

And the Word became
flesh and dwelt among
us, and we beheld
His glory
John 1:14

Jesus

LESSONS & CAROLS
CHRISTMAS EVE
OF THE NATIVITY



*We will glorify God by deepening the roots of our Anglican faith,
and bringing people to new life in Jesus Christ.*



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Rector/Pastor: The Rev. Michael J. Bridge



Lessons & Carols Service

Prelude

Oh Little Town of Bethlehem

(Verse 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

(Verse 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 men on earth

(Verse 3)

How silently how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n
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

Lighting of Advent Wreath *(As the candles are lit, we quiet ourselves and prepare for worship.)*

Processional Song

Oh Come All Ye Faithful

(Verse 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

(chorus)

O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
O come let us adore Him
Christ the Lord

(Verse 2)

Sing choirs of angels
Sing in exultation
O sing all ye bright
Hosts of heav'n above
Glory to God
All glory in the highest
(repeat chorus)

(Verse 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
(repeat chorus)

First Lesson

Genesis 2:4-9 & 15-25 *read by Toni DuBois*

⁴These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Lord God made the earth and the heavens.⁵When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the Lord God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground,⁶ and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—⁷then the Lord God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.⁸And the Lord God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed.⁹And out of the ground the Lord God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the

garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” ¹⁸ Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.” ¹⁹ Now out of the ground the Lord God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. ²⁰ The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. ²¹ So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. ²² And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. ²³ Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” ²⁴ Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. ²⁵ And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

Carol **Angels From The Realms of Glory**

(Verse 1)

Angels from the realms of glory,
Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye who sang creation's story,
Now proclaim Messiah's birth.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King!

(Verse 2)

Shepherds in the fields abiding,
Watching o'er your flocks by night;
God with man is now residing,
Yonder shines the infant Light.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King!

(Verse 3)

Sages, leave your contemplation's,
Brighter visions beam afar;
Seek the great Desire of nations,
Ye have seen His natal star.
Come and worship, come and worship;
Worship Christ, the new-born King!

Second Lesson **Genesis 3:1-23** *read by Danny Bridge*

¹ Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” ² And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵ For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰ And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹² The

man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate."¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."¹⁴ The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life."¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field."¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.²¹ And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.²² Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever—" ²³ therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden to work the ground from which he was taken.

Carol God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen

(Verse 1)

God rest ye merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray

(Chorus)

O tidings of comfort and joy
Comfort and joy
O tidings of comfort and joy

(Verse 2)

From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name

(Verse 3)

Fear not then said the angel
Let nothing you affright
This day is born a Saviour
Of a pure virgin bright
To free all those who trust in Him
From Satan's pow'r and might

(Verse 4)

Now to the Lord sing praises
All you within this place
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace
This holy tide of Christmas
All others doth deface

Third Lesson Isaiah 40:1-11 *read by Leah Williams*

¹ Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. ² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the Lord's hand double for all her sins. ³ A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. ⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. ⁵ And the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has

spoken.” ⁶ A voice says, “Cry!” And I said, “What shall I cry?” All flesh is grass, and all its beauty is like the flower of the field.⁷ The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the Lord blows on it; surely the people are grass. ⁸ The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. ⁹ Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, “Behold your God!” ¹⁰ Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. ¹¹ He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

Carol **Comfort Ye My People (The Messiah)**

(Verse 1)

Comfort Ye
 Comfort Ye My People,
 Comfort Ye My People
 Says your God, says your God

(Chorus 1)

Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem
 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem

(Verse 2)

And cry to her that her warfare,
 her warfare is now over
 Her warfare, her warfare is now over
 That her iniquity is pardoned,
 that her iniquity is pardoned

(Chorus 2)

That her iniquity is pardoned,
 that her iniquity is pardoned

Fourth Lesson **Isaiah 7: 10-15** *read by Eugene Smith*

¹⁰ Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz: ¹¹ “Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven.” ¹² But Ahaz said, “I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test.” ¹³ And he said, “Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary men, that you weary my God also? ¹⁴ Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel. ¹⁵ He shall eat curds and honey when he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good.

Carol **What Child is This**

(Verse 1)

What Child is this who laid to rest
 On Mary's lap is sleeping
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
 While shepherds watch are keeping
 This this is Christ the King
 Whom shepherds guard and angels sing
 Haste haste to bring Him laud
 The Babe the Son of Mary

(Verse 2)

Why lies He in such mean estate
 Where ox and ass are feeding
 Good Christian fear for sinners here
 The silent Word is pleading

Nails spear shall pierce Him through
 The cross be borne for me for you
 Hail hail the Word made flesh
 The Babe the Son of Mary

(Verse 3)

So bring Him incense gold and myrrh
 Come peasant king to own Him
 The King of kings salvation brings
 Let loving hearts enthrone Him
 Raise raise the song on high
 The Virgin sings her lullaby
 Joy joy for Christ is born
 The Babe the Son of Mary

Fifth Lesson **Luke 1:26-56** *read by Gretchen Lucky*

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth,

²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's

name was Mary.²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!"²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be.³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David,³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God.³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren.³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God."³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.³⁹ In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah,⁴⁰ and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth.⁴¹ And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,⁴² and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!⁴³ And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?⁴⁴ For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy.⁴⁵ And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord."⁴⁶ And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord,⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,⁴⁸ for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;⁴⁹ for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name.⁵⁰ And his mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation.⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;⁵² he has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate;⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.⁵⁴ He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy,⁵⁵ as he spoke to our fathers, to Abraham and to his offspring forever."⁵⁶ And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Carol Once in Royal David's City

(Verse 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.

(Verse 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 meek, and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

(Verse 3)

And our eyes at last shall see Him,
through His own redeeming love;
for that Child so dear and gentle
is our Lord in heav'n above,
and He leads His children on
to the place where He is gone.

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Sixth Lesson Luke 1:57-80 read by Connie Woods

⁵⁷ Now the time came for Elizabeth to give birth, and she bore a son.⁵⁸ And her neighbors and relatives heard that the Lord had shown great mercy to her, and they rejoiced with her.⁵⁹ And on the eighth day they came to circumcise the child. And they would have called him Zechariah after his father,⁶⁰ but his mother answered, "No; he shall be called John."⁶¹ And they said to her, "None

of your relatives is called by this name.”⁶² And they made signs to his father, inquiring what he wanted him to be called.⁶³ And he asked for a writing tablet and wrote, “His name is John.” And they all wondered.⁶⁴ And immediately his mouth was opened and his tongue loosed, and he spoke, blessing God.⁶⁵ And fear came on all their neighbors. And all these things were talked about through all the hill country of Judea,⁶⁶ and all who heard them laid them up in their hearts, saying, “What then will this child be?” For the hand of the Lord was with him.⁶⁷ And his father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied, saying,⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has visited and redeemed his people⁶⁹ and has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David,⁷⁰ as he spoke by the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,⁷¹ that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us;⁷² to show the mercy promised to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant,⁷³ the oath that he swore to our father Abraham, to grant us⁷⁴ that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies, might serve him without fear,⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness before him all our days.⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,⁷⁷ to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins,⁷⁸ because of the tender mercy of our God, whereby the sunrise shall visit us from on high⁷⁹ to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”⁸⁰ And the child grew and became strong in spirit, and he was in the wilderness until the day of his public appearance to Israel.

Carol It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

(Verse 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 men
From heaven's all gracious King
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing

(Verse 2)

Still thro' 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

(Verse 3)

And ye beneath life's crushing load
Whose forms are bending low
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow
Look now for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing

(Verse 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 splendors fling
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing

All Stand

Seventh Lesson Luke 2:1-20 read by Erika Dielman

¹ In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered.

² This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴ And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵ to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶ And while they

were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" ¹⁵When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." ¹⁶And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Carol Angels We Have Heard on High

(Verse 1)

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains
And the mountains in reply
Echo back their joyous strains

(chorus)

Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo

(Verse 2)

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
Say what may these tidings be
Which inspire your heavenly song

(repeat chorus)

(Verse 3)

Come to Bethlehem and see
Him whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

(repeat chorus)

Homily The Rev. Michael J. Bridge Carol The First Noel

(Verse 1)

The first Noel the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep

(chorus)

Noel Noel Noel Noel
Born is the King of Israel

(Verse 2)

They looked up and saw a star
Shining in the east beyond them far
And to the earth it gave great light
And so it continued both day and night

(repeat chorus)

(Verse 4)

This star drew nigh to the northwest
O'er Bethlehem it took its rest
And there it did both stop and stay
Right over the place where Jesus lay

(repeat chorus)

Peace Please stand

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And with your spirit.** Please greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Children's Choir

How Great Our Joy

(Verse 1)

While by the sheep we watched at night
Glad tidings brought an angel bright

(chorus)

How great our joy (great our joy)
Joy joy joy (joy joy joy)
Praise we the Lord in heaven on high
(Praise we the Lord in heaven on high)

(Verse 2)

There shall be born so he did say
In Bethlehem a Child today
(repeat chorus)

(Verse 3)

There shall the Child lie in a stall
This Child who shall redeem us all
(repeat chorus)

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Offertory *page 149*

Celebrant: Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he himself said "It is more blessed to give than to receive." Acts 20:35

Offertory Song *Away in a Manger*

(Verse 1)

Away in a manger no crib for a bed
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay

(Verse 2)

The cattle are lowing the Baby awakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee Lord Jesus look down from the sky
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh

(Verse 3)

Be near me Lord Jesus I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever and love me I pray
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there

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Doxology *Please stand as the offering is brought forward*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

Offertory Prayer *page 131*

Celebrant: Yours, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O Lord.

People: And of your own have we given you. *1 Chronicles 29:11, 14*

The Sacrament of Holy Communion *page 132 (152)*

Please remain standing, if you are able to do so.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with your spirit.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to

be born for us; who, by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children. 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:

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

Prayer of Consecration *page 132-134*

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become, subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke 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, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer *Prayed together page 134*

Celebrant: And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

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.

Minister: Alleluia. Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed, once for all upon the cross.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. **Alleluia.**

The Prayer of Humble Access *page 135*

All Pray: We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. *Amen*

Holy Communion *page 136*

Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. *John 1:29, Revelation 19:9*

We invite all baptized Christians to join in Holy Communion. The ushers will guide you forward where you may receive Communion. The celebrant will offer you bread then a chalice bearer will offer you wine. Should you prefer not to drink from the cup, you may dip the bread into the chalice. If there is a reason you do not want to take bread or wine, you may remain seated or you are welcome to come to the front, to the left of the Communion service, where a member of our prayer team is available to quietly pray with and for you.

Communion Carol

Oh Holy Night

(Verse 1)

O holy night! the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior'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!

(chorus 1)

*Fall on your knees Oh hear the angel voices
Oh night divine, Oh night when Christ was born!*

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(Verse 3)

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! O praise His name forever!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

(chorus 3)

*Christ is the Lord!
O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!
His power and glory evermore proclaim!*

Post-Communion Prayer *Prayed together page 137*

Let us pray: **Heavenly Father, We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Blessing *page 137*

Celebrant: The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**

Light Candles

Recessional Carol Joy To The World

(Verse 1)

Joy to the world The Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and nature sing
And heaven and heaven
And nature sing

(Verse 2)

Joy to the world The Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods Rocks hills and plains
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat the sounding joy
Repeat repeat the sounding joy

(Verse 3)

No more let sins And sorrows grow
Nor thorns infest the ground
He comes to make
His blessings flow
Far as the curse is found
Far as the curse is found
Far as far as the curse is found

(Verse 4)

He rules the world With truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders wonders of His love

Dismissal Carol Silent Night *(lights out)*

(Verse 1)

Silent night holy night
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

(Verse 2)

Silent night holy night
Shepherds quake at the sight
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia
Christ the Saviour is born
Christ the Saviour is born

(Verse 3)

Silent night holy night
Son of God love's pure light
Radiant beams from the holy face
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus Lord at Thy birth
Jesus Lord at Thy birth

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia**

THE SEASON OF ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

We have now entered the season of Advent. Awaiting the coming of the Messiah, Jesus, our Lord and Savior. The color has been changed to purple and will change to white Christmas Eve, His coming. The Advent wreath is standing in the nave. Four candles, three purple and one pink, in the center the Christ candle, all surrounded by evergreens. Each Sunday a candle is lit representing Peace, Love, Joy, and Hope. As we reflect, let us not forget...Jesus is the reason for the season. Our most treasured gift from a Father who loves us. Merry Christmas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **FR. MIKE'S OFFICE HOURS** – Tuesday & Wednesday 1–5pm, Thursdays & Fridays 9:00am – 1pm

MEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **MEN'S BREAKFAST** – Tuesdays at 8:30am for food and fellowship at Southwood's Restaurant
- **MEN'S BIBLE STUDY** – Fridays at 9am in the annex study
- **MEN'S MINISTRY PROGRAM** – Our next meeting is January 23rd in Blanz Hall and leader TBD. Our meetings will include fellowship 5:30 – 6:30p.m., dinner 6:30 – 7:30p.m. and a short teaching 7:30 – 8:00 p.m. I hope you will join us. Bring your own beverage of choice and a friend.

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **WOMEN'S COFFEE FELLOWSHIP** – meets at 9-11am, Saturday, Saturday, January 4th, host and location TBD. Join us on the first and third Saturdays of the month. All women are encouraged to come and bring a friend. Sign-up sheet to host in Blanz Hall.

MEETING & EVENT ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **NEW LIFE 'S ANNUAL MEETING** is Sunday, January 19, 2025 after the morning worship service.
- **THURSDAY MORNING PRAYER – Off for December** – We will resume meeting weekly, Thursday, January 2nd at 8:30 am in Fr. Mike's Office. All are welcome.
- **THE UNDERGROUND CHURCH OF NORTHERN MICHIGAN** – Join us here at New Life, Thursday, January 2nd at 6:30pm until 8:00pm. Come read the Bible and share testimonies of what Jesus has done for you and others with D. W. Lucky III and Fr. Mike Bridge. We will continue in Matthew and take our time with an open question and answer event. Adults 18+ are welcome to join us.
- **CONFESSING THE FAITH: ANGLICAN DOCTRINE** – 12-wk Study – continues to meet **Sundays** each week at 9am in the annex study downstairs and **resumes meeting Wednesdays on January 15th** for Pizza & Salad Dinner at 6pm followed by the study at 6:30pm in Blanz Hall.

THIS WEEK AT NEW LIFE *(Unless otherwise indicated, all events are at the church)*

<i>Christmas Eve</i>	6:30 pm	<i>Lessons & Carols Service - The Rev. Michael J. Bridge</i>
Wednesday 12/25		* Merry Christmas *
Thursday 12/26		<i>Morning Prayer will resume meeting January 2nd - in Fr. Mike's Office</i>
Friday 12/27	9:00pm	Men's Bible Study in annex study
Sunday 12/29	9:00am	Confessing the Faith Study in annex study
	9:55 am	<i>Announcements followed by Quiet Reflection</i>
	10:00am	Sunday Service - The Rev. Michael J. Bridge
		After Service ~ Coffee Hour ~ downstairs in Blanz Hall

CHRISTMAS EVE AND SUNDAY SERVING SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE, DECEMBER 24:

Altar Guild: Karen Dielman
Music: Dylan, Wes & Ferd
1st Lesson: Toni DuBois
2nd Lesson: Danny Bridge
3rd Lesson: Leah Williams
4th Lesson: Eugene Smith
5th Lesson: Gretchen Lucky
6th Lesson: Connie Woods
7th Lesson: Erika Dielman
Lay Minister: Mickey Bridge
Usher: Dan Wandrie
Greeter: Taylor DuBois

NEXT SUNDAY, DECEMBER 29:

Altar Guild: Karen Dielman
Music: Dylan, Wes & Ferd
Lector: Leah Williams
Lay Minister: Erika Dielman
Prayer Team: Sally & Leah
Usher/Counter: Dan W. / Randy F.
Greeter: Leah Williams
Coffee Hour: The Ostrandors



Christmas Altar Flower Tributes



George & Carol Bowman

In Memory of
Edith & Don Magnard

In Memory of
Gertrude & Ralph Bowman

Guy

Christmas Flower Donation

Wes & Liz Ostrander

In Memory of
John & Marjorie Casz

In Memory of
Burl & Sandra Ostrander

Dan & Darlene Wandrie

In Memory of
George H. Ellison, Jr.

In Memory of
Pauline Ellison

In Memory of
James A. Wandrie

In Memory of
Timothy A. Wandrie

The Diekmans

In Thanksgiving for
Our Family

In Thanksgiving for
Fr. Mike & New Life

April Honeycutt

In Memory of
Pauline & George Ellison
Timothy & James Wandrie
David Honeycutt
Carolyn Talarico

Gil & Sally Stump

In Memory of
family members

Wally & Betty Stansbury

In thanksgiving
For our Church &
For Michael our Pastor

Lou & Mary Jane Zako

With Thanksgiving for
our many blessings
and for Rob & Kayleen



For to us a child is born, to us a son is given;
and the government shall be upon his shoulder,
and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6 esv



Who We Are

We, the Members of New Life Anglican Church, form a welcoming and loving Anglican community. As followers of Jesus Christ, we love and praise God, and love our neighbors as ourselves. We celebrate liturgy and the sacraments, engage in lifelong formation through the Holy Spirit, and proclaim God's reign of justice, mercy and peace.

Our Vision

We will glorify God by deepening the roots of our Anglican faith, and bringing people to new life in Jesus Christ.

Our Mission

We will achieve the Great Commission through fulfillment of spiritual needs of our Church and community.

Our Motto

Deep Roots, New Life

Our Beliefs

We believe in the Trinity; Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

We believe that the Bible is the inspired word of God.

We believe that through the sin of Adam in the Garden of Eden, all of mankind has fallen and been corrupted by sin, and that God gave his only Son, Jesus, to die upon the cross for the forgiveness of our sins.

We believe that The Nicene Creed and The Apostles Creed summarize the essentials of the Christian faith.

We believe that God the Holy Spirit dwells within us, and empowers us to a life of transformation and sanctification.

We believe in spiritual gifts.

We believe in the power of prayer.

Our Core Values

We value God's word.

We value God's creation.

We value holiness and spirit filled living.

We value life from conception to death.

We value generosity, charity and giving in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

We value spiritual growth.

We value the sacrament of Marriage as ordained by God.

NEW LIFE
ANGLICAN CHURCH
IS A MEMBER
CONGREGATION OF
THE ANGLICAN
CHURCH IN
NORTH AMERICA
DIOCESE OF THE
GREAT LAKES.

If You Are Visiting For The First Time

We welcome you, and we pray you will encounter the Lord in this place.

If you have any special needs, please tell one of our greeters or ushers. One is usually seated at the back of the room during the service.

Bathrooms are at the bottom of the stairs: the ladies' room is to the right; the men's room is down the hallway on the left.

Please join us for coffee and refreshments downstairs.

We invite you to sign our guest book or a Visitor's Card in the pew and drop it in the offering plate.

If you need additional prayer after services, please ask someone on the prayer team or fill out a Prayer Request Card

If you would like to learn more about New Life, please let us know.

We pray God will bless your day, and we hope to see you here next Sunday.