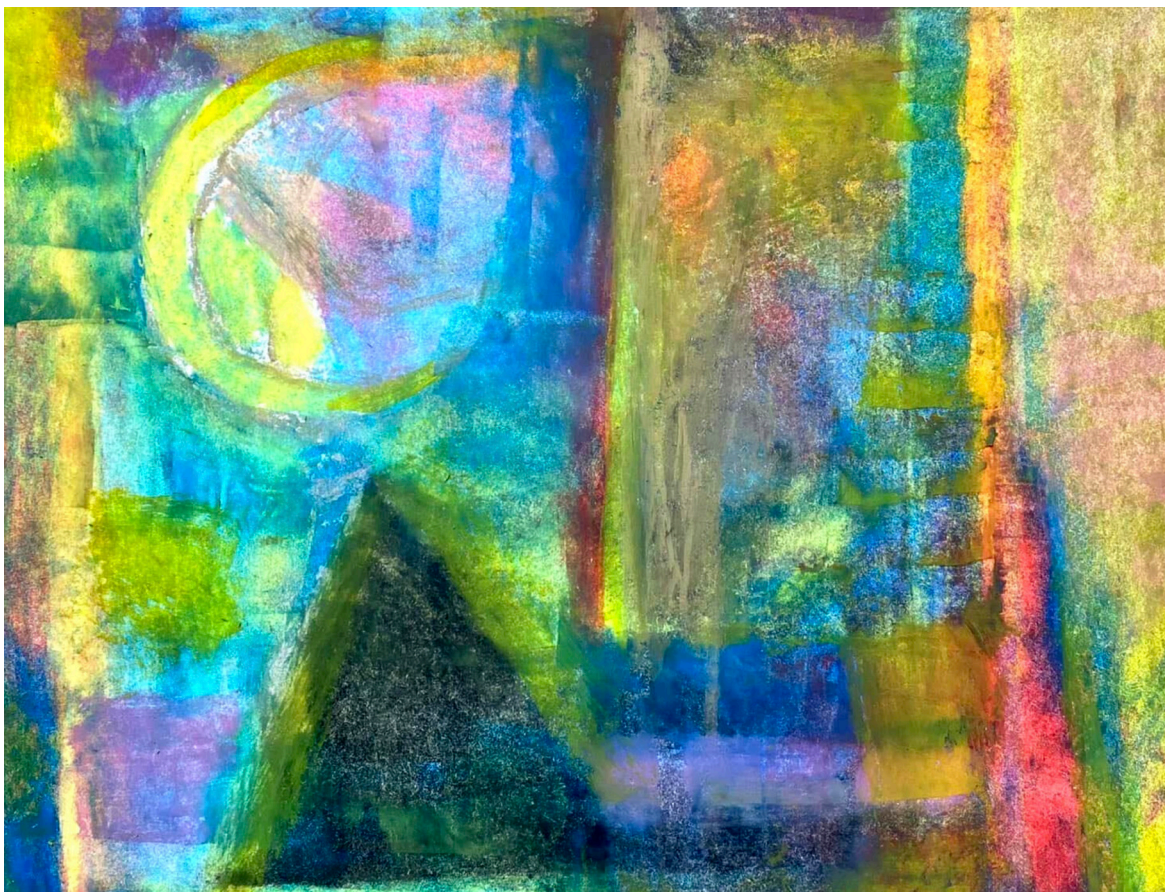




# PALMER MEMORIAL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

— HOUSTON, TEXAS —



CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 24, 2023

6:30 PM | CELEBRATION OF CAROLS

7:00 PM | CHORAL EUCHARIST, RITE II

**6221 MAIN STREET | HOUSTON, TEXAS 77030 | 713.529.6196**

**PALMERCHURCH.ORG**

## *Welcome to Palmer, and Merry Christmas!*

We are a community of Christians that worships in the Episcopal tradition, which has its roots in the practices of the ancient Church. We are a congregation that values not only eternal answers but also important questions. You are part of the great “We” that begins the Nicene Creed in this service, and we are grateful for your presence and your prayers. You are surrounded by the love of Jesus on this holy night.

Christmas, of course, is not merely one night, it is a season in the life of the Church. It’s also a gift — the gift of God’s presence in the world and in our lives — that gives meaning to every day of every year. That gift strengthens us to look for moments of grace, to offer gestures of forgiveness, and to serve those suffering in the shadows of our neighborhoods and cities.



If you’re curious about our congregation and want to know more about it, please speak with someone at the Welcome Tent in front of the church and fill out a Welcome Card, which you can find in the pew racks, at the Welcome Tent, or by using this QR code.

Palmer’s services of worship, including the beautiful music you will enjoy this evening, and our ministries such as Bible studies, pastoral care, and outreach throughout the year are made possible because of the financial generosity of Palmer’s members and friends. I invite you, therefore, to keep that in mind when you make your Christmas offering, either placing your cash or check in the offering plates that will be passed in the pews in the middle of this service or making a financial contribution online at [palmerchurch.org/give](http://palmerchurch.org/give) or texting the key word “Palmer” and the dollar amount (for example, Palmer 100) to 73256 or using this QR code.



Your generosity helps us open as wide as possible the doors of this parish church, where people can find love and acceptance, beauty and inspiration, and a spirit that respects the dignity of everyone created in God’s image. *That includes you, whether you are feeling joyous, grieving a loss, or experiencing loneliness. We have been expecting you, and we are grateful that you are here with us. Christ was born for this — for us — for you.*

— The Rev’d Neil Alan Willard, *Rector of Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church*

## **RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION**

If you are a baptized Christian of any tradition, you are invited to receive communion with us after the Breaking of the Bread. The consecrated bread will be placed in your outstretched hands. Those who require either grape juice or gluten-free bread and wine should let the minister of communion know. When the chalice of consecrated wine comes to you, you may sip from the chalice, or carefully dip part of the consecrated bread into the wine, or decline it. Rest assured that you will have made a full communion if you choose to receive the consecrated bread only, with nothing lacking in your experience of God’s grace on this Christmas Eve.

## **RECEIVING A BLESSING**

If you are not a baptized Christian, or your Christian tradition does not allow you to receive communion with us, we encourage you to come forward at the time of communion to receive a blessing. Simply cross your arms over your chest as someone approaches with the bread, and that person will know to give you a blessing instead of communion. In this way, everyone can participate in this part of the service. So we hope you will.

*Cover Art by Roger Hutchison*

# A CELEBRATION OF CAROLS

Introit: Hodie Christus natus est

Craig Phillips

*Hodie Christus natus est:  
hodie Salvator apparuit  
Hodie interra canunt angeli  
Hodie laetantur archangeli  
Hodie exsultant justi dicentes;  
Gloria in excelsis Deo Alleluia!*

Today is Christ born;  
today the Savior has appeared;  
today the Angels sing,  
the Archangels rejoice;  
today the righteous rejoice, saying:  
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!

## Hymn 78 "O little town of Bethlehem" (vs. 1-3, 5)

Forest Green

*Unison or harmony*

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!

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

There is no rose of such virtue  
as is the rose that bare Jesu:  
Alleluia.

For in this rose contained was  
heaven and earth in little space:  
Res miranda.

By that rose we may see  
that he is God in person three:  
Pari forma.

The angels sung the shepherds to:  
“Gloria in excelsis deo”:  
Gaudeamus.

Leave we all in this worldly mirth  
and follow we this joyful birth:  
Transeamus.

Hymn 105 “God rest you merry, gentlemen”

*God Rest You Merry*



1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle-men, let noth - ing you dis - may;  
2 From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came  
3 “Fear not, then,” said the an - gel, “Let noth - ing you af - fright;  
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 un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same:  
this day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright,  
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.  
how that in Beth - le - hem was born the Son of God by name.  
to free all those who trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might.”  
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!



*Angelus ad virginem,  
Subintrans in conclave,  
Virginis formidinem  
Demulcens, inquit, Ave!  
Ave, regina virginum;  
Coeli terraeque dominum  
Concipies  
Et paries intacta  
Salutem hominum;  
Tu porta coeli facta,  
Medela criminum.*

*Quomodo conciperem,  
Quod virum non cognovi?  
Qualiter infringere,  
Quae firma mente vovi?  
Spiritus Sancti gratia  
Perficiet haec omnia;  
Ne timeas,  
Sed gaudeas secure  
Quod castimonia  
Manebit in te pura  
Dei potentia.*

*Ad haec virgo nobilis  
Respondens inquit ei:  
Ancilla sum humilis  
Omnipotentis Dei.  
Tibi coelesti nuntio,  
Tanti secreti conscio,  
Consentiens,  
Et cupiens videre  
Factum quod audio;  
Parata sum parere,  
Dei consilio.*

*Eia mater Domini,  
Quae pacem reddidisti  
Angelis et homini  
Cum Christum genuisti;  
Tuum exora filium  
Ut se nobis propitium  
Exhibeat,  
Et deleat peccata:  
Praestans auxilium  
Vita frui beata  
Post hoc exsilium.  
Deo Gracias.*

When the angel came secretly  
to the Virgin in her room,  
soothing the maiden's fear,  
he said: "Hail!  
Hail, Queen of virgins.  
While yet untouched by man  
you shall conceive and bear  
the Lord of heaven and earth,  
salvation for humanity.  
You have become the gate of heaven,  
a remedy for sins."

"How can I conceive,  
since I have not known a man?  
How can I break the vow  
I made with firm intent?"  
"The grace of the Holy Spirit  
shall bring all this to pass.  
Fear not,  
but rejoice, secure in the  
knowledge that pure chastity  
shall remain yours  
through God's mighty power."

To this the noble Virgin  
replied, saying:  
"I am the lowly handmaiden  
of Almighty God.  
I bend my will to you,  
O celestial messenger,  
who share so great a mystery,  
and I long to see performed  
what I now hear.  
I am ready to yield myself  
to God's design."

Ah, mother of the Lord,  
who gave back peace  
to angels and humanity  
when you bore Christ,  
pray your son  
to be gracious to us,  
and wipe away  
our sins,  
granting us aid  
to enjoy a blessed life  
after this exile.  
Thanks be to God.

Hymn 94 "While shepherds watched their flocks by night" (verses 1-3, 6)

Winchester Old

*Descant*



2 "Fear not," said he, for might-y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;  
6 "All glo-ry be to God on high and on the earth be peace;

1 While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat-ed on the ground,  
2 "Fear not," said he, for might-y dread had seized their trou-bled mind;  
3 "To you, in Da-vid's town, this day is born of Da-vid's line  
4 "The heaven-ly Babe you there shall find to hu-man view dis-played,  
5 Thus spake the ser-aph, and forth-with ap-peared a shin-ing throng

2 "Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.  
6 good will hence-forth from heaven to men be-gin and nev-er cease."

1 the an-gel of the Lord came down, and glo-ry shone a-round.  
2 "Glad tid-ings of great joy I bring to you and all man-kind.  
3 the Sa-vior, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:  
4 all mean-ly wrapped in swath-ing bands, and in a man-ger laid."  
5 of an-gels prais-ing God, who thus ad-dressed their joy-ful song:

6 "All glory be to God on high  
and on the earth be peace;  
good will henceforth from heaven to men  
begin and never cease."

Anthem: *Sans Day Carol*

arr. John Rutter

Now the holly bears a berry as white as the milk, And Mary she bore Jesus, who was wrapped up in silk:  
And Mary she bore Jesus our Saviour for to be, And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the  
holly. Holly! Holly! And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as green as the grass, And Mary she bore Jesus, who died on the cross:  
And Mary she bore Jesus our Saviour for to be, And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the  
holly. Holly! Holly! And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry as black as the coal, And Mary she bore Jesus, who died for us all:  
And Mary she bore Jesus our Saviour for to be, And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the  
holly. Holly! Holly! And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Now the holly bears a berry, as blood is it red, Then trust we our Saviour, who rose from the dead:  
And Mary she bore Jesus our Saviour for to be, And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the  
holly. Holly! Holly! And the first tree that's in the greenwood, it was the holly!

Hymn 102 "Once in royal David's city" (verses 1, 2, 5, 6)

*Irby*

Ben Willard, soloist (*First Verse*)



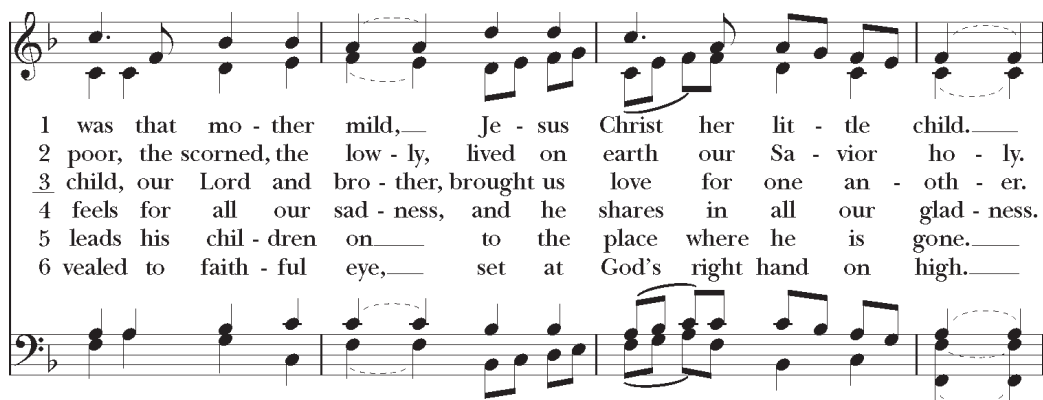
1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a  
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is  
 \*3 We, like Ma - ry, rest con - found - ed that a  
 4 For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly,  
 \*5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his  
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the



1 low - ly cat - tle shed, where a mo - ther laid her  
 2 God and Lord of all, and his shel - ter was a  
 3 sta - ble should dis - play hea - ven's Word, the world's cre -  
 4 when on earth he grew, he was tempt - ed, scorned, re -  
 5 own re - deem - ing love; for that child who seemed so  
 6 ox - en stand - ing round, we shall see him; but in



1 ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
 2 sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; with the  
 3 a - tor, cra - dled there on Christ - mas Day, yet this  
 4 ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he  
 5 help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove; and he  
 6 hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round: Christ, re -



1 was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —  
 2 poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
 3 child, our Lord and bro - ther, brought us love for one an - oth - er.  
 4 feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.  
 5 leads his chil - dren on — to the place where he is gone. —  
 6 vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven to earth come down,  
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art;  
Visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.  
Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast;  
Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest.  
Take away the love of sinning, Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.  
Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive,  
Suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.  
Finish then thy new creation, pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee.  
Changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.



# CHORAL EUCHARIST: RITE II

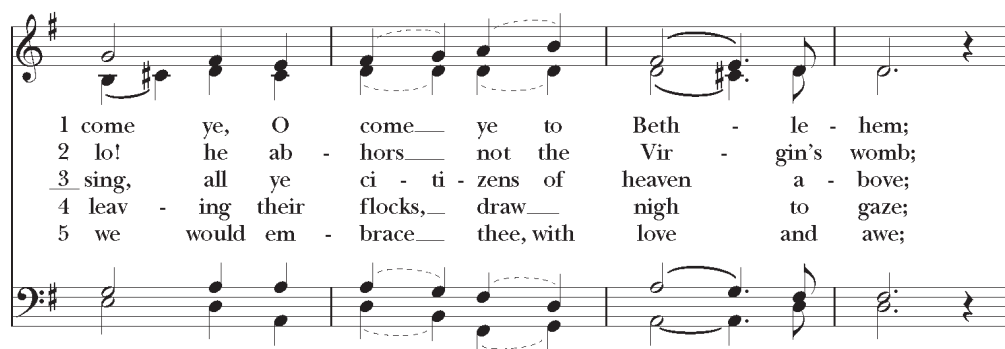
## THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn 83 "O come, all ye faithful" (verses 1-3, 6)

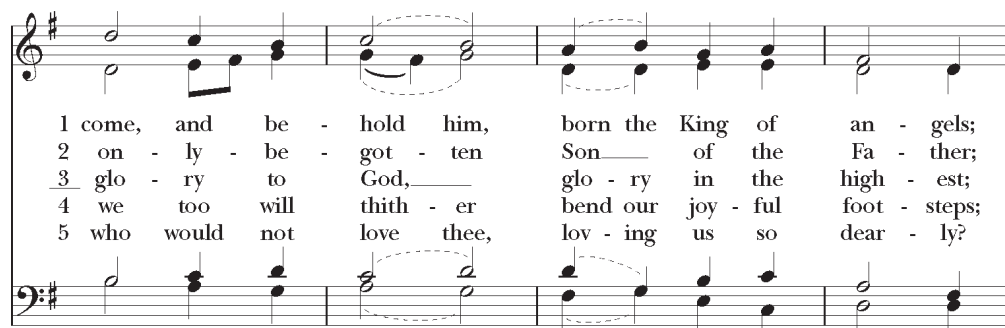
*Adeste fideles*



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
\*4 See how the shep-herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,



1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;



1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?



*Refrain*  
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

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

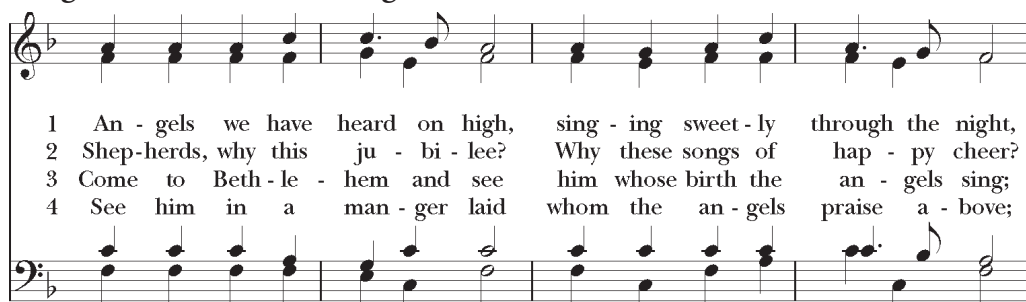
*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

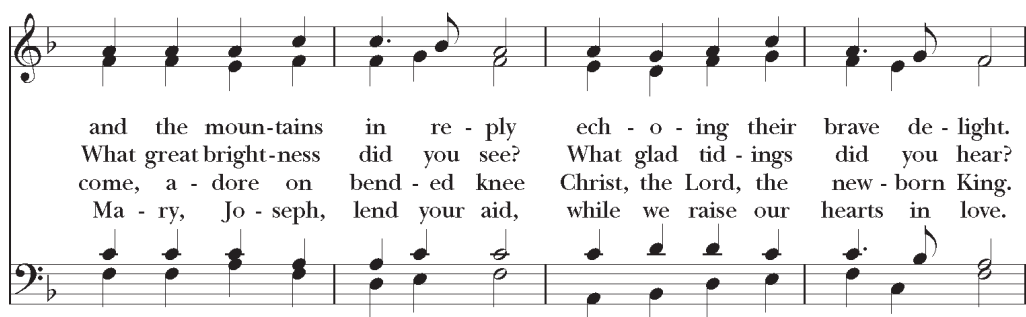
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn 96 "Angels we have heard on high"

*Gloria*



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



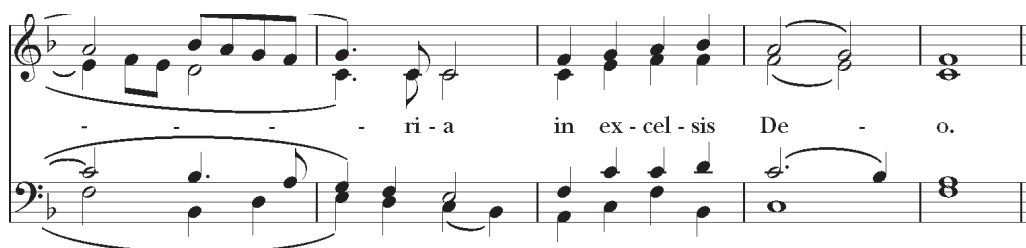
and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



*Refrain*  
Glo - - - - - ri - a



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



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

## The Collect of the Day

*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

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Reader* A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalms 96 (verses 1-4, 11, 12)

Plainchant

Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth  
Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations  
and his wonders among all the peoples.  
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;  
he is more to be feared than all gods  
Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it.  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.  
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the Lord when he comes,  
when he comes to judge the earth.

*Reader* A reading from the Letter to Titus.

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

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn 87 "Hark! the herald angels sing"

*Mendelssohn*

1 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!  
 2 Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored; Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord;  
 3 Mild he lays his glo-ry by, born that we no more may die,  
 Peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners rec-on-ciled!  
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of the Vir-gin's womb.  
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.  
 Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise, join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in-car-nate De-i-ty.  
 Risen with heal-ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,  
 with the an-gel-ic host pro-claim Christ is born in Beth-le-hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
 Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King!

*Priest*      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People*      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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.

*Priest*      The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*      **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **The Sermon**

The Rev'd Neil Alan Willard, *Rector*



## The Nicene Creed

*Celebrant* We believe in one God,  
*People* the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
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.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father,  
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.

## Prayers of the People

*Reader* Celebrating the birth of Christ, the Morning Star, who brings grace and salvation to all, let us place before God our own needs and those of the whole world.

For the church here and throughout the world, that our worship and praise may give glory to God, and that our lives may bear witness to the peace proclaimed on this holy night by a multitude of angels. Morning Star,

*People* **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

*Reader* For the peoples and nations of the earth, that the celebration of the birth of the Prince of Peace may encourage a new birth of righteousness and justice. Morning Star,

*People* **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

*Reader* For those bowed down by injustice or despair, that the power of God and the zeal of God's servants may break the rod of oppression and lift the yoke of life's burdens. Morning Star,

*People* **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

*Reader* For refugees and aliens, for unhoused people and all parents, that in them we may see the image of Mary and Joseph, and recognize the face of Christ. Morning Star,

*People* **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

*Reader* For family and friends near and far, for the hospitalized and homebound, especially patients across the street at the Texas Medical Center, that the good news of Christmas may put to flight the shadows of fear and hail the dawn of light and joy. Morning Star,

*People* **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

*Reader* For those gathered in worship here, that by the grace of Christ's coming we may live upright and godly lives, and bear witness to our blessed hope for the Savior's glorious return. Morning Star,

*People* **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

*Reader* For those who have died in Christ, that the Savior whose appearing they longed for may gladden them with the vision of heaven's glory. Morning Star,

*People* **Fill our hearts with light divine.**

*The Celebrant adds this concluding Collect*

O God, the source of eternal light: Shed forth your unending day upon us who watch for you, that our lips may praise you, our lives may bless you, and our worship in this season of Christmas may give you glory; through Jesus Christ, the Morning Star. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

*The Celebrant begins the Offertory saying*

Let us with gladness, on this Christmas Eve, present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*Those who have brought with them an offering are invited to place it in the offering plate that will be passed in the pews. Others are invited to make their financial contributions online at [palmerchurch.org/give](http://palmerchurch.org/give) or by texting the key word "Palmer" and the dollar amount (for example, Palmer 100) to 73256 or by using this QR code.*



Offertory Anthem: *Christmas Lullaby*

John Rutter

Clear in the darkness a light shines in  
Bethlehem  
Angels are singing their sound fills the air  
Wise men have journeyed to greet their Messiah  
But only a mother and baby lie there

Ave Maria, Ave Maria Hear the soft lullaby  
The angel host sing Ave Maria, Ave Maria  
Maiden and Mother Of Jesus our King

Where are his courtiers and who are his people,  
Why does he bear neither sceptre nor crown  
Shepherds his courtiers the poor for his people  
With peace as his sceptre and love for his crown

Ave Maria, Ave Maria Hear the soft lullaby  
The angel host sing Ave Maria, Ave Maria  
Maiden and Mother Of Jesus our King

What though your treasures are not gold or  
incense

Lay them before him with hearts full of love  
Praise to the Christ child and praise to his  
mother

Who born us a saviour by grace from above

Ave Maria, Ave Maria Hear the soft lullaby  
The angel host sing Ave Maria, Ave Maria  
Maiden and Mother Of Jesus our King

The Doxology (Hymn 380, verse 3)

*Old 100th*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

*Celebrant*                      *People*  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, 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 mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfectly human 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.

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:

*Sanctus S-130*

Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. 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 the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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 Lord Jesus Christ 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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,**

**We proclaim his resurrection,**

**We await his 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 to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, 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 all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

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

*Celebrant* Our Father,

*People* **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

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.*

*Agnus Dei S-164*

Schubert

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

*The Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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 Music

Motet: *Euge caeli*

Thomas Tallis

<i>Euge caeli porta quae nunc aperta veritatis lumen,</i>	Well done, O gate of heaven, who now opened,
<i>ipsum solem justitiae, indutum carne ducis in orbem.</i>	leads into the world the Light of Truth, the very Sun of Justice, clothed in flesh.

Still, still, still  
 One can hear the falling snow.  
 For all is hushed,  
 The world is sleeping,  
 Holy Star its vigil keeping  
 Still, still, still  
 One can hear the falling snow.

Sleep, sleep, sleep  
 'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.  
 The night is peaceful all around you,

Close your eyes,  
 Let sleep surround you  
 Sleep, sleep, sleep  
 'Tis the eve of our Saviour's birth.

Dream, dream, dream  
 Of the joyous day to come.  
 While guardian angels without number  
 Watch you as you sweetly slumber  
 Dream, dream, dream  
 Of the joyous day to come.

Hymn 109 "The first Nowell the angel did say" (verses 1,-3, 6)

*The First Nowell*

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say  
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star  
 3 And by the light of that same star  
 4 This star drew nigh in to the north - west,  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;  
 2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,  
 3 three wise men came from coun - try far,  
 4 o'er Beth - le - hem it took its rest,  
 5 full rev - erent - ly up - on their knee,

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,  
 2 and to the earth it gave great light,  
 3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,  
 4 and there it did both stop and stay  
 5 and of - fered there in his pres - ence

1 on a cold win-ter's night that was so deep.  
 2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night.  
 3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.  
 4 right o - ver the place where Je - sus lay.  
 5 their gold, and myrrh, and frank - in - cense.

*Refrain*

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

6 Then let us all with one accord  
 sing praises to our heavenly Lord;  
 that hath made heaven and earth of nought,  
 and with his blood our life hath bought.

*Refrain*

*The congregational candles will be lit at this time. Acolytes will bring lighted tapers down from the chancel and light the candles from the ends of each pew. Please share that light with your neighbors, carefully tipping the unlit candle over to light from an upright, lit candle. Everyone is invited to kneel when the organist begins playing the introduction to the carol Silent Night. Those who are able may remain kneeling for the prayer after communion.*

## Hymn 111 "Silent night"

*Stille Nacht*


Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

*After communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant* Eternal God, heavenly Father,

*People* you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Celebrant gives the festal blessing:*

May Christ, who by the Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill your hearts with joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn 100 "Joy to the world!"

*Antioch*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 \*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
 3 far as the curse is found, far  
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
 peat the sound - ing joy,  
 as the curse is found,  
 won - ders of his love,



# CHRISTMAS AT PALMER

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

First Sunday after Christmas, December 31

10:00 am

Christmas Lessons & Carols  
with Holy Communion, Rite I

First Sunday after the Epiphany, January 7

7:30 am

Holy Eucharist, Rite I

9:00 am

Choral Eucharist, Rite II

11:15 am

Choral Eucharist, Rite I

Questions? Contact [info@palmerchurch.org](mailto:info@palmerchurch.org)  
[www.palmerchurch.org](http://www.palmerchurch.org)

## DEDICATION

The high altar candles for Christmas Eve are given  
in loving memory of Peter Lewis Chapman  
by Martha, Matthew, and Henry Chapman.

## MUSICIANS

Dr. Brady Knapp, *Director of Music*

David Ashley White, *Composer-in-Residence*

Ken Cowan, *Organist and Artist-in-Residence*

Valentina Huang, *Associate Organist*

The Palmer Adult Choir