

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

431 Richmond Place NE, ABQ NM 87106 ◊ 505.262.2484 ◊ www.stmarksabq.org

December 24, 2023 - 8 PM
Christmas Eve



**"Let the heavens be glad; the earth rejoice."
Psalm 96:11**



A Christmas Welcome

Beloved of God, we are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us on this Holy Night of Christ's Nativity. As we celebrate the love of God that came down at Christmas, we want to welcome you into this joyful community called St. Mark's.

St. Mark's is a lively, progressive and faith-filled community involved in active ministry with children, youth and adults. Together we are building something beautiful for God in our neighborhood and reaching out to the community around us. We encourage our members and friends to get involved in worship, work and service that moves them: singing in the choir, feeding the hungry, reaching out to our elderly members, joining classes and retreats, working with children, advocating for peace and justice, and more.

St. Mark's is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion, with origins in the ancient church of England. We are a church that is both catholic and protestant. Our theology, spirituality, sacraments and orders of ministry give witness to the former. Our democratic approach to governance and authority, as well as our strong sense of freedom of conscience in faith and morals, connects us to the latter. We invite all Baptized Christians to receive Holy Communion and to find a place of service in this faith community.

If you would like to learn more about this faith community, you can fill out the Welcome Card, found in the pew, or visit our web site at www.stmarksabq.org. If you are searching for a spiritual home, we would love to invite you to journey with us. Below you will find a brief schedule of our worship offerings each week.

Sundays

9:30 a.m. Eucharist with both traditional and contemporary forms of music
10:30 a.m. Good coffee and fellowship in the parish hall
11:15 a.m. Spiritual Formation for all ages

Thursdays

10:30 a.m. Contemplative Silence and Mutual Support
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Noon Bible Study

Merry Christmas,



The Rev. Christopher McLaren

Christmas Prelude

Selections from:

Still, Still, Still, traditional, choir

O Holy Night, Adolph Adam; Hannah Stephens, soloist

In the Bleak Midwinter by Gustav Holst, arr. Donald Moore; Gabriel Deyarmond, oboe

Ding Dong Merrily on High, arr. David Willcocks, choir

I Wonder as I Wander, traditional; Kelli Dahlke-Fuentes, soloist

Instrumental selections - Carla Beauchamp, flute; Alex Jacobsen, bass

Welcome

Opening Hymn - *O Come, All Ye Faithful* Blue Book (1982 Hymnal) #83

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; (Refrain)

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2. God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only-begotten Son of the Father; (Refrain)

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest; (Refrain)

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; (Refrain)

5. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee, with love and awe; who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? (Refrain)

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; (Refrain)

Words: John Francis Wade, tr. Frederick Oakeley. Music: *Adeste Fideles*, John Francis Wade. © Public Domain.

Opening Acclamation

Red Book (*Book of Common Prayer* or *BCP*) p. 335

Presider: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom now and forever. Amen.



Collect for Purity

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. **Amen.**

Gloria – Angels We Have Heard on High **Blue Book (1982 Hymnal) #96**

1. Angels we have heard on high singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer? What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? (Refrain)

3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)

4. See him in a manger laid, whom the angels praise above; Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. (Refrain)

Words: French Carol, tr. James Chadwick. Music: *Gloria*, French Carol, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes. © Public Domain.

The Collect of the Day - Red Book (BCP) p. 357

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Lessons

The First Reading - 52:7-10

A Reading from the Book of Prophet Isaiah.

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn - *Of the Father's Love Begotten* Green Book (Gather Hymnal) #351

1. Of the Father's love begotten, 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!

2. O that birth for ever blessed, When the Virgin, full of grace, By the Spirit blest
conceiving, Bore the Savior of our race; And the Babe, the world's Redeemer, First
revealed his sacred face, Evermore and evermore!

3. Let the heights of heav'n adore him; Pow'rs, dominions, bow before him, And extol
our God and King; Let no tongue on earth be silent, Ev'ry voice in concert ring,
Evermore and evermore!

4. Christ, to you with God the Father, Spirit blest eternally, Hymn and chant and high
thanksgiving, And unending praises be: Honor, glory, and dominion, And eternal
victory, Evermore and evermore!

Words: Aurelius Prudentius, 348-413. tr. John M. Neale and Henry W. Baker. Music: *Divinum Mysterium*, 12th c. acc. By Richard Proulx ©
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The Second Reading - Hebrews 1:1-4, (5-12)

A Reading from the Book of Hebrews.

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

[For to which of the angels did God ever say,

"You are my Son;
today I have begotten you"?

Or again,

"I will be his Father,
and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

"Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says,

"He makes his angels winds,
and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says,

"Your throne, O God, is forever and ever,
and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.
You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;
therefore God, your God, has anointed you
With the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And,

"In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands;
they will perish, but you remain;
they will all wear out like clothing;
like a cloak you will roll them up,
and like clothing they will be changed.
But you are the same,
and your years will never end."]

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

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



Sequence Hymn - *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear* Blue Book (1982 Hymnal) #89

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.

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.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring; O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

The Gospel - John 1:1-14

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

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

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.



Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon - Mother Sylvia Miller-Mutia

A brief time of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Prayer Song

All are invited to echo the refrain: "O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!"

The Prayers of the People

Please add your own personal prayers and intercessions aloud, silently or in the Zoom chat/FB comments during the prayers.

The congregation is invited to hum along with the organ under the prayers.

Concluding Collect - Red Book (BCP) p. 395

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin - Red Book (BCP) p. 360

Presider: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

***Presider and People:* Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole hearts; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Peace

Offertory

You may make your offering online at www.stmarksabq.org/give, place your offering in the plate at the back of the church, or mail your check to the church office: 431 Richmond Pl. NE, Albuquerque, NM, 87106.

Offertory Anthem – *The First Nowell*, arr. David Willcocks



Doxology – Blue Book (1982 Hymnal) #59 v. 5

Honor, glory, might, and blessing to the Father and the Son, with the everlasting Spirit while unending ages run.

Words: Latin, ca. 6th cent; tr. *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, alt. Music: *Merton*, William Henry Monk; desc. Alan Gray. © Public Domain.

The Holy Communion - Eucharistic Prayer D, Red Book (BCP) p. 372

Presider: The Lord be with you.

***People:* And also with you.**

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

Presider: It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

Sanctus - Green Book (Gather Hymnal) #300

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

Music: *Mass of Light*, David Haas, © 1988 GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-723090. All rights reserved.

Presider: We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.



Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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 he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People: We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with [the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, (with _____) and] all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now 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.

The Breaking of the Bread - Red Book (BCP) p. 364

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast.

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

We invite all who seek the presence of Christ to share with us in Holy Communion. The bread is received in the open palm. The wine is taken from the cup by sipping. (Place your hand gently on the base of the chalice to guide it). To avoid spreading germs, we ask that you do not dip the bread in the wine ("intinction"). If you require a gluten-free wafer, please tell the person who offers bread to you. Those who do not wish to receive wine from the common cup may proceed to the back of the church to receive wine in individual cups as desired.

We affirm the ancient tradition of the church that communion in one kind (either bread OR wine) constitutes a full communion. If you or your children are drawn to the altar but do not wish to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing. If you have not been baptized and wish to receive communion regularly, please speak with one of the clergy about baptismal preparation.

Communion Hymns - What Child is This Blue Book (1982 Hymnal) #115

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?

**Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

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. (Refrain)

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. (Refrain)

Words and Music: *Greensleeves*, William Chatterton Dix.. © Public Domain.

***A La Ru*, arr. John D. Robb; Jacqueline Zander-Wall, soloist.**



Post Communion Prayer - Red Book (BCP) p. 366

Presider: Let us pray.

Presider and People:

Almighty and everliving God, 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.

Candle Lighting

Ushers and acolytes will light candles from the center aisle. The congregation is invited to join in singing "Silent Night".

Hymn - *Silent Night*

Blue Book (1982 Hymnal) #111

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.
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr, tr. John Freeman Young. Music: *Stille Nacht*, Franz Xaver Gruber; Harm. Carl H. Reinecke. © Public Domain.

Blessings



Closing Hymn - *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Blue Book (1982 Hymnal) #79

1. O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
3. How silently, how silently, the wondrous Gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
4. Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child, where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild; where charity stand watching and faith holds wide the door, the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.
5. O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Words: Phillips Brooks. Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner © Public Domain.

Postlude - *Still, Still, Still* Arr. Paul Manz