

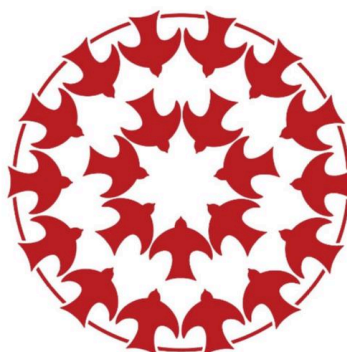
# CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2024  
11:00 a.m.



# WELCOME TO A SHARED CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION WITH HOLY COMFORTER and ST. MARK'S

We welcome you to this service; may it be a time of grace that grounds and strengthens you. This service leaflet, *The Book of Common Prayer* (red), *The Hymnal 1982* (blue), *Wonder, Love, and Praise* (green), and *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (black) provide the resources needed for participation in our worship.



The Church of the Holy  
Comforter  
*The Spirit is Making  
All Things New*

- **Guest Book** ~ Our guest book is located on a stand at the back of the church. If you are new to Holy Comforter, please sign the guest book. We are so glad that you are worshipping with us today!
- **Receiving Communion** ~ To receive, stand or kneel around the Holy Table, simply hold your hands palms up and the priest will place a piece of bread in them. To receive wine from the chalice, assist the chalice bearer by holding the base and helping to guide it to your lips. We will offer one chalice from which to drink and one for intinction, dipping the bread into the wine. If you do not wish to receive the bread or the wine, we welcome you to receive a blessing—to indicate this, please cross your arms on your chest. Gluten-free bread is available as is a non-alcoholic option chalice; simply ask the clergy.
- **Votive Candles** ~ You may light a candle at the votive stand in the back of the church. Votive candles may be lit before, during, or after the service.
- **Children Welcome!** ~ Even our youngest children are welcome to remain with us in the church for the service. Enjoy our baby/toddler/young child area in the pews.
- **Restrooms** are located in this building behind the choir area; go out the doors by the Earth banner and turn left. One of the restrooms contains a **baby-changing station**. Ushers can guide you. Additional restrooms are in the parish house, the building next door.

# THE HOLY EUCHARIST

## Prelude

## Welcome and Announcements

## Hymn



1. Love has come, a light in the dark - ness! Love shines  
2. Love is born! Come, share in the won - der. Love is  
3. Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is



forth in the Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has  
God now a - sleep in the hay. See the glow in the  
life ev - er - last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with -



come to pro - claim it. Hear how their song of joy a -  
eyes of his moth - er. What is the name her heart is  
in and a - mong us. Love is the peace our hearts are



ris - es: Love! Love! Born un - to you, a Sav - ior!  
say - ing? Love! Love! Love is the name she whis - pers.  
seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the gift of Christ - mas.



Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!  
Love! Love! Je - sus, Em - man - u - el!  
Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high!

## Opening Acclamation

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

*People* **And blessed be God's kingdom now and for ever. Amen.**

## Song of Praise





Glo - ry be to God on high,  
Je - sus Christ, we now de - clare  
Prai - ses to the Ho - ly One,



To all peo - ple, peace on earth, An - gels, shep - herds  
Lamb of God and Lord of Love. Grant us mer - cy,  
Prai - ses sing in high - est heav'n; To the Fath - er



draw - ing nigh, Join to ce - le - brate His birth.  
hear our prayer, Give us grace from heav'en a - bove.  
and the Son and the Ho - ly Spi - rit giv'n.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o! in ex - cel - sis De o!

### The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

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

*Presider* Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### The Proclamation of the Word

#### The First Reading ~ 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.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**The Second Reading** ~ Titus 2:11-14

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.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymnal 87** Hark! the herald angels sing

*Mendelssohn*

**The Holy Gospel** ~ Luke 2:1-20

*Presider* 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.

*Presider* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

The Rev. Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith

*A period of silence follows the sermon*

**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**

*As the Intercessor pauses, the congregation is invited to add their own prayers either silently or aloud.*

*Presider* Let us pray to our incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his marvelous light.

*Leader* Jesus, whose mother was Mary, we pray for families and . . . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, cradled in a manger, we pray for the homeless and . . . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, sharing the stable with animals, we pray for creation and . . . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, worshiped by shepherds and kings, we pray for all nations and races and . . . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, our Emmanuel, we pray for . . . . .  
Lord, in your mercy,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Presider* Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Father, full of the Spirit, hear our prayer, receive our praises, fill our lives. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

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

## Offertory

Hymns/Carols from congregation

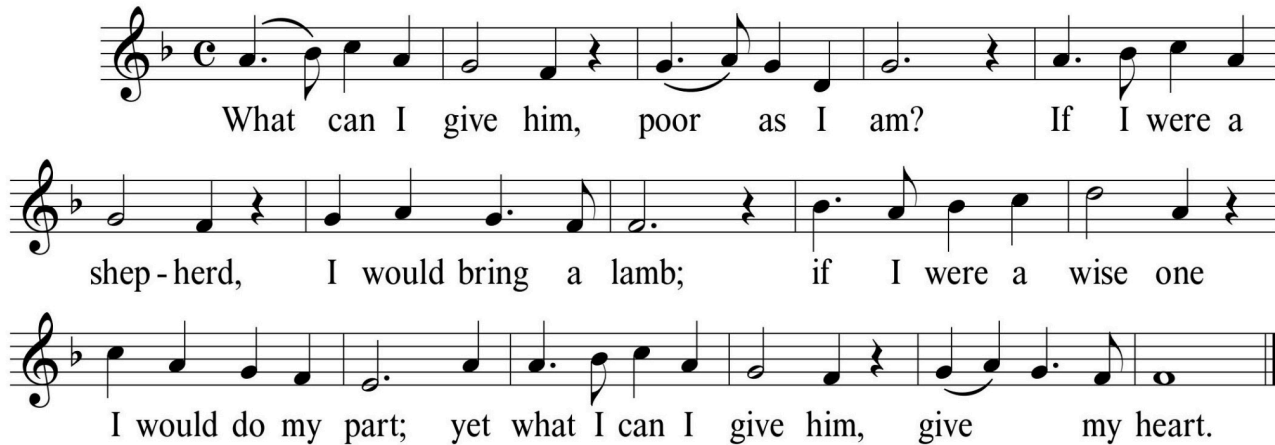
Please consider supporting God's ministry through Holy Comforter. You may leave your offering in the plate that will be passed or use our Virtual Offering Plate <https://hocorva.churchcenter.com/giving>



## Presentation Hymn

In the bleak midwinter; vs. 4

Cranham



What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a  
shep-herd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise one  
I would do my part; yet what I can I give him, give my heart.

## The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer 1, Enriching our Worship

*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, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. 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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing

## Sanctus

4

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord,  
 God of pow'r and\_ might, \_\_\_\_\_ heav'n and earth are  
 full of your glo - ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.  
 Blessed is he, is he who comes in the  
 name of the Lord. \_\_\_\_\_ Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people. Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Presider and People*

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The Presider continues*

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us



into the everlasting heritage of your children, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

*Presider* As our Savior Christ has taught us, let us pray to God, who is our Divine Parent, our Mother,

*All* Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. **Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*A period of silence is kept. Then all sing*

Gently [In One]

O Lamb of God, O Ho - ly  
 Child, who takes the sin of the world a - way; Have  
 mer - cy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the  
 son of Ma - ry. This, this is your bo - dy  
 giv'n, Your pre - cious blood, the gift of heav'n.  
 Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the  
 son of Ma - ry.

**Invitation to the Table**

The Gifts of God for the people of God, take them in remembrance that Christ was born for you and invite Christ into your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

**Hymns/Carols from the congregation**

**Postcommunion Prayer** from *Enriching our Worship*

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

**Christmas Blessing**

*Presider* May Almighty God, who came to us as a vulnerable baby, bless you in this holy season, and brighten your heart with the light of Christ’s holiness. **Amen.**

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

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

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Hymn**

*Star-Child*

*Star-Child*



1. Star - Child, earth - Child, go - be-tween of God,  
2. Street child, beat child, no place left to go,  
3. Grown child, old child, mem-ory full of years,  
4. Spared child, spoiled child, hav - ing, want - ing more,  
5. Hope - for - peace Child, God’s stu-pend - ous sign,



love Child, Christ Child, heav-en’s light - ning rod,  
hurt child, used child, no one wants to know,  
sad child, lost child, sto - ry told in tears,  
wise child, faith child, know-ing joy in store,  
down - to - earth Child, Star of stars that shine,

*Refrain*



This year, this year, let the day ar - rive when



Christ-mas comes for ev-ery-one, ev-ery-one a - live!

**Dismissal**

*Priest* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

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### ✠ Serving Today ✠

**Presiders** ~ The Rev. Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith  
The Rev. Benjamin Badgett

**Preacher** ~ The Rev. Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith

**Director of Music Ministry** ~ Jim Bennett

**Altar Guild** ~ Hilary Raymond, Susan Carvell,  
Terry Long

**Readers** ~ Laura Hunt and  
Nan Ottenritter

**Intercessor** ~ Gayle Turner

**Streaming Director** ~ Caroline Smith

**Crucifer** ~ Susan Carvell

**Eucharistic Ministers** ~ Maria Scott, Jamey Hooks

**Ushers** ~ Bill and Leslie Smith



Star of Bethlehem | Hannah Garrity  
*Acrylic painting with mixed media on canvas*



## ✂ Announcements ✂

**Bulletin Cover Art and Art displayed** ~ Our congregation took part in transforming the message of materialism that often dominates our holiday time into a reminder of God's gift to humanity through art. Original art by members and friends of Holy Comforter.

**Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion** ~ Sunday, December 29, 10:00 am

**The Feast of the Epiphany** ~ Monday, January 6 is the Feast of the Epiphany. We will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. The Rev. F. Bradley Peyton will be our presider and preacher. Please join us!

**Christmas Donations - Make it two** ~ On four religious holidays each year, we make contributions to external organizations doing God's work in the world. For the Christmas season, we invite you to support the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP) and Side by Side. Put bluntly, VICPP is a lobbying organization for Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, etc. faith communities representing our shared desire for peace and justice. Side by Side supports LGBTQIA+ youth; such support is needed more than ever. All cash and checks written to HoCo with "VICPP" or "Side" in the memo will go to these great organizations that make a difference in many lives. Thank you for your support.

**Blood Drive** ~ Holy Comforter and the American Red Cross are hosting a blood drive on Saturday, January 11, 2025 from 9:00am-2:00pm. Please join our life-saving mission! Schedule an appointment today at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org).

Volunteers are also needed to check in donors and provide hospitality. contact Angie Palmer at 804-402-9441 for more information.

**Monday night Zoom class** ~ Starting soon.

**Tuesday Morning Book Group** ~ We are reading *Life After Doom, Wisdom and Courage for a World Falling Apart* by Brian D. McLaren. Join us at 11:00 a.m. *On break and returns January 7.*

**Wednesday Worship ~ Centering Prayer** ~ 11:45 am - 12:05 pm **Holy Eucharist** ~ 12:15 pm. *On break and returns January 8.*

**Food Pantry** ~ The next Good Samaritan Sunday to donate food for the Food Pantry may be brought to service on Sunday, **January 5.**

**Informal Artists of HoCo - UnFinished Objects UFOs** ~ We'll meet in the Conference room from 10:30 - noon (ish) on Tuesdays to work on our own personal projects. Knitting, sketching, drawing, writing...good conversation and busy hands.

**Lectionary Group** ~ Our Thursday Lectionary Group meets on Zoom at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome to drop in and see what we discuss. It is fun! We look at the Sunday readings coming up and share knowledge, ideas, and how the scripture speaks to us in our lives. Go to our website, [hoco.org](http://hoco.org), and click the banner at the top for the link. *On break and returns January 9.*