in your riches.

People **Amen.**

The Presider takes the bread and wine. All stand.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth.

And now we give you thanks because in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has
dawned upon the world; you have become one with us that we might become one with
you in your glorious kingdom.

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

Presider and People

**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.

Presider Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior 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 Jesus 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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Presider and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Presider We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

People **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

People **Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

Presider We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

People **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Our bread is gluten-, dairy- and nut-free. This Eucharistic table does not belong to the Episcopal Church or to St. Francis'. This is God's table, and all are welcome. In the Episcopal Church, we receive both the bread and wine, the Body and Blood of Jesus. If you choose not to receive communion, please come forward and cross your arms over your heart to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION MEDITATION

INSTRUMENTAL

Seated

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *Stand*

Silence is kept. Then,

People **Almighty God,**
 we thank you for feeding us
 with the body and blood of your child Jesus Christ.
 Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
 to be a living sacrifice.
 Send us out
 in the power of your Spirit
 to live and work
 to your praise and glory. Amen.

BLESSING

Presider May the Father,
 who has loved the eternal Son
 from before the foundation of the world,
 shed that love upon you his children.

People **Amen.**

Presider May Christ,
 who by his incarnation gathered into one
 things earthly and heavenly,
 fill you with joy and peace.

People **Amen.**

Presider May the Holy Spirit,
by whose overshadowing Mary became the God-bearer,
give you grace to carry the good news of Christ.

People Amen.

Presider And the blessing of ...

People Amen.

SENDING HYMN

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

H 87



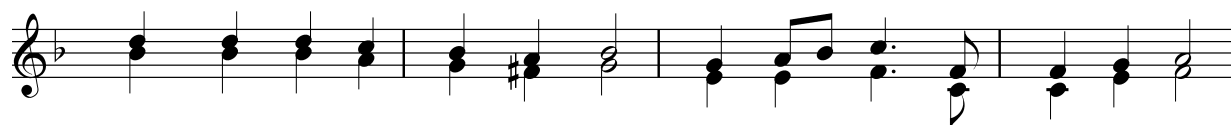
1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,



Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,



with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

DISMISSAL

Presider Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh. Alleluia, Alleluia!

People **Glory, thanks and praise to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

POSTLUDE

JOY TO THE WORLD

ARR. DAVID LANZ

FLOWERS GIVEN BY

Joe Bernert

In memory of Joe and Louise Bernert

In memory of Nick Sacco

By his wife Barb Sacco and family

Donna Bernert

In memory of Joe Thum

Nip, Nick, Sophie and Nicholas Schmidt

*Thank you to Sue and John Schmidt for letting us be
five month house squatters, we love you! xxxooo*

Chris Boswell

In memory of Ray and Hazel Armer

In memory of Kyle Boswell

For John, Love Sue

Chris and Mary Ann Kinder

In memory of Jim and Saundie Hogan

In memory of Floyd and Virginia Kinder

Bill and Della Thompson

In memory of Rose Bonicelli and

Myron Thompson

Missy Winkeler

In memory of Papa John

for all the memories of my childhood

Gina and Al Nessel

In memory of Nancy Lambert

In memory of Lea Nessel

In memory of Kathleen McDonald

From a grateful parish