

Sunday, 24 December 2023 – Christmas Eve 11.00 pm Midnight Mass & Procession to the Creche (livestreamed)

Preludes

Under the direction of David Simon, Interim Director of Music

Adeste Fideles, Jeanne Demessieux

From Heaven on High to Earth I come

Von Himmel Hoch, Johannes Pachelbel

He shall feed his flock like a Shepherd, George Frederic Handel. (Jenna Freudenburg, Soprano)

Silent Night

Nativité, Jean Langlais

The Gathering of the Community

Please stand as the bell is rung and the procession enters.

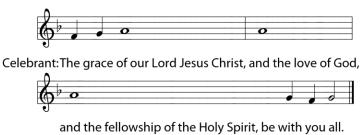
Hymn Puer Nobis Nascitur

- 1. Come, thou Redeemer of the earth, And manifest thy virgin-birth: Let every age adoring fall, Such birth befits the God of all.
- 2. Begotten of no human will, But of the Spirit, thou art still The Word of God in flesh arrayed, The Saviour, now to man displayed.
- **4.** Thy cradle here shall glitter bright, And darkness glow with new-born light, No more shall night extinguish day, Where love's bright beams their power display:
- **3.** O equal to the Father, thou! Gird on thy fleshly mantle now, The weakness of our mortal state With deathless might invigorate
- **5.** O Jesu, Virgin-born, to thee Eternal praise and glory be, Whom with the Father we adore And Holy Spirit, evermore.

 Amen.

Introit

The Lord spake, and said unto me: Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

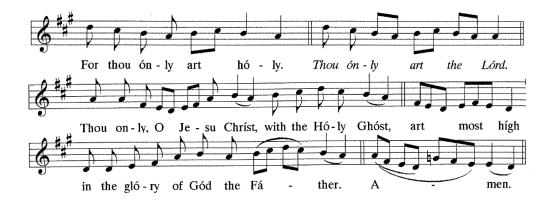




People: And with thy spir-it.

Kyrie eleison *Missa O magnum mysterium,* Tomás Luis de Victoria *Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.*





Celebrant: Let us pray.

Please remain standing.

O God, who hast made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant, we beseech thee, that we who have known the mysteries of his light on earth may be fulfilled with his joys in heaven; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Reading Isaiah 9:2–7

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.

Gradual

In the day of thy power shall the people offer thee free-will offerings: in the beauty of holiness, from the womb of the morning, have I begotten thee. Ps. The Lord said unto my Lord: Sit thou on my right hand: till I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Second Reading Titus 2:11–14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

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

Alleluia

Alleluia. The Lord hath said unto me: Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. Alleluia.

Please stand.

Sequence Hymn IRBY

(Solo) 1. Once in Royal David's city,
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

- (Choir) 2. He came down to earth from heaven,
 Who is God and Lord of all,
 And his shelter was a stable,
 And his cradle was a stall:
 With the poor and mean and lowly,
 Lived on earth our Saviour holy.
 - **4.** And our eyes at last shall see him Through his own redeeming love, For that Child so dear and gentle, Is our Lord in heaven above:

 And he leads his children on To the place where he is gone.
- 3. And through all his wondrous childhood, Day by day like us he grew, He was little, weak and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew: And he feeleth for our sadness, And he shareth in our gladness.
- **5.** Not in that poor lowly stable, With the oxen standing by, We shall see him: but in heaven, Set at God's right hand on high, Where like stars his children crowned, All in white shall wait around.

Deacon: The Lord be with you. **People:** And with thy spirit.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Gospel Reading John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The

light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Deacon: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Homily

After the homily, we sit in silent reflection. Please stand when those in the sanctuary stand.

The Nicene Creed MISSA DE ANGELIS

Please ensure that your kneeler is down. On this Feast of the Nativity, we kneel at the words 'And was incarnate.'







Cantor Lord, hear our prayer. All Lord, hear our prayer.

The Peace



Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be al-ways with you.



People: And with thy spir-it.

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Offertory Hymn NOEL

- 1. It came upon the midnight clear,
 That glorious song of old,
 From angels bending near the earth
 To touch their harps of gold:
 'Peace on the earth, good will to all,
 From heaven's all gracious King!'
 The world in solemn stillness lay
 To hear the angels sing.
- 3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
 The world has suffered long;
 Beneath the angel-strain have rolled
 Ten thousand years of wrong
 And man at war with man hears not
 The love-song which they bring:
 O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
 And hear the angels sing!
- 2. Still through the cloven skies they come With peaceful wings unfurled; And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing;, And ever o'er its Babel sounds The blessed angels sing.
- **4.** For lo! the days are hastening on, By prophet bards foretold, When, with the ever-circling years,, Comes round the age of gold; When peace shall over all the earth Its ancient splendours fling, And the whole world give back the song Which now the angels sing.

Please be seated.

Offertory Sentence

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad before the Lord: for he is come.

Motet O magnum mysterium, Tomas Luis de Victoria

O magnum mysterium, et admirabile sacramentum, ut animalia viderent Dominum natum jacentem in praesepio! Beata Virgo, cujus viscera meruerunt portare Dominum Christum. Alleluia! O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord lying in their manger! Blessèd is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ. Alleluia!

Please stand when the thurifer turns to cense the congregation.

Celebrant: Pray, my brothers and sisters, that this, my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to

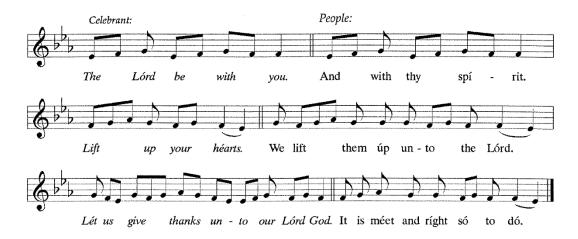
God the almighty Father.

People: The Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his holy

name, to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

Celebrant: We beseech thee, O Lord, that the oblation of this day's festival may be acceptable unto thee; that through this most holy communion, we may be found in the likeness of him in whom our nature is united unto thee; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end.

People: Amen.



Celebrant: It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, creator and preserver of all things, because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

At the sound of the bells, please kneel or remain standing.

Sanctus Missa O magnum mysterium, Tomás Luis de Victoria Holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most high. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee, almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we most

humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

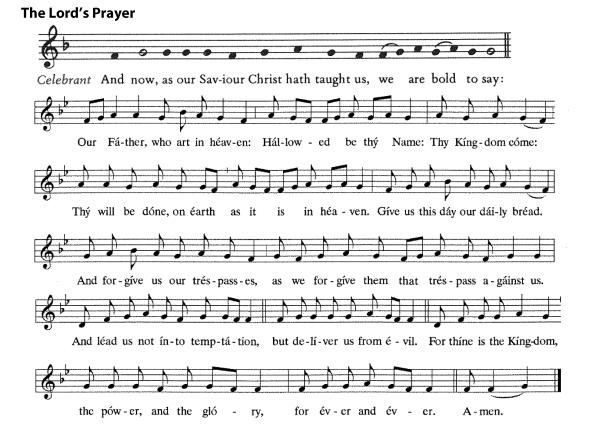
Likewise after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, for the remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy bread of eternal life and the cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded:

People: We praise thee, we bless thee, we thank thee, and we pray to thee, Lord our God.

Celebrant: And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; and we pray that by the power of the Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People: Amen.



The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed <u>for</u> us! **People:** Therefore, let us keep the feast. Allelu<u>ia</u>!

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Agnus Dei Missa O magnum mysterium, Tomás Luis de Victoria O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world: grant us thy peace.

The Communion

At this time you are invited to come up to communion. Please follow the directions of the sidespeople. If you would prefer to make a spiritual communion, please remain in your pew. We invite you to use the following words as inspiration: My Jesus, I believe that you are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Communion Sentence

In the splendour of the saints, from the womb before the morning star I begot thee. (After the Communion Sentence, the Ritual Choir sings Psalm 110, verses 1-5, 7)

Motet Hymne a la Vierge, Pierre Villette

O toute belle, Vierge Marie, Votre âme trouve en Dieu le parfait amour Il vous revêt du manteau de la Grâce Comme une fiancée parée de ses joyaux. Alleluia. Je vais chanter ta louange, Seigneur, Car tu as pris soin de moi, Car tu m'as envelopée du voile de l'innocence. Vous êtes née avant les collines O sagesse de Dieu, Porte du Salut, Heureux ce lui qui marche dans vos traces Qui apprête son coeur a la voix de vos conseils. Alleluia. Je vais chanter ta louange, Seigneur, Car tu m'as faite avant le jour, Car tu m'as fait précéder le jaillissement des sources. Avant les astres vous étiez présente Mère du Créateur au profond du ciel Quand Dieu fixait les limites du monde Vous partagiez son cœur étant à l'œuvre avec lui, Alleluia. O toute belle Vierge Marie. O most beautiful Virgin Mary, Your soul finds in the Lord perfect love; He clothes you in robes of grace Like a bride attired with jewels. Alleluia. I will sing your praises, O Lord, For you have looked after me, and covered me with the veil of innocence. You were born before the hills, O wisdom of the Lord, Gate of Redemption, Blessed is he who walks in your steps And tunes his heart to the counsels of your voice. Alleluia. I will sing your praises, O Lord, For you made me before the dawn, For you made me, before the springs poured forth. Before the stars you were there, Mother of the Creator in the highest Heaven; When God was setting the limits of the world You shared his love as you laboured with him, Alleluia. O most beautiful Virgin Mary.

After all have received communion, we sit in silent thanksgiving.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Please stand.

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord our God, that we who draw near with gladness unto the nativity of our Redeemer may, by living godly with one another, be found worthy to attain unto his fellowship, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end.

People: Amen.

The Procession

Deacon: Let us go forth in peace. Alleluia.

People: In the name of Christ. Amen. Alleluia.

Processional Hymn DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

The cantor sings the first line:

- 1. CANTOR: Of the Father's love begotten
 People: Ere the worlds began to be,
 He is Alpha and Omega,
 He the Source, the Ending He,
 Of the things that are, that have been,
 And that future years shall see
 Evermore and evermore.
- **3.** O that birth forever blessèd, when the virgin, full of grace, By the Holy Ghost conceiving, bare the Savior of our race; And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, First revealed His sacred face, Evermore and evermore!
- **5.** O ye heights of heaven adore Him; angel hosts, His praises sing; Powers, dominions, bow before Him, and extol our God and King! Let no tongue on earth be silent, Every voice in concert ring, Evermore and evermore!

- 2. At His Word the worlds were framèd;
 He commanded; it was done:
 Heaven and earth and depths of ocean
 In their threefold order one;
 All that grows beneath the shining
 Of the moon and burning sun,
 Evermore and evermore!
- 4. This is He Whom seers in old time chanted of with one accord; Whom the voices of the prophets promised in their faithful word; Now He shines, the long expected, Let creation praise its Lord, Evermore and evermore!
- **6.** Righteous judge of souls departed, Righteous King of them that live, On the Father's throne exalted None in might with Thee may strive; Who at last in vengeance coming Sinners from Thy face shalt drive, Evermore and evermore!

The Blessing of the Crêche

Celebrant: The glory of the Lord hath been revealed. Alleluia.

People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God. Alleluia.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

God our Father, who on this night didst give thy Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary, for us and for our salvation: Bless this crib, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; and grant that all who see it may be strengthened in faith, and receive the fullness of life which he came to bring; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

The Angelus

Celebrant: The angel of the Lord brought tidings to Mary;

People: And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou among women, and

blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Celebrant: Behold the handmaid of the Lord. **People:** Be it unto me according to thy word.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and

blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Celebrant: And the Word was made flesh;

People: And dwelt among us.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessèd art thou among women, and

blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

Celebrant: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God:

People: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Celebrant: Let us pray. We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross † and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: Amen.

7. Thee let old men, thee let young men,

Thee let boys in chorus sing; Matrons, virgins, little maidens, with glad voices answering; Let their guileless songs re-echo, And the heart its praises bring, Evermore and evermore. 8. Christ, to Thee, with God the Father,

And, O Holy Ghost, to Thee

Hymn and chant and high thanksgiving

And unwearied praises be,

Honour, glory, and dominion,

And eternal victory,

Evermore and evermore.

The Sending Forth of the Community

The Christmas Blessing

Celebrant: May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this

holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your hearts with the light of his

holiness.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad tidings of the Saviour's birth, fill

you with joy, and make you heralds of the gospel.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: May God, who in the Word made flesh hath joined heaven to earth and earth to

heaven, give you his peace and favour.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon

you and remain with you for ever.

People: Amen.

Dismissal



Hymn 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!

3. See how the shepherds, Summoned to His cradle,

Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear:

We too will thither

Bend our joyful footsteps: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord! Very God, Begotten, O*come, le*i

2. God of God.

Light of Light,

Begotten, not created: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

4. Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation;

Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!

Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;

Glory to God, In the highest:

O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,

Christ the Lord!

5. Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, Born this happy morning; Jesu, to Thee be glory given; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Postlude Carillon-Sortie, Henri Mulet

Please join us at the back of the church for our traditional Réveillon Christmas party!

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Celebrant & Homilist Father Eric Beresford Deacon Father Jake Cunliffe Subdeacon Nora Lowe Interim Director of Music David Simon

Land acknowledgement for the Church of St Mary Magdalene

We wish to acknowledge this land on which the Church of St Mary Magdalene stands. For thousands of years it has been the traditional land of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, the Huron-Wendat, the Seneca, the Anishinaabe, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. This land is part of the Dish with One Spoon Treaty, and the Two Row Wampum Belt. Today, this meeting place is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island, and we are grateful to have the opportunity to care for the plants and creatures provided by the Creator, and to live and worship on this land. (Compiled by Jo-Ann Dawson and Richard Woolrich)