The chalice and silver paten that we use on this occasion for communion was a gift from the estate of Eliza Callahan Cleveland, September 1915. It includes her ruby ring in the stem of the chalice and the base reads: “Round about the heart of Love Shines the Stars of Heaven above.” Underneath: In Memoriam SPC, EMS, ECC. DeoGratias.
Welcome to Worship!

"Draw near to God and God will draw near to you." James 4:8

Welcome to this Episcopal community of worship. No matter where you come from, or what your circumstances are, we invite you to participate fully in worship in the way you most feel comfortable. Hymns are usually found in the red hymnal. Page references are for the red Book of Common Prayer. Both texts are in the pews. Please feel free to receive communion. These are God’s gifts for the soul-feeding of God’s people and they are for you! Thank you for enriching us with your presence. May God bless you on this day!

Participants in Today’s Service

Celebrant: The Rev. Patricia Rome Robertson
Organist: Peter Vaux
Greeters: Nancy Stanley
Judy Norwood
Kathryn Suminsby
Chalice Bearers: Maude March
Kathryn Suminsby
Acolyte: Hannah Vaux
Reader: Hannah Vaux
Mary: Elizabeth Jones
Joseph: Peter Jones
Shepherds: Spencer Clark-Lovejoy
Kassandra Robledo
Alessandro Robledo
Angel Gabriel: Mea Clark
Angels: Olive Mitchell
Neeva Mitchell

Processional Hymn #100

“Joy to the World”

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
   let earth receive her King;
   let every heart prepare him room,
   and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
   let us our songs employ,
   while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
   repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
   nor thorns infest the ground;
   he comes to make his blessings flow
   far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
   and makes the nations prove
   the glories of his righteousness,
   and wonders of his love.

Postlude
Isaiah 9:6
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.

*Christ Candle is lit
Child is placed in the manger.
Hand tapers are lit. Lights go down.*

Hymn #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.

2 Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
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.

Christmas Blessing

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS TO ALL!
On this most holy night, we welcome you to the Parish of St. Mary and St. Jude. Please join our worship in any way that you feel comfortable. We are blessed by your presence.

* * * * * *

Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion

Prelude

Bidding Prayer
Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God’s loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise. But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and town. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. May Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.
Isaiah 7:10-14
Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: ‘Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.

Hymn #83 vs. 1-3,6  “O come, all ye faithful”

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:
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 God 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

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

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

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  BCP p. 364

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

Communion
All who are drawn to Christ are welcome to come forward for communion. If you prefer a blessing to receiving the bread and the wine, simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.

Communion Music

The Post-communion Prayer

Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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 Great Thanksgiving: Prayer B  BCP p. 367

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 truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, …

Sanctus (spoken)
Celebrant 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.

The Celebrant continues  BCP p. 368
We give thanks to you….Therefore, according to his command, O Father…BCP p. 368
Celebrant and People:  We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory.

The Celebrant continues
And we offer our sacrifice of praise………………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.

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

Collect for Christmas
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.

(Congregation remains seated throughout the presentation of the Christmas Story)

The Story of Jesus Birth according to Luke
   Chapters 1 and 2 (portions paraphrased)

Long ago a young woman lived in Galilee. Her name was Mary. She was a faithful Jew, observing all of the practices of prayer and Sabbath. Mary was engaged to a carpenter named Joseph.

Mary had been chosen by God to be the mother of Jesus but she did not know it until the angel Gabriel appeared before her to tell her the news.

When the angel appeared, Mary was afraid. The angel told her: “Greetings, favored One! The Lord is with you. Do not be afraid, Mary for you have found favor with God. You will have a son and you shall name Jesus. He will be great and called the Son of God, and his kingdom will have no end.”

“How can this be?”, said Mary. “The Holy Spirit will come upon you,” said the angel.

Mary believed the angel and wasn’t afraid anymore. She said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord. Let it be as you have said.”
Hymn #56 vs. 1, 7-8

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  

Refrain:  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel!  

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind  
in one the hearts of all mankind;  
bid thou our sad divisions cease,  
and be thyself our King of Peace.  

Refrain  

8 O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel,  
that mourns in lonely exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  

Refrain  

The Celebration of the Holy Communion

(Offertory Sentence)  

The plates that are passed throughout the congregation are for  
your offering of yourself to God this day. Feel free to include  
money, a note, or any symbol of your self-offering. Your  
offering is placed on the altar to be blessed with the bread and  
the wine.  

(Seated)  

Offertory Hymn #115 “What Child is this?”  
(please stand for the last verse while the offering is brought  
forward)  

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  

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, the  
emperor, that all his subjects should be taxed, each in his own  
city. Joseph was originally from Bethlehem, the birthplace of  
King David of many years before. Joseph and Mary traveled  
from Nazareth to Bethlehem with Mary riding a donkey because  
she was so close to the birth of her child. When they got to  
Bethlehem, the village was so crowded that there was no room at  
the inn. A kind innkeeper let them stay in his stable.
When the angels had left, the shepherds said to one another: “Let us go and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us”. When they found them, they shared with Mary and Joseph all that been told to them about this child. And all who heard it were amazed at what they said. And the shepherds returned to their flocks, praising and glorifying God for all they had heard and seen.

**Hymn #99 (please stand)**

1. Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere; go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!

2. While shepherds kept their watching o’er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

3. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior’s birth.

4. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blessèd Christmas morn.

**The Peace**

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

*People*  
And also with you.

**Hymn #79 vs. 1-3, 5**

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.

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!
And in the night, while many slept, Mary brought forth her first-born child, wrapped him swaddling clothes and laid him the manger of the stable.

**Hymn #101**

1  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.

2  The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
   but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
   I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
   and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3  Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
   close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
   Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
   and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

And there were in the same countryside shepherds keeping watch over their flocks through the night.

And the angel of the Lord appeared and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were very much afraid. The angel said: "Fear not, for I bring you tidings of great joy, which is for all the people. For unto you this day in the city of David a savior is born – who is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you: You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was a host of angels praising God and singing, "Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth among those God favors."

**Hymn #87**

1  Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
   Peace on earth and mercy mild,
   God and sinners reconciled!
   Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
   join the triumph of the skies;
   with the angelic host proclaim
   Christ is born in Bethlehem!

   Refrain:
   Hark! the herald angels sing
   glory to the newborn King!

2  Christ, by highest heaven adored;
   Christ, the everlasting Lord;
   late in time behold him come,
   offspring of the Virgin’s womb.
   Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
   hail the incarnate Deity.
   Pleased as man with man to dwell;
   Jesus, our Emmanuel!

   Refrain

3  Mild he lays his glory by,
   born that we no more may die,
   born to raise us from the earth,
   born to give us second birth.
   Risen with healing in his wings,
   light and life to all he brings,
   hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
   hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

   Refrain