

*A Contemporary Celtic Celebration of the Holy Eucharist
For
Christmas Eve*



*St. James' Episcopal Church
Skaneateles, New York*

*December 24, 2023
Half Past Six O'clock in the Evening*

For the benefit of those who wish to pray, we ask that you please enter the Sanctuary quietly.

Everything you need to follow the liturgy can be found in your bulletin and on the screens.

Feel free to fill out a pew card if are a newcomer and would like to get to know us better. We are so glad you are here!

Prelude

A Celtic Christmas Medley

Welcome

All stand, as able.

1st Opening Song

Angels from the Realms of Glory

Angles 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.

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

Sages, leave your contemplations;
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.

Saints before the altar bending,
Watching long in hope and fear,
Suddenly the Lord, descending
In his temple shall appear.
Come and worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ the new-born King.

2nd Opening Song

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

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 side until morning is nigh.

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.

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Presider Glory to God in the highest!
People **And peace to God's people on earth.**
Presider For Christ is born in Bethlehem.
People **O come, let us adore him.**

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

The Presider prays the Collect of the Day, and the People respond, 'Amen.'

All are seated for the Readings.

The First Reading

Isaiah 9: 2-7

After the reading:

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalter

Psalms 96

**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 peoples.**
**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.**
**As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.**

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
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."
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.
He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

The Second Reading

Titus 2: 11-14

After the reading:

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

All stand for the song and remain standing for the Gospel.

Gospel Song

Every Promise

From the breaking of the dawn
 To the setting of the sun
 I will stand on every promise of your Word.

In this dark and troubled land
 You will guide me with your hand.
 As I stand on every promise of your Word.

Grace sufficient, grace for me,
 Grace for all who will believe.
 We will stand on every promise of your Word.

The Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

The Deacon proclaims the Gospel:

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

The Gospel is concluded with:

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

All sit at the invitation of the preacher:

The Sermon

The Rev. Joe T. Mitchell

The Creed

All stand, as able and sing:

We believe in God the Father. We believe in the Son. We believe in the Holy Spirit, three persons in one. And we believe in crucifixion, where He conquered death. And we believe in the resurrection. He's coming back again crucified, suffered, and buried, He rose again. At the right hand of the Father, whose kingdom shall have no end. And the Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life, with Father and Son are praised and glorified. As one Church, we believe.

All stand for the Prayers.

The Prayers of the People

After each petition:

Intercessor Incarnate God,
People **Hear our prayer.**

The Presider prays a concluding Collect and the People respond, 'Amen.'

Presider The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord and are seated.

Announcements & Offertory

An offering is collected to help support St. James' mission of sharing Christ's love with the world. For more information on how you can help, go to www.stjameskan.org/support-st-james or by clicking the QR Code on the back of the bulletin

Offertory Anthem

O Holy Night

All stand for the presentation of the Gifts and remain standing for the Prayer.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayers – Christmas Eve

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.**

The Presider continues until:

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All join in singing the Sanctus (S-125 in the blue hymnal)

All **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.**

The Presider recalls God's work in creation and humanity's fall and the redemption of the world by Christ.

After recalling Christ's Last Supper, the Presider and People pray:

Presider Great is the Mystery of Faith:
All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

The Presider prays that the gifts and People may be blessed and sanctified by God. When the Presider concludes the prayer, the People loudly respond, "AMEN!"

Presider And now, let us pray the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us:
All **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 Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Presider Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

The Presider invites the People to share in the Communion of our Lord. All who desire a deeper relationship with Christ are welcome to receive. If you do not wish to receive, you may come forward for a Blessing.

Please move along your side of the aisle. Receive the Bread from the Presider or Deacon. If you wish to drink from the Cup, consume the Bread and move down to the next Minister. To have intinction, keep the Bread flat in your hand and move down to the next Minister, who will dip the Bread in the Wine and place it back in your hand. Return to your seat along the side aisles.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you do not wish you receive for any reason, you are welcome to come forward and cross your arms for a blessing. During Communion, Prayer Ministers are available at either end of the altar rail to pray with anyone who is in need.

Communion Song

Christmas Communion/ O Come O Come Emmanuel

Communion Song

What child is this?

Post-communion Meditation

Silent Night

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

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

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

Presider Let us pray.

People **Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth, a people forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Presider offers a blessing and the People respond, 'Amen.'

Closing Song

Joy to the World

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.

Joy to the world! The Savior reigns, your sweetest our songs employ,
While fields and streams, and hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

The Deacon gives the Dismissal, and the People respond, 'Thanks be to God.'

Participants in the Liturgy

Presider & Preacher

Deacon

Lector

Intercessor

Eucharistic Minister

Director of Contemporary Music & Technology

Worship Band Members

The Rev. Joe T. Mitchell

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Stewart

Kathy Ploufe

Margie Amberge

Sharon Arliss

Michael Larkin

Kristina Abbott

Laura Abbott

Elizabeth Bishop

John Helgren

John Buterbaugh

Anne Sveen

Mo Allyn

Susan Larkin

John Bonsignore

Bob & Nancy Lee

Media Engineers

Ushers

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Our Christmas celebration continues:

Christmas Eve Traditional Holy Eucharist with Choir – 9:00 pm

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist with Carols – 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist with Lessons & Carols – Sunday, December 31 at 10:00 am



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