

**Hymnal**

42 The Recessional Hymn: *Angels we have heard on high* – TUNE: Gloria

The Postlude: *Noël X* - Louis Claude Daquin

*Here endeth the Order of Holy Communion with the Ministration of Holy Baptism.*

+

¶ We welcome you to St. John's Church. If you are new, please be sure to fill out a visitor card and place it in an offertory plate, and/or sign one of the guest registers in the Narthex at the back of the church. We are glad you are here and hope that you will join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Undercroft below the Nave (general seating area) of the church. To reach the Undercroft, you may take either the stairway in the southwest corner of the Narthex, or, should you desire the use of an elevator, you may use the one located between the Chapel and the Parish Office. To get to the elevator, just travel up the aisle on the Gospel (North/left) side of the Nave, through the hallway past the Chapel to the elevator. Press "1" to reach the floor below and then, once there, simply take a left out of the elevator, and head down the hallway into the Undercroft. If you have questions, please feel free to speak to any parishioner and they will happily provide you with whatever assistance you may require.

**Prayer Book**

# St. John's Church

**December 28, 2025**

**10:00 AM**

**THE HOLY INNOCENTS  
The Order for Holy Communion**

## Notes on Selected Portions of Today's Music

### The Offertory Anthem:

Also known as *Lullay Lully* and the *Covenant Carol*, it is a lullaby from 15th or 16th century English theater. In those days various guilds (comparable to today's unions or workingman's associations) would perform "mystery plays" that re-enacted Christmas scenes from the Bible. They were written in English, instead of Latin, and instead of being done in churches, were performed publicly on bi-leveled "Pageant Wagons". The lower level served as a curtained dressing chamber. This was a sort of street theater in which the topic matter of the play would relate to the particular guild that performed it (for example, the building of the ark was performed by the ship-builders). The *Coventry Carol* was included in the *Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors*. Although the composer is unknown, the text was written in 1534 by Robert Croo. In the play itself, the women of Bethlehem sing this lullaby just before Herod's soldiers come onstage to slaughter their children.

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- Worship at St. John's is according to the 1928 Book of Common Prayer and The Hymnal, 1940. Be sure to ask a neighbor for help if you have any questions about where we are during the service.
- Children are most welcome at St. John's worship services. For those who desire it, during the school year, Sunday School begins at 10:00 AM in the undercroft, where nursery care is also available year-round.
- Information on Communion procedure, announcements, prayer requests, the teaching series, a brief history of St. John's, and various aspects of the parish life are available in The Chronicle, which is inserted in this bulletin.

**Hymnal**

**The Prelude: *Vieux Noël* - César Franck**

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34 **The Processional Hymn: *Unto us a boy is born!*** – TUNE: *Puer nobis nascitur*

**The Introit: *Ex óre infántium*, Psalm 8:2, 1 - Plainchant**

OUT of the mouth of very babes, O God, and of sucklings, hast thou perfected praise: because of thine adversaries. Ps. O LORD, our Governor: how excellent is thy Name in all the world. Glory be... Out of the mouth... (etc.)

**The Collect for Purity (the People all kneeling)**

**The Summary of the Law**

710 **The Kyrie eleison:** Healy Willan, 1928

**The Collect of the Day**

**The Collect for Christmas Day**

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The Rev. Fr. Steven J. Kelly, SSC, Rector  
The Rev. Fr. Michael J. Bedford, SSC, Assisting Priest Emeritus  
Dr. Huw R. Lewis, FRCO, Director of Music, Organist, and Master of the Choir  
Ms. Chanmi Kim, MM, Edwards Organ Scholar

**Hymnal**

**For the Epistle: *Revelation xiv. 1.***

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¶ After the reading of the Epistle, the People shall remain seated, and the Choir shall chant,

**The Psalm:** 8. *Domine, Dominus noster.* — ANGLICAN CHANT: Noble

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¶ Then shall the People stand, and the Choir continue with,

**The Gradual:** *Anima nostra*, Psalm 124:6–7 — Plainchant

OUR soul is escaped even as a bird: out of the snare of the fowler. *V.* The snare is broken, and we are delivered: our help standeth in the Name of the LORD, who hath made heaven and earth.

**The Alleluia:** *Laudáte púeri*, Psalm 113:1 — Plainchant

ALLELUIA. Alleluia. *V.* Praise the LORD, ye children: O praise the Name of the LORD. Alleluia.

**The Gospel:** St. Matthew ii. 13.

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**The Nicene Creed**

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112 **The Sermon Hymn:** *When Christ was born in Bethlehem* — TUNE: Holy Innocents  
**The Sermon** — The Rev. Fr. Steven J. Kelly, SSC, *Rector*

**The Offertory:** *Anima nostra*, Psalm 124:6 — Plainchant

OUR soul is escaped even as a bird out of the snare of the fowler: the snare is broken, and we are delivered.

**The Offertory Anthem:** *Coventry Carol* — arr. Martin Shaw

*Lully, lulla, thou little tiny child,  
By by, lully lullay.*

1. O sisters too,  
How may we do  
So to preserve this day  
This poor youngling,  
For whom we do sing  
By by, lully lullay?

2. Herod, the king,  
In his raging,  
Charged he hath this day  
His men of might,  
In his own sight,  
All young children to slay.

3. That woe is me,  
Poor child for thee!  
And ever morn and day,  
For thy parting  
Neither say nor sing  
By by, lully lullay!

~ *Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, 15th century*

## Hymnal

### The Presentation of the Alms and Oblations

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*The Doxology*

PRAISE God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

141

*My country, 'tis of thee* (4<sup>th</sup> stanza only)

OUR fathers' God, to thee, Author of liberty, To thee we sing; Long may our land be bright With freedom's holy light; Protect us by thy might, Great God, our King. Amen.

### The Invitation to Confession

### The Confession and Absolution

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### The Comfortable Words

734

*The Sursum corda:* Plainchant

*The Proper Preface for Christmas:* Plainchant

*The Sanctus:* Willan

\**The Benedictus qui venit:* Willan

*The Prayer of Consecration*

*The Lord's Prayer*

*The Prayer of Humble Access*

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712 *The Agnus Dei:* Willan

**The Invitation:** \* Behold the Lamb of God; behold him that taketh away the sins of the world.

**Response:** *Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.*

### The Administration of Holy Communion

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200 **The Communion Hymn:** *Therefore we, before him bending* — TUNE: St. Thomas

**The Communion:** *Vox in Ráma*, St. Matthew 2:18 — Plainchant

IN Rama a voice was heard, lamentation and great mourning: Rachel weeping for her children, and would not be comforted because they are not.

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving:** (said by the Congregation with the Minister)

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**The Gloria in excelsis:** Willan

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**The Blessing** (the People all kneeling)

**Announcements** (if there be any)

**The Dismissal**

**Response:** *Thanks be to God.*

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## Prayer Book