

ST. MARY'S
Episcopal Church



A SERVICE OF HOLY EUCHARIST AT 9PM

CHRISTMAS EVE 2024

CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR POINSETTIA DEDICATIONS

Bill and Jeri Anderson

In thanksgiving for our three grandsons

Victoria Ault

In memory of Mary Zahn

Jason and Moire Bockenstedt

In memory of Margaret Duggan

Liesl and Marcus Carter

In memory of Max and Alice Carter

In memory of Norman Raderer

Anne Donaghy

In thanksgiving for Tay and Lowell Thomas Jr.

Hugh and Janet Gellert

In memory of departed loved ones

Jim Henkelman

In memory of The Scott family members no longer with us

Karol Libbey

In memory of Bob Libbey and Bobby Libbey

Lois Rockcastle

In memory of Glenn Rockcastle, Carolyn Rockcastle Nichols, Howard Nichols,
Andrew Noble and Marilyn Noble

Michael, Nancy, Jesse, and Cassidy Burke

In thanksgiving for all the people of St. Mary's



THE SEASON OF CHRISTMAS

The season of Christmas is time for us to come together as people of faith to worship God and celebrate the gifts of life.

If you are new or visiting, we hope you will feel right at home here. If our service seems new or unfamiliar, remember, it is not important whether or not you are on the “right” page. Just relax. You are among friends. Lift your heart and voice to the God who loves you.

Children are always welcome in all our worship services. For those who, for any reason, prefer it, we have a “Wiggle Room” located at the back of the Sanctuary, out and to the right of the doors through which you entered. The room is equipped with toys and a speaker and provides a full view of the Sanctuary.



You are invited back to St. Mary's, always, at any time. We are a community of miraculous expectation and service rooted in the love of God made known to us in the way of Jesus. This house of prayer and this faith community are open to all, no matter what questions you might have, or where you might find yourself on your spiritual journey. Our prayer is that this place may be for you a place of healing, celebration, true community, and life in all its fullness.

We welcome you, your participation, and (perhaps most of all) your questions. Especially to those whose experience with religion has not been life-giving, please know that there is hope and life and laughter beyond the pain of the past. There is a world of promise in the present, and in the healing power of God's grace and love. Blessings and peace to you this Holy Night.

MINISTERS OF THE SERVICE

The ministers of St. Mary's are all the people of St. Mary's

PRESIDER AND PREACHER: The Rev. Michael Burke

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Israel Portilla-Gómez

GOSPEL READER: The Rev. Hannah Moderow

ASSISTING CLERGY: The Rev. Ross McKay

READERS: Thea Bemben and Crystal Hyde

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE: Rich Dyson

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: Sherrie Simmonds

MUSICIANS: Praise Singers

MEDIA SPECIALISTS: Seth Eggleston and the Media Team

CANDLE LIGHTER: Charlene Davis

GATHERING IN GOD'S NAME

GATHERING MUSIC • *Various Selections from the Liturgical Music*

O Come, O Come Emmanuel • Hymnal #56

In The Bleak Midwinter • Hymnal #112

Go Tell It On The Mountain • Hymnal #99

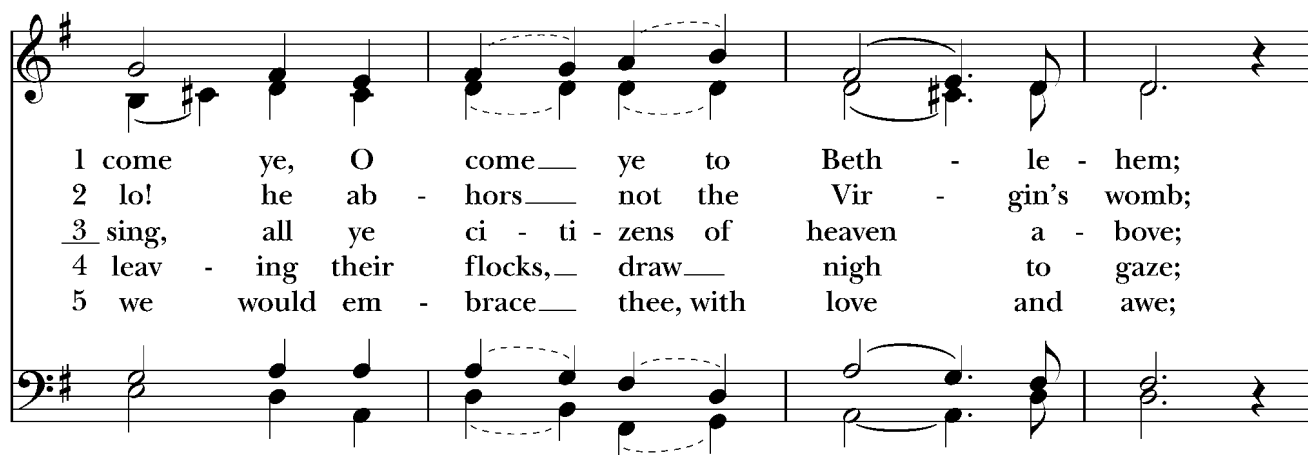
It Came Upon A Midnight Clear • Hymnal #89

WELCOME • The Rev. Michael Burke

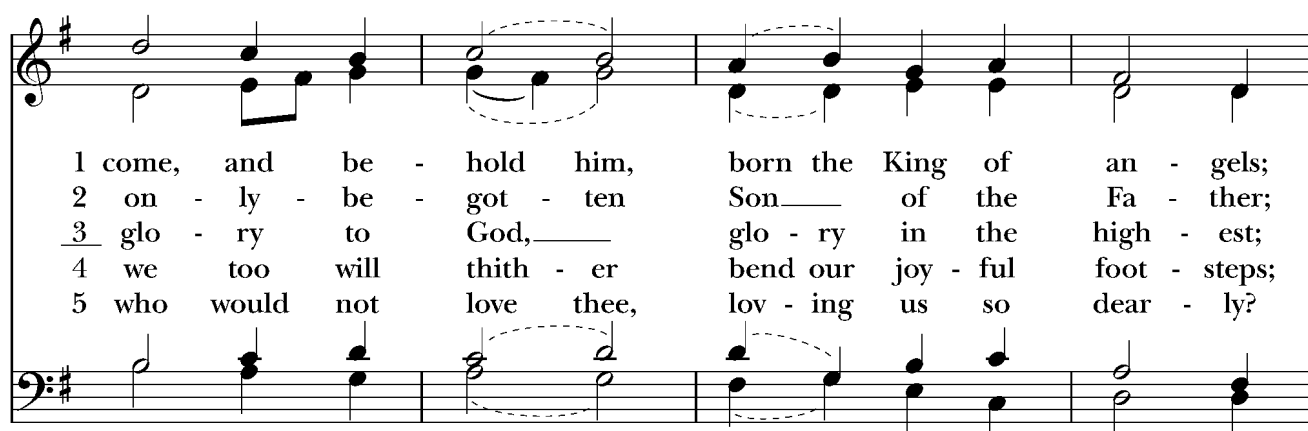
***OPENING HYMN** • *O Come, All Ye Faithful*, v. 1-3 • Hymnal #83

All stand, as able, for the Opening Hymn

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,

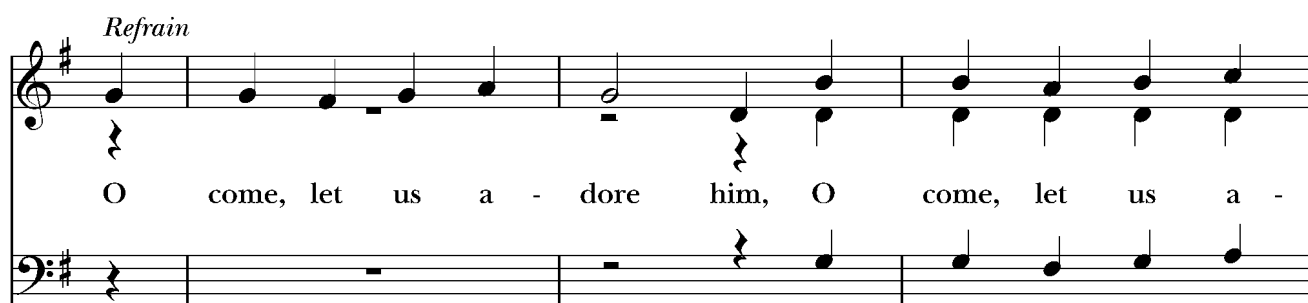


1 come ye, O come— ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors— not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks,— draw— nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace— thee, with love and awe;



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;

Refrain

***OPENING SENTENCES AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Priest We are gathered on the lands of the Dena'ina people.

People *From many places and many peoples we come in prayer.*

Priest We are gathered in the presence of God:

People *The holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity.*

Priest We are gathered in the presence of the Creator:

People *Who has made us, beloved children of God.*

Priest We are gathered in the presence of the Redeemer:

People *Who has shown us the way to live.*

Priest We are gathered in the presence of the Spirit:

People *Who sustains us in our service to one another.*

Priest We are gathered in the darkness of uncertainty and trouble:

People *That we may know the light of God among us.*

Priest We are gathered to await Christ's coming glory:

People *Let us prepare the way by showing forth God's love in the world.*

Priest 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 Savior. *Amen.*

***CANDLE-LIGHTING**

Reader: *We light this candle of Christ's Presence,
celebrating the breaking in of the Creator into the creation
made real to us through the person and life of Jesus.*

Reader: *Joining together in this season of celebration,*

People: *let us show forth your Holy Light,*

Reader: *we come in faith and say:*

People: *Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen!*

The candle lighter lights the Christ candle.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

***THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Priest God be with you.

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

Priest 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.***

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A Reading from 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.***

PSALM 96

ANTIPHON

A - scribe to God the glor - y of The Name.

Bring an of - fer - ing and come in - to the courts.

vamp in Gm

Sing to the Lord a new song:
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless the Name;
proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day.
Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
For great is God and greatly to be praised;
The Lord is more to be feared than all gods.

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
Oh, the majesty and magnificence of God's presence!
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;
 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the Name;
 ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
 bring offerings and come into God's courts.

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
 let the whole earth tremble before God.
 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King!"
 and has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
 God will judge the peoples with equity."

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

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.
 God will judge the world with righteousness
 and the peoples with truth.

ANTIPHON (ALL SING)

***SECOND READING • Titus 2:11-14**

Reader A Reading from 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.*

*GOSPEL HYMN • *Angels We Have Heard On High* • Hymnal #96

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 GOSPEL • Luke 2:1-20**

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

Priest 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON • The Rev. Michael Burke

REBEL JESUS • *Solo performance by Lana Ramos, with back up by Karl Wilhelmi and the Praise Singers*

All the streets are filled with laughter and light
And the music of the season
And the merchants' windows are all bright
With the faces of the children
And the families hurrying to their homes
As the sky darkens and freezes
Will be gathering around their hearths and tables
Giving thanks for God's graces
And the birth of the rebel Jesus

And they call Him by the "Prince Of Peace"
And they call Him by "The Saviour"
And they pray to Him upon the seas
And in every bold endeavour
And they fill His churches with their pride and gold
As their faith in Him increases
But they've turned the nature that I worship in
From a temple to a robber's den
In the words of the rebel Jesus

We guard our world with locks and guns
And we guard our fine possessions
And once a year when Christmas comes
We give to our relations
And perhaps we give a little to the poor
If the generosity should seize us
But if anyone of us should interfere
In the business of why there are poor
They get the same as the rebel Jesus

But pardon me if I have seemed
To take the tone of judgement
For I've no wish to come between

This day and your enjoyment
 In a life of hardship and of earthly toil
 There's a need for anything that frees us
 So I bid you pleasure and I bid you cheer
 From a heathen and a pagan
 On the side of the rebel Jesus

Songwriter: Jackson Browne (1990)
 The Rebel Jesus lyrics © Swallow Turn Music

AFFIRMING OUR FAITH

*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**

Reader: As we come to the time of the prayers of the people, you are invited to settle into a space of prayer, in whatever way is most comfortable for you.

There will be a brief time to share our own prayers aloud, if you wish you may also leave your prayers in the offering basket when it is passed so that it can be delivered to our prayer team to be prayed over by the congregation throughout the week. For those online your prayers as well will be delivered to the prayer team, even if they are not read aloud.

Pause before continuing.

In hope we pray to God our Creator.

Silence

Reader: O God, who sent to us our Saviour, whose Body is your Church, grant to all your faithful people your unity and your peace.

Silence

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, whose Reign holds heaven and earth as one, grant to our leaders and all in authority your wisdom and your peace.

Silence

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, who created this bountiful world, grant to all in danger or in want a full share in your abundance and your peace.

Silence

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, whose Spirit comes among us to inspire and to restore, grant to all who suffer in mind, body or spirit your healing and your peace.

Silence

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, who created this lovely world, grant to your people the desire, the knowledge and the determination to be proper stewards of the earth, that all may share in your bounty and your peace.

Silence

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, who knows our needs and concerns, and cares for us even as you care for the birds of the air and the flower in the field, we lift up those petitions that weigh on our hearts.

The congregation is invited to share their prayers in the chat and aloud.

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, from whom all blessings flow, we give thanks for all that you have given us for our time in your creation.

The congregation is invited to share their prayers in the chat and aloud.

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Reader: O God, who brings us the living water and leads us to eternal life, grant to the dying and those who mourn your comfort and your peace.

The congregation is invited to share their prayers in the chat and aloud.

God of Love,

All: hear our prayer.

Silence may be kept.

Deacon or Priest:

Together, let us confess our sins to God

People: God of all mercy,

*we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.*

*We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.*

*We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.*

*Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.*

A Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

All stand as able

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The people greet each other in the name of the Lord.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY

Offerings toward the work and ministry of St. Mary's may be made by texting StMarysAK to 73256, at GodsView.org, or by using this QR code:



POINT your phone camera at the code.

CLICK the pop-up link that appears.

TAP to enter your gift amount.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM • *Straw against the Hill* • by Bob Franke

The soloists begin...

In a town of David, not so near to spring,
At the heart of love, there came a lovely thing.
It was the time of Mary, the time of Caesar's reign.
Nothing in our lives would ever be the same.

It was so long ago, but we remember still:
Star upon the snow, straw against the chill.
A planet dancing slow, a tree upon a hill.
Star upon the snow, straw against the chill.

Stumbling in the darkness, it was her time for birth,
Bearing in her womb, the King of all the earth.
Searching for some shelter, by a cruel decree,
They found a kind of glory the mighty never see.

It was so long ago, but we remember still . . .

There within a stable, the baby drew a breath
There began a life that put an end to death,
And all the frozen stillness, mighty voices heard:
"God is here among you! Human is the Word!"

It was so long ago, but we remember still . . .

*DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise God, all creatures here below,
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!*

*PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People And of thine own have we given thee.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Priest God be with you.

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

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

A priest continues

It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise,
almighty Creator of heaven and earth.

through Jesus Christ your Son.

He is the one foretold by all the prophets,
who Mary bore with love beyond all telling.

John the Baptist was his herald
and made him known when at last he came.

In love Christ fills us with joy
as we prepare to celebrate his birth,
so that when he comes again he may find us watching in prayer,
our hearts filled with wonder and praise.

And so, with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your glory,
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

-next page-

*SANCTUS • WLP 854

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san-na in the high-est. San - to, _

san - to, san- to es el Se-ñor. Ho- san - na, ho- san - na, ho- san- na en el

cie - lo. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na en el cie - lo.

A Celebrant continues

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,
 mistreated 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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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 many
 for the forgiveness of sins.
 Whenever you drink it,
 do this for the remembrance of me.” 

Priest Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant 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 daughters and sons,
 that with [_____ and] 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.** 

Priest As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray, singing,

2

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your

Name, your king-dom come, your

will be done, on earth as in heav-en.

Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-

give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-

gainst us. Save us from the time of trial,

and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the

king-dom, the pow-er, and the glo-ry are

yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men, A-men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Priest Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

ALL ARE WELCOME AT THE LORD'S TABLE.

This is Christ's Banquet. It is made ready for those who love God, and for those who want to love God more.

So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often, and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow, and you who feel you have failed.

Come, because it is Christ who invites you.

COMMUNION HYMN • *Some Children See Him (Instrumental)*

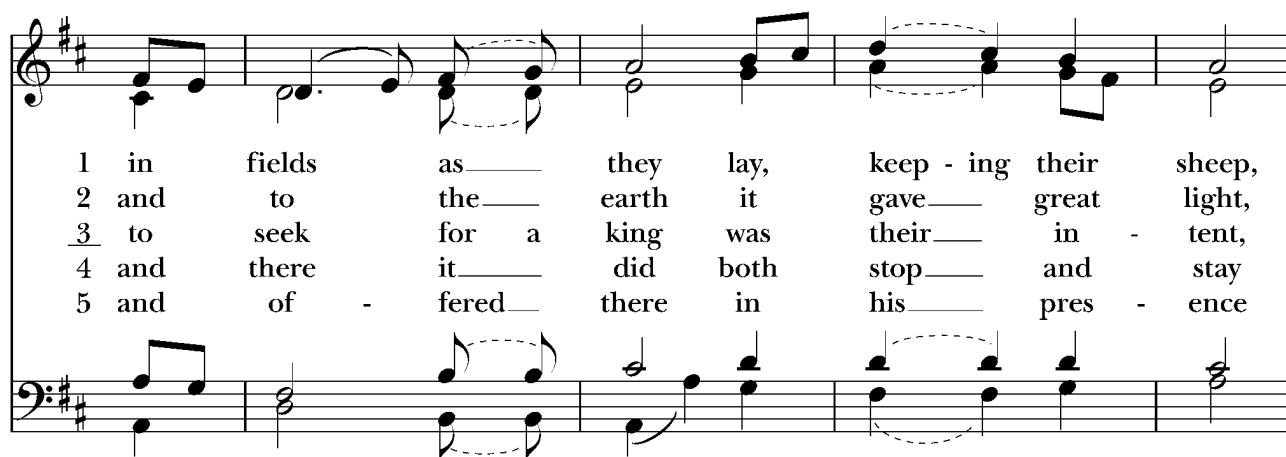
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COMMUNION HYMN • *The First Noel*, v. 1-3 • Hymnal #109

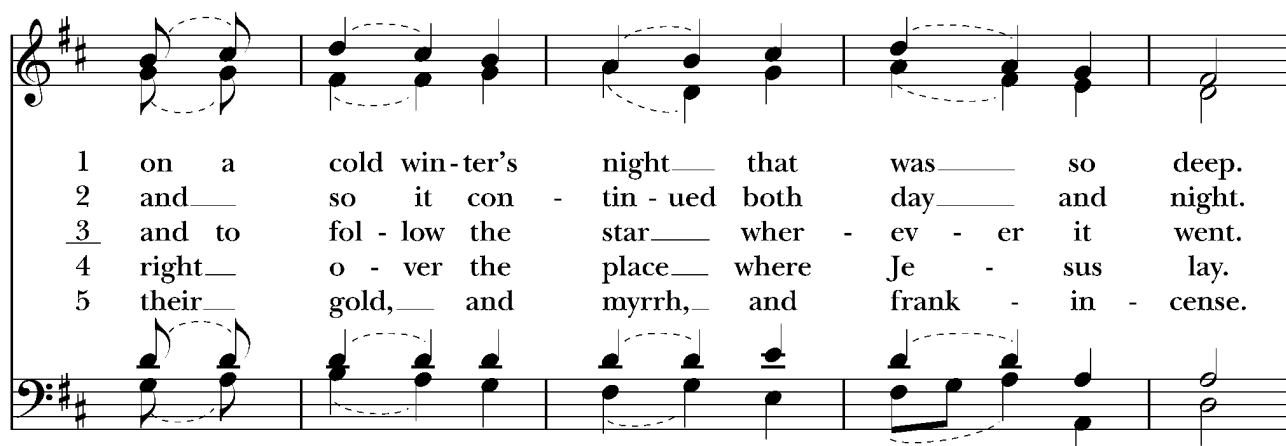

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
 2 They look - ed up and saw a star
 3 And by the light of that same star
 4 This star drew nigh to the north - west,
 5 Then en - tered in those wise men three



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

Alternative Refrain
Descant (others unison)

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

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

-next page-

COMMUNION HYMN • *Away in a Manger* • Hymnal #101

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 * 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay

the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,

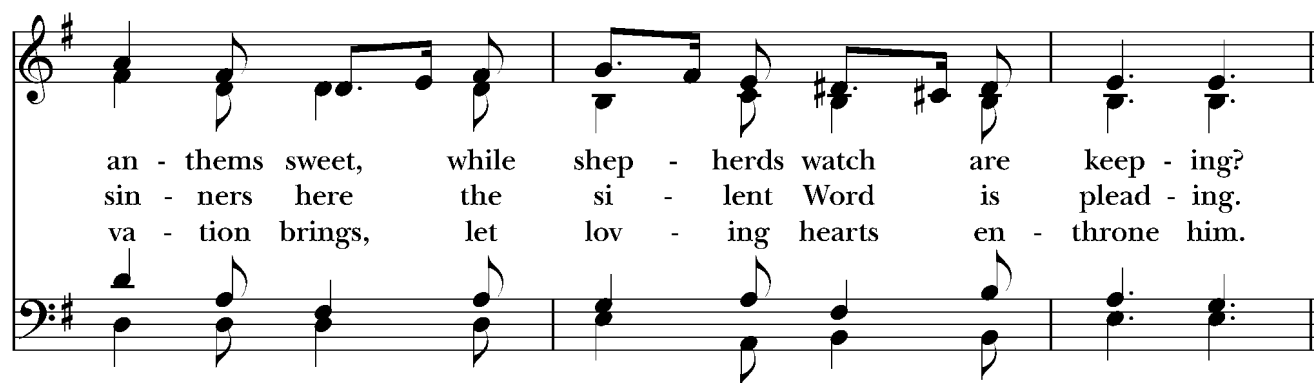
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is night.
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

COMMUNION HYMN • *What Child Is This?* • Hymnal #115

Unison or harmony

1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on
 2 Why lies he in, such mean es - tate where
 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, come,

Ma - ry's lap is sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with
 ox and ass are feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for
 peas - ant, king, to own him; the King of kings sal -

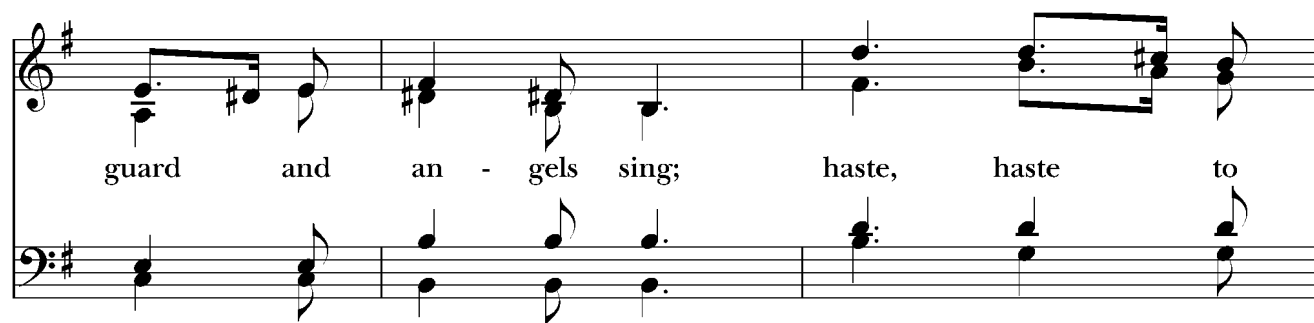


an - thems sweet, while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
va - tion brings, let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.

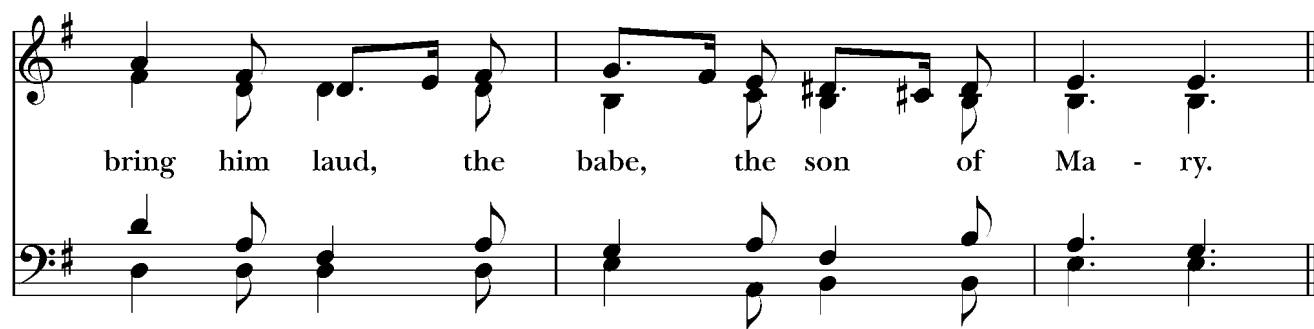
Refrain



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds

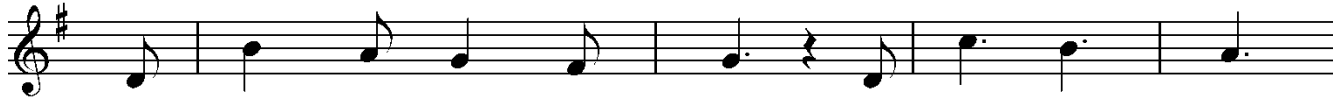


guard and an - gels sing; haste, haste to



bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

-next page-

COMMUNION HYMN • *Venite Adoremus* • Hymnal #110

1 The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
 2 'Twas Ma - ry, daugh - ter pure of ho - ly Anne,
 3 Saint Jo - seph, too, was by to tend the child;
 4 And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne;



when Christ our Lord was born On Christ - mas night. Ve -
 that brought in - to this world the God made man. She
 to guard him, and pro - tect his mo - ther mild; the
 for he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -
 laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the
 an - gels hov - ered round, and sang this song, Ve -
 come, then, let us join the heaven - ly host, to



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
 ass and ox - en shared the roof with them.
 ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -
 praise the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -



ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

*THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

After Communion, a priest says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and 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.

BLESSING

A Priest says,

May the joy of the angels,

the eagerness of the shepherds,

the perseverance of the wise men,

the obedience of Joseph and Mary,

and the peace of the Christ-child

be yours this Christmas;

and the blessing ...

SENDING OUT EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Celebrant: (Name), in the name of this congregation, we send you to share our Eucharist with _____. May you take the prayers of all of us as you deliver the sacrament of Christ's presence.

All: We who are many are one body, because we all share in the one cup!

Celebrant: Go forth in the name of God!

BIRTHDAYS

Watch over your child, O God, as their days increase; bless and guide them where ever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful, raise them up if they fall; and in their heart may your peace which passes understanding, abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

ANNIVERSARIES

Send, O God, your blessing upon these your servants. Sustain them in their love and commitment to each other, that their home may be a place of peace and hospitality now and always. Amen.

SOBRIETY

Bless, O God, your servant in their work of recovery; defend them in their sobriety; and bless them with strength and wisdom now and always. Amen.

WORK TRANSITION OR RETIREMENT

Gracious God, we thank you for the work and witness of your servant who has enriched this community and brought gladness to friends and family; now bless and preserve them at this time of transition. Guide them in the continued use of your gifts; provide sustenance for temporal and spiritual needs, friends to cheer the way, and a clear vision of the ministry to which you are now calling them. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

BLESSING SONG

May the blessing of God be upon you, the blessing of the Father and the Son. And may the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Love, be with you all your days.*

**Spirit of Peace [second verse]*

***RECESSIONAL HYMN • Silent Night, Holy Night • Hymnal #111**

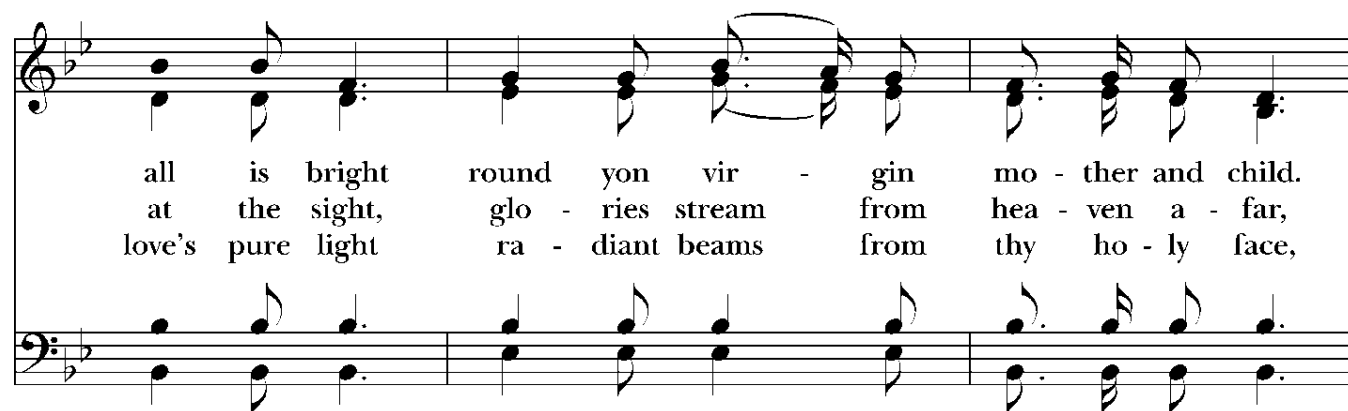
During the singing of Silent Night, the lights are lowered and candlelight, representing the light of Christ, the light of Hope, the light of Life, is passed from one to another. (The light may be passed most safely by holding the lit candle upright, and tipping an unlit candle toward it.)

-next page-

*RECESSIONAL HYMN • *Silent Night, Holy Night* • Hymnal #111



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.

***DISMISSAL**

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

GOT BAPTISM?

For people of all ages, Holy Baptism is a foundational part of becoming a follower of Jesus and a member of the community. If you would like more information, or to have a conversation about this important step in faith, please email Rev. Israel at Israel@GodsView.org.

We are preparing now for baptisms of both children and adults after New Year's, so you are "right on time." We'll have sessions for preparation beginning in January, and baptisms and renewal of baptisms will take place at the 10am Service during Baptism of our Lord Sunday on January 11, 2026.



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GROUPS CURRENTLY ACTIVE AT ST. MARY'S

Call (907)563-3341 for more information or visit GodsView.org

Short Informal Service, followed by breakfast – *Wed. mornings 7:00 -7:20 am*

BIBLE STUDIES:

Men's Small Group Bible Study – *Thurs. mornings 7:00 - 8:00 am*

Bible Explorers – *Supportive fellowship for newcomers or old-timers, previewing the upcoming Sunday service readings, and to share insight in a non-judgmental setting. Meets Thurs. eves on Zoom.*

Afternoon (Book of Job) Bible Study – *Meets on Fridays at 1pm in Cay's Room (thru Jan. 24)*

Women's Book Group *Meets monthly.*

Christian dream work and reflection groups. *Meets select Saturdays*

Taizé-style worship – *Third Thursdays at 7pm in the Chapel (in the A-frame)*

Scouts, *for info call Scout Master Rob Corbisier 907-980-5406*

Women's Knitting Circle

Bazaar Team (craft making, jams, jellies, fabric art). *Times vary throughout year*

Sunday Morning Adult Christian Formation, *various times, Waldron Hall*

Sr. High Youth Group activities, *trips and events, various times*

Jr. High Youth Group activities, *trips and events, various times*

Sunday School, *ages 4-19 Sundays 11:30 am-12:30 pm downstairs level*

Godly Play (*Montessori-based exploration of the stories of Jesus (ages 4 and up), Sundays, 10 am, downstairs level*)

Sanctuary Choir, *Rehearse Wednesdays 6:15 – 7:15 pm*

Praise Singers roots music group. *Rehearsals as arranged. –*

Christians for Equality (Social Justice) *Meets monthly 563-3341 ext. 14 for info*

Anchorage Faith and Action – *Congregations Together. Community organizing.*

St. Mary's Creative Playschool events

Numerous events at The Thomas Center for Senior Leadership

And various retreats, workshop, presentations, outreach teams, & celebrations all year long.

Looking for community, fellowship, and service? Come join us!

PARTNERS in SERVICE: In 2024-2025, St. Mary's has partnered with over seventy-five groups and organizations through a combination of joint programing, provision of services, building use, or pastoral care services or funding.

Abused Women's Aid in Crisis (AWAIC)	Numerous 12-Step recovery groups:
Alaskans for Better Choices / Volunteers of America (DUI re-education / victim impact panels)	St. Mary's Creative Playschool
Alaska Coalition to End Homelessness	Alaska Native Medical Center pastoral care department
Best Beginnings (early childhood education)	Brother Francis Shelter
Partners in Homeless Education	Beans Café
United Thank Offering (UTO)	99+ 1 (Homelessness)
Malawi Children's Village	First Christian Church After School Program
Children's Lunchbox – Hunger Program	Nasenga Primary School (Malawi)
The Episcopal Diocese of AK	The Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission
Episcopal Native Ministries	Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness
Faith Into Tomorrow	Heifer Project International
Diocesan Investment Committee	Nets for Life (Malaria Prevention)
Commission on Ministry	Episcopal Relief and Development
South Central Deanery	Older Persons Action Group
Episcopal Prison Ministry	Christians For Equality
Fellowship In Serving Humanity	Homeward Bound / Karluk Manor
Helping Hand Bags	Hope Community Resources
P.L.U.M.E. Ecumenical Ministry	Anchorage Interfaith Council
Nkope School for the Blind	Sand Lake parishes- Malawi, Africa
Dancing in the Spirit Ministries	Identity, Inc. – civil rights
	The Alaska Christian Conference
	Thomas Center for Senior Leadership

Red Cross - Disaster Relief
New Chance Ministries Ukrainian
Refugee Relief
The Lullaby Project at Hiland
Mountain
Bread for the World
Open Arms Orphan Nursery
(Malawi)
Choosing Our Roots (COR)
Arciniega Productions Youth
Program
Covenant House Alaska
Henning, Inc. (Homelessness)
AK Cubs Closet (kids and families)
St. Mary's Rapid Rehousing Fund
The Queen's Guard
Knitters of the North
Community Yoga for Elders
Girdwood Chapel

Hospice of Anchorage
I-Act Little Ripples Program
PILA Global (kids at the border)
AK Correctional Ministries
Assist Ukraine (refugees)
Underground Pride
Water.org (safe water—developing
world)
Magic Yarn Project (kids w/cancer)
Newborns in Need – AK Chapter
Cafecito Bonito
Anchor Gardens
Facing Foster Care
Cub Scouts / Scouting
Tudor Elementary School
The Alaska Conference of the
United Methodist Church
Inside Out Faith





Contribute to the work we do in the world.
Scan the QR code and click the link, or visit
GodsView.org and search for “Giving.”

