Prelude

THE ENTRANCE RITE

Opening Hymn: **O come, all ye faithful**  
H-83 (verses 1-3, 6)
1 come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
2 only be gotten Son of the Father;
3 glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore 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;

Refrain

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1889) and others
Music: Adesete fideles, present form of melody alt. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. The English Hymnal, 1906
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen
Celebrant: The people who walked in darkness
People: have seen a great light.
Celebrant: For unto us a child is born,
People: unto us a Son is given.
Celebrant: His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God,
People: the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
Christmas Gloria

Gloria in excelsis!
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Gloria in excelsis!
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy, have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Gloria in excelsis!

Arr. Phillip Ledger ©2010 St. James Music Press, reprinted with permission
Collect for the Nativity of Our Lord:

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

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

After the Lesson, the Reader says:
The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
1. **Sing to the LORD a new song; * 
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

2. Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; * 
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

3. Declare his glory among the nations * 
and his wonders among all peoples.

4. For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; * 
he is more to be feared than all gods.

5. As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; * 
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

6. Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! * 
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

7. Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; * 
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

8. Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; * 
bring offerings and come into his courts.

9. Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; * 
let the whole earth tremble before him.

10. Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! * 
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; 
he will judge the peoples with equity."

11. 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.

12. Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy 
before the LORD when he comes, * 
when he comes to judge the earth.

13. He will judge the world with righteousness * 
and the peoples with his truth.

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from *St. Martin’s Psalter*, Tom Pavlechko ©2010 St. James Music Press, reprinted with permission.
The Epistle

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.

After the Lesson, the Reader says:
   The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Gospeller: 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.]

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon
Fr. Johnson

The Nicene Creed

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.
The Prayers of the People for Christmas

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God of grace, you nurture us with a love deeper than we could ever ask for or imagine, and your will for us is life abundant. We thank you for the true light of Christmas, and for coming to dwell in us every day.

_We praise and thank you, O God._

God of love, who enters into our lives, our pain and our brokenness, and stretches out your healing hands to us; fill our hearts with the joy and peace that can come from you alone;

_We praise and thank you, O God._

God of strength, you fill us with your presence and send us forth to love everyone, even our enemies;

_We praise and thank you, O God._

Empower us, O LORD, to be your Church in a community and a world that is often indifferent to your presence; we pray especially for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Mariann, our Bishop, Chilton, our Assisting Bishop; and Allan and Douglas, our priests. We pray also for the people of the Diocese of Washington; and all the Baptized who worship here at St. Paul’s Church.

_Hear us, O Lord of life._

Give your wisdom on all who govern, and make decisions for the welfare of the world. We pray especially for Donald, our President; Joe, our President-Elect; the Congress of the United States; the Supreme Court; Muriel, our Mayor; and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; that in honoring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the light of this holy night, let us pray to the Lord.

_Hear us, O Lord of life._

Revive our hearts burdened by anguish, despair, and isolation and transform our thoughts trapped by confusion and doubt.

_Hear us, O Lord of life._

Lord Jesus, you have promised to send your holy angels to watch over us, and to keep us always in God's care; touch and heal those whose bodies suffer from sickness,
injury, and disability, and make them whole again; we pray especially for the sick of our parish, including: [**Virginia Keane**, **Jean** Ringuette, **Joan** Williams, **Paula** S.F. Marshall, and **Susannah** Cernojevich]. Let us pray for all others whose health and well-being have been entrusted to our prayers, including: [**Sarah** Woodbury, **Bezelle** Thomas, **Bessie** Mann, **Marla** Jones, **Raven** Taylor and family, **Jeff** Wilkerson, **Ashley** Walker and family, **Bernard** Walker, **Beverly** Taylor, **Rosemary** Nabor, **Louise** Cade, **Kathy** Mahoney and family, **Andrea** Rodgers, **Jeannette** Brownson and family, **Booker** Diggins, Ill, **Joy** Warde, **Tiffany** Fleming-Withrow, **Evelyn** Clay, **Kathy** Butler, **Michael** Mann, **Dave** Morentz, **Richard** Dunn-Senior, **William** Bailey, **Lauvinia** Alston, and **Mark** Firley].

*Hear us, O Lord of life.*

God of hope, break the bonds of those who sit in darkness, imprisoned by fear, compulsion, and addiction; and help them to prepare for your coming into their lives. *Come with your healing power, O Lord.*

Restore to wholeness all that has been broken by our sin. Help us to see how we can make room in our lives for some of the people you rejoice in. *Come with your healing power, O Lord.*

Take the hands of the faithful who have died (**People may offer names**), and bring them through death into your eternal and loving glory; *Come with your life giving power, O Lord.*

Lord Jesus, you are the Light of the world; in you all darkness is turned to light and all brokenness is made whole; look with compassion on us and those for whom we pray; that we may always live as children of the light. *Amen.*

**The Peace**

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

*People:* And also with you.
The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

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.

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 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. 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

Intro (first time only)

All

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Blessed is the one who came.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Blessed is the one who came.

God of hosts, all praise be given!
All your glory fills the earth;
bringing love and light divine.
Blessed is the king who comes

all your power fills the heavens.
Glory in the bread and in the wine.

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Words Adapted: Daniel Benedict & Dean McIntyre ©2004 The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, reprinted with permission.
Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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.
The Lord’s Prayer

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

*People and Celebrant*

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

*Celebrant:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

O Lamb of God, O Holy Child, who takes the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the son of Mary. This, this is your body giv'n, Your precious blood, the gift of heav'n. Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the son of Mary.

from St. James' Christmas Service Arr. Mark Schweizer, reprinted with permission.
Celebrant: 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.

Prayers when we cannot receive Holy Communion

In union, O Lord Jesus Christ, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I join in offering the sacrifice of my praise and thanksgiving to you. I present to you myself, my soul, and my body, with the earnest longing that I may ever be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you in this Holy Sacrament, come spiritually, I pray you, into my heart. I unite myself to you, and love you with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength. Let nothing ever separate me from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

Adapted from Prayers from the Anglican Diocese of Melanesia

Post Communion Prayer

People and Celebrant

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.
Prayer at the Christmas Crèche

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and People
Gracious God you have sent your Son to be our Savior:
Our light in the midst of darkness
Our hope in the face of threats,
Our peace amid turmoil.
In this word and sacrament
We have seen him
And know that your promises are true.
Send us forth from this assembly
To live in hope and peace,
Until we gather again at his table.
This we ask in the name of Jesus, our Redeemer and Friend. Amen
(adapted from Contemporary Mass at Midnight)

Celebrant: Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.
Closing Hymn:  

_Silent Night_  

Offered by the Choir and Instrumentalists  

**Closing Hymn:**  

_Silent Night_  

*Offered by the Choir and Instrumentalists*

**Closing Hymn:**  

_Silent Night_  

*Offered by the Choir and Instrumentalists*
The Blessing

Priest: May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you on this holy night, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your hearts with the light of his holiness.

People: Amen.

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

People: Amen.

Priest: May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you peace and favor.

People: Amen.

Priest: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God! Alleluia. Alleluia.
Welcome to St. Paul’s Episcopal Church

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL GUESTS AND VISITORS WORSHIPING WITH US THIS MORNING!! Please take the time to fill out a welcome card and join us for Coffee Hour immediately following the service. Fellowship is an important part of our Christian life and we look forward to seeing you.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

<table>
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<th>Weekly Attendance for Sunday</th>
<th>10/18/2020</th>
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<td>Attendance</td>
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December 25th Christmas Day; Offices Closed
January 1 New Year’s Day; Offices Closed

Food Bank: We will be collecting non-perishable foods to donate to the Capital Area Food Bank on Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am to 4 pm. Please drop off your donations outside of the Gallery doors at St. Paul’s Center.
WORSHIP SCHEDULE & CALENDAR

Birthdays and Anniversaries
December 2020

Birthdays
Nathan Robinson 3rd
Jonathan Southgate 6th
Jael Anker-Lagos 16th
Michael Wallace 17th
Tori Hill 27th
Leanora Caruth 28th
Everett Gallas 31st

Anniversaries

ASSISTING AT THE SERVICE TODAY
Eucharistic Ministers

8:00 a.m.................................................................10:30 a.m.

.................................................................

Lectors
Old Testament
George Gordon ..........................................................Lauren Olson

Epistle
Iris Snowden...............................................................Jeremy Roither

Prayers of the People
Barbara Walker ........................................................Royan Miller-Morgan
Mission Statement

To be one family in Christ using our gifts and resources; and to respond to the spiritual, social and human needs of our parish and community.

Office Hours: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday – Friday

Staff:

Jael Anker-Lago................................................................. Nursery Coordinator
Jeremy Sullivan................................................................. Director of Music
Nadirah Majied................................................................. Office Manager

THE Rt. REV. MARIANN BUDDE, BISHOP OF WASHINGTON
THE Rt. REV. CHILTON KNUDSEN, ASSISTING BISHOP

THE REV. ALLAN JOHNSON-TAYLOR, RECTOR
CELL 410-908-5625 OR allan.johnson@stpaulsrockcreek.org

THE REV. DOUGLAS GREENAWAY, PRIEST ASSOCIATE
DOUGLAS.GREENAWAY@STPAULSROCKCREEK.ORG

WARDENS & VESTRY:
CLIVE PECOVER, SR. WARDEN; JOSEPH ALCOCK, JR. WARDEN
CLASS OF 2020: JOEY ALCOCK, BARBARA WALKER
CLASS OF 2021 ROSALIND PALMER, SHEILA ROBERTS, JONATHAN SOUTHGATE
CLASS OF 2022: LARRY DORMAN, DIANE LIBURD-WILLIAMS, ROYAN MILLER-MORGAN

CLERK:
CO-TREASURERS: LEANORA CARUTH, HELEN JAMES

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