



## THE NATIVITY OF JESUS CHRIST

December 24, 2025

### VOLUNTARY

*La Nativité* (from the *Poèmes Évangéliques*)

Jean Langlais

(1907-1991)

### INTROIT

*There is no rose*

John Joubert

(1927-2019)

There is no rose of such virtue  
As is the rose that bear Jesu:  
*Alleluia.*

For in this rose contained was  
Heav'n and earth in little space:  
*Res miranda* ("Marvelous thing")

By that rose we may well see  
There be one God in Persons Three:  
*Pares forma* ("Of equal form")

Then leave we all this worldly mirth  
And follow we this joyous birth:  
*Transeamus* ("Let us cross over")

- 15th century

### ♦ CANDLE PROCESSION

*Please rise as the candle passes your pew.*

### ♦ CHRISTMAS PROCLAMATION

♦ CAROL NO. 133

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

ADESTE FIDELES

1. 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!  
  
*O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!*
2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation.  
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing!

♦ LITANY

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**  
The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**  
For a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**  
He is Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**  
To us is born in the city of David a Savior, the Messiah, the Lord.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**  
And the Word became flesh and lived among us.  
**Glory to God in the highest!**

LESSON

Luke 2:1-7

CAROL NO. 119 (SEATED)

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

1. Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king.  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all ye nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
2. Christ, by highest heaven 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 in flesh with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"
3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings, ris'n with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"

## LESSON

Luke 2:8-14

## ANTHEM

*Some Children See Him*

arr. Jay Rouse

Some children see Him lily white,  
The baby Jesus born this night.  
Some children see Him lily white,  
With tresses soft and fair.

Some children see Him bronzed and brown,  
Lord of Heaven to earth come down.  
Some children see Him bronzed and brown,  
With dark and heavy hair.

Some children see Him almond-eyed,  
This savior whom we kneel beside.  
Some children see Him almond-eyed,  
With skin of yellow hue.

Some children see Him dark as they,  
Sweet Mary's Son to whom we pray.  
Some children see Him dark as they,  
And ah, they love Him too!

The children in each different place  
Will see the baby Jesus' face  
Like theirs, but bright with Heavenly grace  
And filled with holy light.

O lay aside each earthly thing  
And with thy heart as offering.  
Come, worship now the infant King.  
'Tis love that's born tonight!

—Wihla Hutson (1951)

## LESSON

Luke 2:15-20

## ¶ CAROL 121

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

ST. LOUIS

1. 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.
2. For Christ is born of Mary  
and, gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth,  
and praises sing to God the king,  
and peace to all on earth.
3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him,  
still the dear Christ enters in.
4. 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!

**SERMON****Shepherds Rule**

John W. Wurster

**¶ CAROL NO. 113***Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

1. **Angels we have heard on high,**  
**sweetly singing o'er the plains,**  
**and the mountains in reply**  
**echoing their joyous strains.**  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**
2. **Shepherds, why this jubilee?**  
**Why your joyous strains prolong?**  
**What the gladsome tidings be**  
**which inspire your heavenly song?**  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**
3. **Come to Bethlehem and see**  
**him whose birth the angels sing;**  
**come, adore on bended knee**  
**Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.**  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**  
**Gloria in excelsis Deo!**

**OFFERING***Gifts may be given anytime at [www.saintphilip.net](http://www.saintphilip.net).***OFFERTORY ANTHEM***Sweet Little Jesus Boy*Robert MacGimsey  
(1898-1979)

Sweet little Jesus Boy,  
they made you be born in a manger.

Sweet little Holy Child,  
didn't know who You was.

Didn't know you come to save us, Lord;  
to take our sins away.

Our eyes was blind, we couldn't see,  
we didn't know who You was.

Long time ago, you was born.  
Born in a manger low,  
Sweet little Jesus Boy.

The world treat You mean, Lord;  
treat me mean, too.

But that's how things is down here,  
we didn't know t'was You.

You done showed us how,  
we is trying.

Master, You done showed us how,  
even when you's dying.

Just seem like we can't do right,  
look how we treated You.  
But please, sir, forgive us Lord,  
we didn't know 'twas You.

Sweet little Jesus Boy,  
born long time ago.  
Sweet little Holy Child,  
and we didn't know who You was....

Robert MacGimsey (1934)

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

#### GREAT THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is truly right and our greatest joy to give thanks and praise . . .

Therefore we now join our voices with the choirs of heaven

and the faithful of every time and place who forever sing to the glory of your name:



Ho - ly Lord, we join in prais-ing God the Fa - ther, Spir-it, Son,



Blessed is he, who comes in glo - ry, and th'e - ter - nal Three in One.



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

You are holy, O God of majesty . . . even as we remember the mystery of faith:



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en, Christ the Lord will come a-gain.

O God, once again, pour out your Holy Spirit . . .

With the confidence of the children of God, we pray as Jesus taught:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power,  
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF BREAD AND THE SHARING OF GOD'S GIFTS

### COMMUNION SOLO

### *Cantique de Noël*

Adolphe Adam  
(1803-1856)

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Saviour's birth.  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!  
Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!  
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!  
O night divine! O night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother;  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;  
Let all within us praise His holy name.  
Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we!  
His power and glory evermore proclaim!  
--"Cantique de Noël" (Placide Cappeau, 1847),  
"O Holy Night" (John Sullivan Dwight, 1855)

### THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

John 1 (*selected verses*)

### PASSING OF LIGHT

*Please keep lit candles upright as you pass the light.*

### CAROL 122

### *Silent Night, Holy Night*

STILLE NACHT

<b>1. Silent night, holy night!</b> 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.	<b>3. Silent night, holy night!</b> 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.
<b>2. Silent night, holy night!</b> Shepherds quake at the sight. Glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, Alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!	<b>4. Silent night, holy night!</b> Wondrous star, lend thy light; With the angels let us sing. Alleluia to our King; Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born.

### CHRISTMAS BLESSING

### VOLUNTARY

### *Noël en musette*

Louis-Claude d'Aquin  
(1694-1772)

*Please extinguish candles.*

## WORSHIP NOTES

♦ Please stand, if able. **Bold** type indicates congregational responses.

**Communion** is served tonight by intinction. Please come to the stations via the center aisle, receive a piece of bread, dip it into the chalice of grape juice or take a small cup of grape juice from the tray. Return to your seat via the side aisles. Please indicate to the servers if you'd like gluten-free bread. Persons with difficulty coming forward can be served in the pews by signaling the servers. Because the table of Jesus Christ is open to all, everyone is welcome to receive communion tonight.

## SERVING TONIGHT

### Pastors

Keatan King, Omar Rouchon and John Wurster

### Musicians

Matthew Dirst, organist | Julia Fox & Cecilia Duarte, duet | St. Philip Choir | Erika Johnson, cellist Daniel Boyd, baritone | Julia Fox, soprano | Justin Langham, director of music

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover art by Diana Weiss

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**Contributions**, pledge payments, communion gifts and other donations to support the Church can be made anytime through our website.



### Welcome to Worship at St. Philip

We are glad you are here! Please scan the QR Code to access our digital guest-book. We invite you to sign in and let us know you are worshipping with us.

## Merry Christmas

*Thank you to those who have contributed poinsettias this Christmas to adorn our chancel.*

Given by:	Those we honor:
Bob & Lee Ardell	In gratitude for the pastors & staff of St Philip
Gary & Molly Boren Whitney	Our wonderful pastors and office staff
Bob & Bebe Burns	To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for St. Philip
David & Nancy Castro	David Jr., Alicia, Trip, Penelope, Katie & Annie, Alé & Lucía
Carolyn C. Keeble	Sally Alcorn
Suzanne Kerr	Justin Langham for his musical gifts to St. Philip
Walter & Margaret King	In appreciation of our wonderful St. Philip staff
Jenny Laughlin	St. Philip family
Jim & Nancy Lomax	Our daughters Laura, Heather, & Lisa
Bonnie Moore	My church music family
Cathy Patterson, David & Charlie Wood	Marcia James
Carrie Pepi	Mary & Jim Bratton
Marise Robbins-Forbes	Families struggling with cancer
Jenilee Simmons	My family
Jenilee Simmons	St. Philip staff
Hallie & David Spence	Mary Linda Williams
Karen St. Laurent	Susan Estill
Sondra Sullivan & Patrick Conner	St. Philip staff
Hope Wilmarth	Isabelle, Jeb, Arden, Gertrude, Clara & Elliot
Jennifer Wilson	My father, Victor Bill Wilson
Dena M. Woodall	My loving mother, Vada A. Woodall, a member of the St. Philip Choir

<i>Given by:</i>	<i>Those We Remember:</i>
Sally Alcorn	Fred C. Alcorn
Sally Alcorn	Lexey & Charles Alcorn
Sally Alcorn	Cecile & Carl Stuebing
Sally Alcorn	Edward Wilson Stuebing II
Guy & Melissa Aldrich	Guy's loving father & best friend, Guy F. Aldrich, Jr.
Orlean Anderson	Kenneth Anderson Jr.
Orlean Anderson	Ruth & Orlean McCallum
Linda Bevill	Mickey Meyers
Linda Bevill	Nan Schissler
Eric & Jennifer Brown	Jim Scruby
Tina Bryan	Sweet Tony Bryan, may he find comfort and peace in God's arms
Mary Grace Carter	Gratitude for Mary & Jim Bratton
Jane Cooper	Loved ones
Elizabeth Crowell	Anne Crowell Kuzminsky
Carl & Janet Eskridge	John & Rita Hannah
David & Joyce Fox	Tom Lewis
David & Joyce Fox	Carolyn Vestal
Elizabeth Hadaway	Bertie Hadaway
Tom Hall	Barnes & Emily Hall
Tom Hall	Bill & Fran Racette
Judye & John Hartman	Christine Van Osdall
Nancy Higgs	My mother, father, & brother Bob
Charlotte W. Kibler & Boone Family	Dewey E. Kibler
Charlotte W. Kibler & Boone Family	Dick, Ruth & Rick Siciliano
Charlotte W. Kibler & Boone Family	Coval & Ellen MacDonald
Jane Lee	Bill Lee
Jane Malczewskyj	Loved ones
Barbara Runge	Rusty Howard
Barbara Runge	Glen & Affie Tate
Barbara Runge	Trudy Cleveland
Meg Scott- Johnson	John Christopher Scott
Meg Scott- Johnson	Richard B. Johnson, Jr.
Sue Shirley Howard	Richard Harry Howard
Sally Slick	Bill Slick
Hallie & David Spence	Paxton Williams
Sondra Sullivan & Patrick Conner	Jan & Ben Conner
Aileen Todd	Harry Todd
Quincy & Sarah Victorian	Our dog, Popcorn
Ruthie & Al Waldrop	Our parents, Nancy & Kenan Rand and Florence & Allister Waldrop
Julia Wanger	Tom Wangler
Hope Wilmarth	Lance Wilmarth
Hope Wilmarth	Frances Burkhardt
Jennifer Wilson	My mother, Helen Wilson
Ruena Wood & Family	My husband, Rev. Dr. Stuart Wood;
Ruena Wood & Family	My parents, Enrique & Asuncion Sajor
Vada A. Woodall & Dena M. Woodall	Our generous brother & uncle, Taylor Moore Jones
John Wurster & Deb Burks	Darnall Burks