

**A Service of Morning Prayer  
December 28, 2025  
First Sunday after Christmas – Year A**



**The Flight into Egypt c.1515**

by Venetian painter Vittore Carpaccio c. 1465 - 1525/1526  
National Gallery of Art, West Building Main Floor, Washington, DC

**Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.**  
***Colossians 3:15, 16***

**CP 123 Once in Royal David's City**

1 Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed.  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

3 Not in that poor lowly stable,  
with the oxen standing by,  
we shall see him, but in heaven,  
set at God's right hand on high,  
when, like stars, his children crowned  
all in white shall gather round.

2 He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall.  
With the poor and mean and lowly  
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
And the love of God,  
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,  
Be with you all.

**And also with you.**

May his grace and peace be with you.  
**May he fill our hearts with joy.**

Almighty God,  
**To you all hearts are open,  
 All desires known,  
 And from you no secrets are hidden.  
 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 Lord. Amen.**

**Psalm 148**      *Refrain: God sent redemption to his people.*

148:1 Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!  
 148:2 Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his host!  
 148:3 Praise him, sun and moon; praise him, all you shining stars!  
 148:4 Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!  
 148:5 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for he commanded and they were created.  
 148:6 He established them forever and ever; he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.  
 148:7 Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps,  
 148:8 fire and hail, snow and frost, stormy wind fulfilling his command!  
 148:9 Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!  
 148:10 Wild animals and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds!  
 148:11 Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!  
 148:12 Young men and women alike, old and young together!  
 148:13 Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his glory is above earth and heaven.  
 148:14 He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his faithful, for the people of Israel who are close to him. Praise the LORD!

**A Reading from Isaiah 63:7-9**

63:7 I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
 63:8 For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior  
 63:9 in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

CP 144 Sleep, Holy Child, Now Hid Away

1 Sleep holy child, now hid away  
from human heartbreak, hate, and strife.  
What will you know of peaceful days  
when even now they stalk your life?

2 Rest, Lamb of God, for comes the day  
when earth will judge you, strike you, scorn.  
Sleep soundly now as Mary smiles  
and holds you in her arms, newborn.

3 Shine, fragile life, the starry night,  
in sleep unknowing, sigh and nod,  
for none on earth can overcome  
the light in you that comes from God.

A Reading from Hebrews 2:10-18

2:10 It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

2:11 For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters,

2:12 saying, "I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

2:13 And again, "I will put my trust in him." And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

2:14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,

2:15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death.

2:16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham.

2:17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

2:18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

CP 163 When Christ's Appearing Was Made Known

1 When Christ's appearing was made known,  
King Herod trembled for his throne;  
but he who offers heavenly birth  
sought not the kingdom of this earth.

2 The eastern sages saw from far  
and followed on his guiding star;  
by light their way to Light they trod,  
and by their gifts confessed their God.

3 Within the Jordan's sacred flood  
the heavenly Lamb in meekness stood,  
that he, to whom no sin was known,  
might cleanse his people from their own.

4 And O what a miracle divine,  
when water reddened into wine!  
He spake the word, and forth it flowed  
in streams that nature ne'er bestowed.

5 All glory, Jesus, be to thee  
for this thy glad Epiphany:  
whom with the Father we adore  
and Holy Ghost forevermore.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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

Matthew 2:13-23

2:13 Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him."

2:14 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt

2:15 and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

2:16 When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the magi, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the magi.

2:17 Then what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled:

2:18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

2:19 When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said,

2:20 "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead."

2:21 Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel.

2:22 But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee.

2:23 There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazarene."

The Gospel of Christ

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

Sermon by the Rev. Alison WesterveltCCLI 6460237 God With Us

1 Oh You've come to bring peace to be Love  
To be nearer to us  
You've come to bring life to be Light  
To shine brighter in us  
Oh Emmanuel God with us

**Chorus**

Our Deliverer You are Savior  
In Your presence we find our strength  
Over ev'rything our Redemption  
God with us  
You are God with us

2 Oh You've come to be Hope to this world  
For Your honor and name  
And You've come to take sin to bear shame  
And to conquer the grave  
Oh Emmanuel God with us

**Bridge**

You are here, You are holy  
We are standing in Your glory (Lord) (REPEAT)

**Ending**

Oh God with us  
You are God with us

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
 creator of heaven and earth.  
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
 and born of the Virgin Mary.  
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
 was crucified, died, and was buried.  
 He descended to the dead.  
 On the third day he rose again.  
 He ascended into heaven.  
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
 He will come again  
 to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy catholic Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

As we approach the end of another year, we come with memories of the last year and our hopes and fears for the year to come. Let us offer our prayers on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people according to their needs saying, Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

**Hear our prayer**

We pray for the church.

- In the Anglican Communion we pray for The Anglican Church of Canada
- In Canada, for the Diocese of Caledonia: the Rt. Rev. David Lehmann, Bishop.
- In our own Diocese of Edmonton, Christ Church, Edmonton: Susan Oliver, Rector; Sheila Moorey, Deacon; Bishop Jane Alexander, Maureen Crerar, Martin Garber-Conrad, Breck McHan, Honorary Assistants; Karianne Rillera, Family and Youth Ministry; Ronald Laginski, Office Manager.
- in our Diocese, for our Bishop, Stephen.
- For the Buyé Diocese and the Rusengo Parish and her Rector, Sylvere Ndururutse.
- For the people and community of the Montana First Nation.
- For our parish of St. Peter's, her clergy, her Rector, Rev. Arthur; her Deacons, Rev. Alison and Rev. Sandra, our musician, Nadine, our Lay Readers Emily and Jorge and all their families. We ask for your blessing to rest upon all who serve this church. We are grateful for its worship and fellowship; for its nurture and love. Transform your church throughout the world into a communion of saints, a company of the faithful, working for good in your world. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of justice, respect, and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community and for all who live and work in this community,. Make your home among us; dwell with us in this place. Let it be a city of heavenly peace, a place of refuge for all. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer**

For a blessing upon all human labour, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger. We name those who have requested our prayers:

Sandra..... Merle..... Mary..... Irene ..... Tony and Mary Jean..... Florence..... Lisa and Joe..... Marijke..... Diane..... Janelle..... Sandy..... Evelyn..... Sarah..... Terry..... Ken..... Monica..... Julie..... Lucas..... Helen..... Cody..... Judy..... Ruth..... Jody and Michael..... David L..... Kathy..... Joy..... Melody and her family..... Pauline.....Jorges and Janine..... Michael S..... Larry..... Christena..... Elsie..... Lynn..... Irvin and Magaret..... those we hold close in our hearts and those known to you alone; we think of the elderly, the housebound, the lonely, those living on the streets, those in any kind of need.

And we pray for all those who minister to their needs, both from within the family and from the professional and voluntary services. That all who are in any kind of need may be relieved and protected, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

For the peaceful repose of the soul of all who have died in the communion of your church, especially Edith May Liddell, and all those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, Lord in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

As you have sustained your saints through centuries of service, keep us faithful, here and now, until your will is done on earth as it is in heaven. For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God,  
 you have shed upon us the new light  
 of your incarnate Word.  
 May this light, enkindled in our hearts,  
 shine forth in our lives;  
 through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
 who lives and reigns with you,  
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
 one God, now and for ever.

**And now, as our Saviour 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,  
 the power, and the glory,  
 for ever and ever. Amen.**

CP 131 Love Came Down At Christmas

1 Love came down at Christmas,  
 love all lovely, love divine;  
 love was born at Christmas --  
 star and angels gave the sign.

2 Worship we the Godhead,  
 love incarnate, love divine;  
 worship we our Jesus --  
 what shall be our sacred sign?

3 Love shall be our token;  
 love be yours and love be mine;  
 love to God and neighbour,  
 love for prayer and gift and sign.

The Dismissal

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts; let the word of Christ dwell in you richly.

*Colossians 3:15, 16*

Let us bless the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

May the God of peace enable us to do His will in every kind of goodness working in us what pleases Him, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory for ever and ever. Amen.

My dear friends, be swift to love, make haste to be kind,  
and go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**