



ST. GREGORY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

radiates God's grace, equipping all people to change the world.

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The Feast of the Holy Name January 1, 2023 | 9:30am



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Welcome to St Gregory's

If you are visiting, we invite you to take a Welcome Card from the pew holder, and if you are willing, fill it out and put it in the offering plate or give it to a greeter so that we might thank you for worshipping with us. All are truly welcome to participate in worship, and we believe our community is made stronger by your unique presence as we join in prayer and communion.

Our Worship

In the Episcopal Church, we often say that praying shapes believing, so how we worship in word and action shapes how we believe and respond to God. We are physical creatures made in God's image, and the physical nature of our worship helps us to connect more fully to God. Therefore, at St. Gregory's, we change our liturgy during each liturgical season to help us more fully embrace the theology and tone of the season.

Our sacred time of worship includes several different activities: singing, listening, praying, and feasting. This liturgy is enriched by the participation of everyone in the room. **All are invited to speak the bolded text aloud.** Some people choose to manifest prayers in physical ways to center their hearts and minds on God's presence in their lives and in the worship – we call these actions “manual acts,” which are listed as follows throughout the bulletin:

(v) Bowing one's head at Jesus' name reminds us that Jesus is the King of Kings, ruling from a place of humility.

(+) There are several points during the liturgy, where many people cross themselves by touching their head, chest, and each shoulder (left then right) to remind themselves that God is in their head, heart, and in all of their actions in the world.

(+++) At the declaration of the Gospel, many people make the sign of the cross with their thumb on their forehead, lips, and heart as the Gospel is announced. This action is a prayer asking God's word to be in our minds, our words, and in our hearts.

Generally speaking, we stand to pray, kneel to confess, and sit to hear. Regardless of what others are doing, how you physically worship is up to you and how you experience God. Your presence and participation is what matters most to God.

A Note about the Season of Christmas

Luke's story of Christ's birth takes us on a journey with a young couple who has been through an incredibly confusing and challenging time. They arrive in an out-of-the-way village after traveling a long distance from their own home, and find themselves without a place to stay. Mary gives birth to the son of God in less-than-ideal conditions. In our imaginations, she is surrounded by the warmth, smells, and noise of many animals as her labor companions. The shepherds asleep in the fields are awakened by startling brightness and angels singing God's praises and announcing the birth of Jesus. The announcement brings awe, wonder, and joy.

At this service, we enter into the awe, wonder, and joy of the birth of our Savior. On this occasion, the whole world rejoices with exultant voices joined with angels to celebrate the miracle of God incarnate. Our worship today is filled with reminders of God's presence among us: joyful hymns and music of praise just as the angels sang to announce the birth; candles and light to remind us of Christ's light in our broken world; ringing bells to call our attention to the mystery of Christ's birth, death, resurrection, and ascension; an exuberantly decorated space to remind us of God's abundance; and white vestments and altar dressings to proclaim God's pure, holy, and vulnerable presence in our lives and in the world.



THE WORD OF GOD

We begin our worship by observing a period of quiet (begun and ended with the ringing of a bell) to slow ourselves and rest in God's presence.

The people stand, as they are able.

ENTRANCE HYMN

An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing.

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King!

Glo - - - - - ri - a!

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

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

OPENING ACCLAMATION

All are invited to speak the bolded text aloud.

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **(v) Amen.**

We begin our worship by gathering together as the body of Christ, and acknowledging our participation together in the Body of Christ. The Presider invites us to praise God together.



SONG OF PRAISE

1 It came up - on days the mid - night clear, that
 4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
 pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
 when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.



We are invited to pray, and then the collect collects our prayers together in a single concluding prayer tailored toward the church season.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; **(v)** who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

We follow a three-year cycle of readings called a Lectionary. These are lessons being heard in congregations from many denominations throughout the world on this day. The first reading is from the Hebrew Scriptures, which tell us the story of God's love and faithfulness to God's people from the beginning of time to just before Christ.

FIRST READING

NUMBERS 6:22-27

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 8

Chanted by the cantor.

The Psalm is a hymn or poem. The psalms cover the whole range of the relationship between God and God's people. The Book of Psalms, while a "book" of the Bible, consists of 150 hymns intended to be sung.

- 1 O God our Ruler,
how exalted is your Name in all the world!
- 2 Out of the mouths of infants and children
your majesty is praised above the heavens.
- 3 You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries,
to quell the enemy and the avenger.
- 4 When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,
- 5 What is humankind that you should be mindful of them?
the child of humankind that you should seek them out?
- 6 You have made them but little lower than the angels;
you adorn them with glory and honor;
- 7 You give them mastery over the works of your hands;
you put all things under their feet:
- 8 All sheep and oxen,
even the wild beasts of the field,
- 9 The birds of the air, the fish of the sea,
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
- 10 O God our Ruler,
how exalted is your Name in all the world!



The Second Lesson is usually a reading from one of the New Testament Epistles (or letters), though occasionally from the Acts of the Apostles or the Book of Revelation. They teach us about the formation of the church and instruct us on how to live into our role as followers of Christ.

THE EPISTLE

PHILIPPIANS 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death-- even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The people stand, as they are able. Children are invited to join the procession in the aisle for the reading of the Gospel.

SEQUENCE HYMN (verse 1)

Musical score for the Sequence Hymn (verse 1) with lyrics: 1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed, * 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head. close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay. and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.



During the Holy Eucharist, there is always a reading from a Gospel. We stand to indicate the importance we place on Jesus' words and actions. The deacon or priest proclaims the Gospel in the midst of the people to represent the Good News that Jesus has come among us, and we all turn toward it.

THE GOSPEL

LUKE 2:15-21

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, (v) according to Luke.
Glory to you, Lord Christ. (++++)

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. After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN (verse 2)

The people sit.

SERMON

The Rev. Anne B. Jolly, Rector

A period of quiet (begun and ended with the ringing of a bell) is observed to slow ourselves and rest in God's presence.

The people stand, as they are able.

NICENE CREED

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, (v) 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: was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly 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.

The sermon is meant to help us make the Word of God a living and transforming reality of our lives today.

In the Nicene Creed, we respond to the proclamation of God's Word by affirming the historic faith of the Church. We "believe" (from the Latin credere, literally "to put one's heart into") because we offer our trust in the story of God's creating, redeeming, and remaining with the world. "We" believe because the church as a whole, the Body of Christ, carries and strengthens the faith of each individual.



**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
 who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who 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.**

The Prayers of the People are always responsive, because everyone gives voice to the supplications. We include prayers for others throughout the world, in our diocese, and those connected to our congregation. This is the part of the liturgy where it is most evident that we would be noticeably less without the contributions of each person present. We voice prayers from our parish prayer list, as well as requests from the onsite and online worshippers.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, and Michael, our Presiding Bishop; for Paula, our Bishop, and Anne, Max, and our Better Together clergy, Kristin, Bryan, and Adam; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the church.

Lord, hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. (prayers of joy and gratitude) Pray for justice and peace.

Lord, hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. (prayers for the sick, sad, lonely, and afraid). Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Lord, hear our prayer.

I ask for your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found in him.

Lord, hear our prayer.

I ask your prayers for the dead, witnesses of God's shining splendor (prayers for the dead or the dying). Pray for those we love, but see no longer.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored, especially the Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Gregory, our Patron. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Almighty God, You who called the universe into being, You who formed our inmost being and called us to be your people: assist us in living hopefully into the future. In the face of change, help us to set fears aside and to recognize our potential for creative response because we are made in your image. Help us to guard against our own defensiveness when confronted by changes and challenges, and instead listen to your still, small voice, and to lean toward your hope. Be with us as we remember and celebrate former times, and keep us from unreasonable yearning for them, which takes us from the work you have set before us in this time. All this we ask in the name of your Child, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **(v) Amen.**



In the confession we admit the ways we have not lived as we were created to live, both individually, and corporately, and ask for forgiveness. The priest declares to us the wonderful grace of God's promise of forgiveness, reconciliation, and the absolute remission of guilt.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people kneel as they are able. Silence will be kept.

Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done and in the good we have not done. We have sinned in ignorance: we have sinned in weakness: we have sinned through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry. We repent and turn to you. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, (v) strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace has been exchanged at the Eucharist since the time of the first Christians. It is a profound act to offer the miraculous peace of God to one another before we join in communion with God and each other.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

The congregation greets each other in the peace of Christ.

The people sit.

PRAYERS FOR BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES, AND TRAVELS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

*"Wexford Carol"
arr. David Downes*

The Offertory is when we bring our gifts of bread, wine, money, and our very selves to present to the Lord as our initial act of thanksgiving. This collection is a visible reminder that our whole lives are God's, and a part of what God has given us we give back in thanksgiving for all that we have and all that we are. You can use this QR code to give to StGs online.



*Good people all, this Christmastime, consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done in sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray to God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.
Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear, which put the shepherds in great fear.
"Arise and go," the angels said, "to Bethlehem, be not afraid;
For there you'll find this happy morn a princely babe, sweet Jesus born."
With thankful heart and joyful mind, the shepherds went, that babe to find,
And as God's angel had foretold, they did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger He was laid, and by His side the virgin maid,
As long foretold upon that morn there was a blessed Messiah born.*



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The people stand, as they are able.

The Eucharist, or Communion, is the act of offering, breaking bread, and sharing in Christ's life, death, and resurrection. It also reminds us that we are Christ's body in our world today.

OFFERTORY HYMN

So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come, pea-sant, king, to own him.

The King of Kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en-throne him.

Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;

Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 right and good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

As Episcopalians, the Eucharist is the principal act of worship, in which we always have a full proclamation of the heart of the Gospel. Celebrating Eucharist is something we do together, so we all take part in the prayers.



The Sanctus (holy, holy, holy) recalls the words of the prophet Isaiah, overwhelmed by the presence of God in the sanctuary, and these words were sung by the people as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. The Sanctus reminds us that this is an offering of the whole creation, which joins in singing these praises.

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, Ho-ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of hosts. Heav - en and earth are
 full, are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
 san-na in the high-est. Bless-ed is the One who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high-est.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in Jesus Christ, (v) the Word made flesh.

For in these last days you sent Jesus to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Savior Jesus Christ (v) 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, according to his command, O God,

**We remember Christ's death,
 We proclaim Christ's resurrection,
 We await Christ's coming in glory;**

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, (v) through whom we are acceptable to you, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. (+) In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Gregory, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Savior, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.



The Great Amen is the only word in our Book of Common Prayer that is in all capital letters. It emphasizes that we all join together in asking Jesus to be present in the bread and wine, in boldly affirming our desire to receive God. It is appropriate to sing this with enthusiasm!

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, **(v)** in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.



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

**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 Lord's Prayer is the prayer that Jesus gave to his followers when they asked him to teach them to pray. It links our daily bread to the spiritual food we receive in the Eucharist.

THE FRACTION

The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread.

The Fraction recalls Jesus breaking the bread at the Last Supper to share with the disciples, and reminds us that Jesus' body was broken on the cross for us to be shared with the world. Therefore we keep a moment of silence for prayers of awe and gratitude.



INVITATION

All are welcome at the Lord's table. Baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are invited to receive Holy Communion. Gluten-free bread is available; please ask the clergy. Receiving the bread only is full communion in the body of Christ, so if you choose to not receive the wine, you may cross your arms over your chest as you pass the Eucharistic Minister, or take a cup of consecrated juice.

To receive communion, hold out your hands and you will be given the bread. Then take a cup of wine or juice from the Eucharistic Minister, move to the next tray, consume the bread and wine there, put the empty cup in the tray, and replace your mask before returning to your seat.

Anyone who has not been baptized, or for other reasons desires to receive a blessing instead of Communion is invited to come forward, and cross your arms over your chest to indicate your desire for a blessing. If you seek a deeper relationship with Christ through baptism, please speak with a priest after the service.



COMMUNION HYMN

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!



The Prayer for Spiritual Communion articulates a hunger for unity with Jesus Christ when you cannot physically receive the Body and Blood of Christ. This prayer connects the one(s) praying with the reception of Holy Communion. Those worshipping online are invited to say this prayer as those onsite receive Communion.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION *(for those worshipping remotely)*

In union, gracious God, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we offer to you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, O Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, **(v)** and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

The people stand, as they are able.

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS *(when appropriate)*

We send you out to share Communion this week.

May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this sacrament of Christ's presence.

May those who receive it from you be strengthened and encouraged in that community we have together in our Lord Jesus Christ. **(v) Amen.**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. (v) Amen.

The people sit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The people stand, as they are able.

BLESSING

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 heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, **(+)** be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

After Communion, we give thanks for being part of the communion of God's life and for being fed so that we may go out to feed and serve others in our world.

One of the roles of the priest is to declare the eternal truth of God's ever-present blessing to God's people.



EXIT HYMN



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;
4 Now to the Lord sing prais - es, all you with - in this place,



re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,
and with true love and char - i - ty each o - ther now em - brace;



to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.
this ho - ly tide of Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.

Refrain



O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

The Deacon dismisses the people, and the people respond,

Thanks be to God!

Having heard the Gospel and having been fed at communion, the final act of our common worship is the Dismissal. It is not an afterthought, but an integral part of the service. Jesus' final action on earth was to send his followers into the world to make disciples, baptizing and teaching them to obey all he had commanded. And so we are sent out into the world to proclaim the Good News and be Christ's hands and feet on earth.

Community Meals - TODAY!

Feeding people is one of StGs' core vocations - so approximately once a month, StGs serves our neighbors in Waukegan. We meet at noon to cook a hot meal and fill bags with non-perishable food, serve our guests at 2pm, and are done by 3pm. If you're interested in helping with this important ministry, please reach out to Barb Schaper at bschaper7@aol.com.

Better Together Epiphany Pageant - THIS FRIDAY, January 6 on Zoom

Mark your calendars for the Better Together Epiphany celebration on Friday, January 6 at 7:00 pm on Zoom. This celebration will include compline and the world premiere of the children's Epiphany Pageant! Please contact Shelley (shelley@stgregorychurch.org) with any questions.

Zoom meeting ID: 814 4479 0883

Zoom password: 547812

Anne's last Sunday - NEXT SUNDAY, January 8!

Please join us January 8 for a joyous celebration of Anne's ministry among us right after the service in Founder's Hall! If you would like to help with the party, please reach out to Jill Polzin (polzin.jbco@gmail.com) or Mary Rodgers (mary.a.rodgers@gmail.com). If you would like to contribute to a gift for Anne (Bishops-elect need a lot of new things!), please contribute online or send a check to StGs with memo "bishop elect gift" to the attention of Charlene postmarked no later than Friday, January 20.



Annual Giving 2023

Our core values of sharing joy and hope, feeding people, and facilitating community through our God-given traits of adaptability, visibility, and vitality provide us depth and grace to continue on in a time of transition. The leadership team of StGs (Wardens, Vestry, and Staff) remain committed to using our gifts to engage more deeply in our Better Together partnership, serve and care for the marginalized, and continue to reach out to people in the community and online with the good news of Jesus Christ.

Thank you for your support of StGs in 2022! We encourage you to prayerfully consider what you can give to God's work at StGs in 2023. Your financial commitment to our annual operating budget supports our daily parish life and enables us to continue to be God's hands in the world. Giving is an act of spiritual discipline, guided by our love of God and gratitude for the abundance that God gives us. When you let us know an amount you intend to give, it is both an act of commitment to your discipline, and also a courtesy to our financial team so that we can, in good faith, continue to plan how to serve.

Please fill out your pledge card and return to the church by **THIS WEDNESDAY, January 4**. Alternatively, please fill out the pledge form online to let us know what financial commitment you can make to StGs in 2023. Without strong commitment from our StGs community, our budget will need to look very different in 2023. We appreciate your quick response as your pledge is instrumental to finalize the budget and plan.



Find the following words in the puzzle.
Words are hidden ↑ ↓ → ← and ↘ .

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|----------|-----------|------------|
| AMAZED | FISH | JOSEPH | PONDERED | STARS |
| ANGELS | GLORIFY | LIKENESS | PRAISE | STRONGHOLD |
| BEASTS | HASTE | MAGNIFY | PURITY | TREASURED |
| BETHLEHEM | HOLY NAME | MAJESTY | SALVATION | |
| BIRDS | HUMAN | MANGER | SAVIOR | |
| COUNTENANCE | HUMANKIND | MARY | SHEEP | |
| EIGHT | INCARNATE | MOON | SHEPHERDS | |
| EXALTED | JESUS | OBEDIENT | SHINE | |