



1818 Monterey Boulevard · Hermosa Beach, CA 90254 · 310.376.8989 · [www.stcross.org](http://www.stcross.org)



## *Christmas Eve Family Service*

*December 24, 2020*

*4:00 pm online*

## Welcome to St. Cross!

*The members, staff, and clergy of St. Cross welcome you to this online Christmas Eve service designed for families. We are glad to have you worship with us!*

*If you are a guest tonight, we hope that with the help of this bulletin you will feel comfortable throughout the service. Your spoken parts are in **bold type**.*

*A word about communion: everyone is welcome. We will say a prayer for Spiritual Communion for those who cannot gather. **For those who wish to receive communion, you may do so at our drive-through Eucharist from 7:00-8:30** in the church parking lot. We will also have a bit of music. We don't care if you are in your pajamas or Christmas finest, you are most welcome to drive-through for communion.*

*Christmas Service and Holy Eucharist-online*

*December 24 ~ 6:00 p.m.*

*Drive-through Eucharist—St. Cross parking lot*

*December 24 ~ 7:00-8:30 p.m.*

*Christmas Favorite Hymns and Music-online*

*December 25 ~ 10:00 a.m.*

*With guest organist James Walker*

*Lessons and Carols-online*

*December 27 ~ 10 a.m.*

*Regular Online Sunday Services*

*Christian Education Hour ~ 9:00 a.m.*

*Sunday Service ~ 10:00 a.m.*

*Coffee Hour ~ following 10 a.m. service*

***Tonight's Ministers***

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Rev. Stephen Smith
<i>Preaching</i>	The Rev. Dr. Rachel A. Nyback
<i>Assisting</i>	The Rev. Nathan Biornstad
<i>Deacon</i>	The Rev. Patti Angelo
<i>Reader</i>	Cecily Bray
<i>Organist and Choirmaster</i>	Sean O'Neal
<i>Cantor</i>	Dan Wilson
<i>Youth Choir Director</i>	Candace Ford

# PRELUDE

Sean O'Neal

## OPENING HYMN

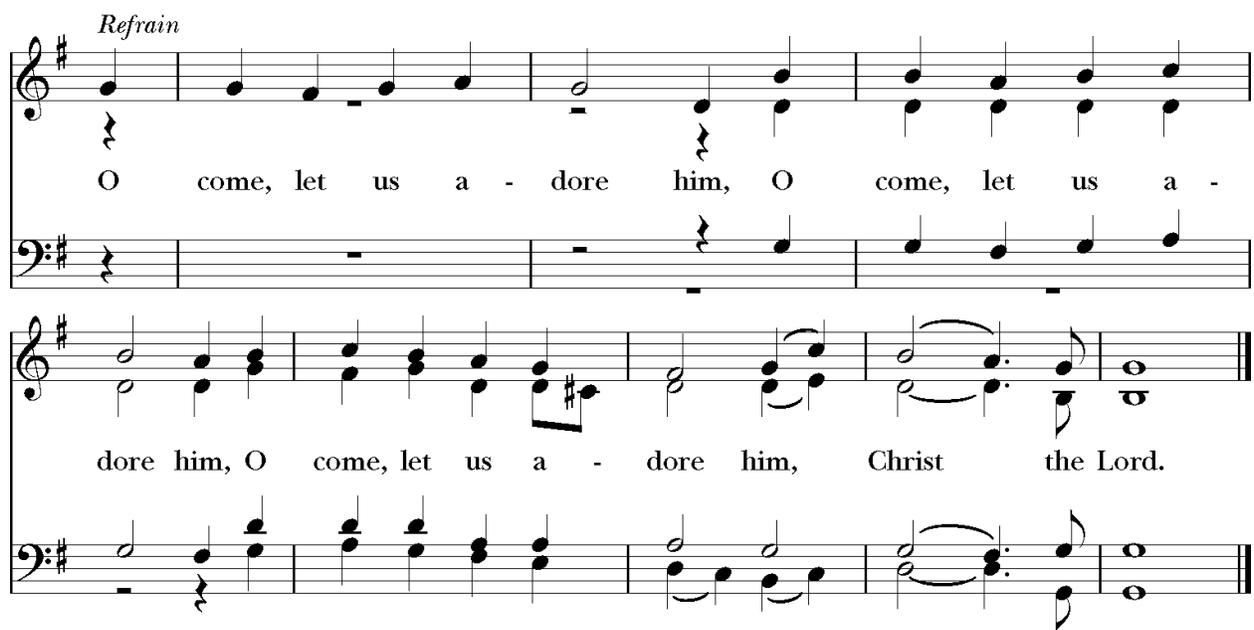
VERSES 1, 2, 3, 6

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*

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Unto us a child is born.

*People* **Come let us adore him. Alleluia!**

## COLLECT

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Holy God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son, the light of the world; Help us to come to you and be born anew this holy night, through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE STORY OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS**

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.

## **TELLING OF THE STORY WITH THE CRECHE FIGURES**

Angels we have heard on high,  
singing sweetly through the night,  
and the mountains in reply  
echoing their brave delight.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

## BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to our children and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. Be with us this night, and bless this crèche, that it may be a visible sign of your saving grace and love in all our Christmas celebrations; through your Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

## HYMN

*St. Cross Youth Choir*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,  
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.  
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,  
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

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

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 cradle till morning is nigh.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*All the gifts we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's Word made flesh tonight. From grateful hearts, let us pray for ourselves and all those who need our prayers, saying: Hear our prayer.*

*Leader* Jesus, whose mother was Mary: we pray for all families, especially those who are hurting. Lord Jesus,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, cradled in a manger: we pray for all those without a home. Lord Jesus,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals: we pray for our earth and all the plants and animals. Lord Jesus,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, worshipped by shepherds and kings: we pray for all nations and peoples of the world. Lord Jesus,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Jesus, our Emmanuel: we thank you for coming to be with us. Lord Jesus,

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people and strengthen us to do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE OF CHRIST

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

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

*Please greet one another in the name of Christ!*

## HOLY COMMUNION

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

St. Cross Youth Choir  
*A Merry Christmas Medley*

*At this time we would normally take a collection for the mission and ministry of the church, you are welcome to give at [stcross.org/give](http://stcross.org/give).*

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Please remain standing.*

*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 God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant continues*

Almighty God, good Parent to us all, whose hands have made earth, sea and sky; whose Spirit comes unseen as the wind; your face is turned towards the world. In love you gave us Jesus your Son to rescue us from sin and death. For such great love we thank you with the angels and saints as they praise you and so we say with them:

*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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel and the Celebrant continues*

God of all, we give you thanks for every gift that comes from heaven. To the darkness Jesus came as your light, with signs of love and words of hope. The night before he died, Jesus your Son showed us how much he loved us. He blessed you for the food, took bread, broke it, gave it and said: Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me. Jesus then blessed you for the wine, took the cup, gave it and said: Drink this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it in remembrance of me. Therefore, according to his command, O God,

*Celebrant and People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*The Celebrant continues*

Send your Spirit upon us here that by these gifts we may feed on Christ: his body as broken bread, wine outpoured as his blood. May we who eat his holy food share his life for ever and find a welcome at your feast in heaven where all creation worships you, and we shall sing for ever to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. **AMEN!**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Celebrant*

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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**

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Celebrant* The Gifts of God for the People God.

## **PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

*A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

*Celebrant* Let us pray together

**Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.** *(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

## HYMN AFTER COMMUNION

*We ask that you light your candles at home, knowing we are all doing the same, as we sing God's love together, even while apart.*

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.

## BLESSING

*Celebrant*

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## THE DISMISSAL

*Priest* Let us go forth in the Name of Christ! Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

## CLOSING HYMN

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
3 far as the curse is found, far  
4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
peat the sound - ing joy,  
as the curse is found,  
won - ders of his love,

**POSTLUDE**

*In dulci jubilo*  
J.S. Bach



**Christmas Flower Dedications**

- In memory of Gilford Bertel Crowell, a loving father and husband, by Scott Crowell*  
*In thanksgiving for Loved Ones, by Michael Welch and Candace Ford*  
*In memory of Jeffrey Terry, by Patricia Terry*  
*In thanksgiving for our grandchildren and great-grandchildren: Gilliam, Olivia, Magnolia, Donovan, Pippa, Sylvie, Quinn, Jude, Cora, Archer, Birdie and Dolly, by Alison Wilcox*  
*In thanksgiving for our children's teachers, by Anne and Brett Tittle*  
*In memory of Vivian Schissel Cook, by Susan Tucker*  
*In thanksgiving for our children, and their children, and their children, by Bill and Judy Soper*  
*In thanksgiving for Paula, my BFF from high school, by Patsy Brierley*  
*In memory of Dixielee and Clark Kirby, our dear friends who died this year, by Bill and Judy Soper*  
*In memory of our parents and grandparents, by the Lyons family*  
*In thanksgiving for Kenny, my brother who died on Christmas Day, by Patsy Brierley*  
*In memory of Bill, by Carol and Gary Grimes*  
*In memory of Ryan Thomas Johnson, by Kelly Johnson*  
*In thanksgiving for our St. Cross Family, by Sherry and John Graham*  
*In memory of Ron by Julie Rice*  
*In memory of Michelle, beloved niece and daughter, by Julie Rice*  
*In memory of Richard Lawrence, by Karen Lawrence*  
*In thanksgiving for family, past and present, by Laura and Paul Geisel*  
*In memory of Carl Johnson by Caren Brownlie*  
*In memory of Ed Brownlie by Caren Brownlie*  
*In memory of Joanne M. Hollingsworth by Wm. Hollingsworth and Maren Nelson*  
*In memory of Mary and James Ingersoll and Taneko Krieg, by Roy and Debora Fisher*  
*In memory of Mom, Dad, and Brian, by Sharon Isaac*  
*In thanksgiving for family, by Sharon Isaac*  
*In memory of Chuck, Gretchen, Warren, Amy, Sigrid, by Chad Druten and Rachel Nyback*

