

St. Anne's Episcopal Church  
P.O. Box 134, 14 Treble Cove Rd.  
N. Billerica, MA 01862

## The Festival of Christmas Eve

### Service of Holy Eucharist



December 24, 2021  
9:00 pm

St. Anne's, N. Billerica Online Services can be found at:  
Website: <http://stannes-billerica.org>  
YouTube: St Anne's Episcopal Church No Billerica MA  
Face Book: St Anne's Episcopal Church No Billerica MA  
Billerica Access Television (BATV) - See programing guide

#### *St. Anne's Mission Statement*

*We seek to be led by the spirit to understand God's purpose for the world  
with our mission being to respond through Christ  
in worship, education, fellowship and service.*

# Hymn Sing

Led by Maria Martin and John Chang

“Angels, from the realms of glory” (Hymnal 93)

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,  
wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
ye, who sang creation's story,  
now proclaim Messiah's birth:  
come and worship, come and worship  
worship Christ, the new-born King.

3. Sages, leave your contemplations;  
brighter visions beam afar;  
seek the great Desire of nations;  
ye have seen his natal star:  
come and worship, come and worship  
worship Christ, the new-born King.

*(text by James Montgomery, 1816)*

2. Shepherds in the field abiding,  
watching o'er your flocks by night,  
God with you is now residing,  
yonder shines the infant Light:  
come and worship, come and worship  
worship Christ, the new-born King.

4. Saints before the altar bending,  
watching long in hope and fear,  
suddenly the Lord, descending,  
in his temple shall appear:  
come and worship, come and worship  
worship Christ, the new-born King.

“Go, tell it on the mountain” (Hymnal 99)

Refrain:  
Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere;  
go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born!

2. The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo! above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

*(text: African-American spiritual, adapted by John W. Work, 1907)*

1. While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

3. Down in a lowly manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

“Away in a manger” (Hymnal 101)

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.  
The stars in the bright sky looked down where  
he lay;  
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. 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 side until morning is nigh.

3. 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.

*(stanzas 1&2: Anonymous, 1885; stanza 3 attributed to John T. McFarland, 1892)*

“The snow lay on the ground” (Hymnal 110)

1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone  
bright,  
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas  
night.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.

2. 'Twas Mary, daughter pure of holy Anne,  
that brought into this world the God made  
man.  
She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;  
the ass and oxen shared the roof with them.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.

3. Saint Joseph, too, was by to tend the child;  
to guard him, and protect his mother mild;  
the angels hovered round, and sang this song,  
Venite adoremus Dominum.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.

4. And thus that manger poor became a  
throne;  
for he whom Mary bore was God the Son.  
O come, then, let us join the heavenly host;  
to praise the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.  
Venite adoremus Dominum.

*(text: 19<sup>th</sup> century Anglo-Irish carol)*



“Hark! the herald angels sing” (Hymnal 87)

1. Hark! the herald angels sing  
glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic hosts proclaim  
Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
glory to the newborn King!

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;  
Christ, the everlasting Lord;  
Late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell;  
Jesus, our Immanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
glory to the newborn King!

3. Mild he lays his glory by,  
born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Risen with healing in his wings,  
Light and life to all he brings,  
hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
glory to the newborn King!  
*(text by Charles Wesley, 1739)*

“Good Christian friends, rejoice” (Hymnal 107)

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss;  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!  
*(text: 14<sup>th</sup> century Latin hymn, translated by John Mason Neale, 1855)*

# The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Prelude

“Noël Suisse”

Louis-Claude D’Aquin

*If today is your first visit with us, welcome. We hope you will find peace and joy here.  
Please stand for the procession; then you may be seated.*

Entrance Procession

“O come, all ye faithful”

Hymnal 83

1. O come, all ye faithful,  
joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;  
come, and behold him,  
born the King of angels;

Refrain:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore 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:  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

*(text by John Francis Wade, 1743, translated from Latin by Frederick Oakeley, 1841)*

Welcome & Announcements

## The Word of God

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**People** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

*The Celebrant may say*

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 Lord. *Amen.*

*Here is sung or said*

Gloria

“Angels we have heard on high”

Hymnal 96

1. Angels we have heard on high,  
Singing sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echoing their brave delight.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing;  
come, adore on bended knee  
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

*Gloria in excelsis Deo.*

*(French carol, translated by James Chadwick, 1860)*

### **The Collect of the Day**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

**People** And also with you.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says the Collect.*

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.*

**People Amen.**

### **The Lessons**

*The people sit. The lessons, as appointed, are read, the Reader first saying*

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (62:6-12).

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels;  
all day and all night  
they shall never be silent.

You who remind the LORD,  
take no rest,  
and give him no rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The LORD has sworn by his right hand  
and by his mighty arm:

I will not again give your grain  
to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink the wine  
for which you have labored;  
but those who garner it shall eat it  
and praise the LORD,

and those who gather it shall drink it  
in my holy courts.  
Go through, go through the gates,  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway,  
clear it of stones,  
lift up an ensign over the peoples.  
The LORD has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:  
Say to daughter Zion,  
"See, your salvation comes;  
his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him."  
They shall be called, "The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the LORD";  
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken."

*After each Reading, the Reader may say  
The Word of the Lord.*

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

## **The Psalm**

### Psalm 97

- 1 The LORD is King;  
let the earth rejoice; \*  
**let the multitude of the isles be glad.**
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, \*  
**righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.**
- 3 A fire goes before him \*  
**and burns up his enemies on every side.**
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; \*  
**the earth sees it and is afraid.**
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, \*  
**at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.**
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, \*  
**and all the peoples see his glory.**
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images  
and delight in false gods! \*  
**Bow down before him, all you gods.**
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*  
**because of your judgments, O LORD.**

- 9 For you are the LORD,  
 most high over all the earth; \*  
**you are exalted far above all gods.**
- 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; \*  
**he preserves the lives of his saints  
 and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.**
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, \*  
**and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.**
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, \*  
**and give thanks to his holy Name.**

A Reading from Titus (3:4-7).

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

*After each Reading, the Reader may say*  
 The Word of the Lord.

**People Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow

Sequence Hymn                      “What child is this, who, laid to rest”                      Hymnal 115

<p>1. What child is this, who, laid to rest,          on Mary's lap is sleeping?          Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,          while shepherds watch are keeping?</p>	<p>Refrain:          This, this is Christ the King,          whom shepherds guard and angels sing;          haste, haste to bring him laud,          the babe, the son of Mary.</p>
---	---

2. Why lies he in such mean estate  
 where ox and ass are feeding?  
 Good Christians, fear: for sinners here  
 the silent Word is pleading. (Refrain)  
*(text by William C. Dix, 1865)*

**The Gospel**

*Then, all standing, the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying*  
 The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
 according to Luke (2:1-20).

**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.

*After the Gospel, the Reader says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Homily

The Rev'd Jennifer D. Beal

The Nicene Creed

*All standing, say*

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

*The people may kneel.*

*Form IV, BCP p. 388*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Hear our prayers, Holy God. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Confession of Sin**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and ourselves.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest stands and says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord, remaining in your pew as you signal a gesture of peace to those online and to one another.*

## **The Holy Communion**

Offertory Sentence

Ascribe to God the honor due that Name; bring  
offering and come into these courts with praise. *Psalm 96:8*

*As a way of minimizing touching shared objects, we have placed offering plates in both the front and rear of the church. We are very grateful for your gifts and offerings. You may leave them in the plates as you enter or leave our service of worship.*

*All who seek God are welcome at this table. May God find you here.*

Offertory hymn

“The first Nowell”

Hymnal 109 (v. 1,2,4,6)

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*

Words: English carol, 18th cent. Music: *The First Nowell*, English carol, 17th cent.; harm. John Stainer (1840-1901)

Hymn permission used by Rite Song a one-time use reprint license for congregational use.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Eucharistic Prayer B, BCP p. 367*

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says*

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 him thanks and praise.

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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 we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to 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 Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with [\_\_\_\_\_ and] all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. Then may be said*

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People* Therefore let us keep the feast.

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

**Please be seated. A minister will come to you with a single serving package of Communion wafer and wine, and a napkin. If you wish to receive only a blessing, you may cross your arms over your chest. After you have received, please place your empty package and napkin in the basket that an usher will bring to you. All who seek spiritual nurture are welcome to receive the sacrament.**

**Please be seated.**

Communion hymn one            “O little town of Bethlehem”            Hymnal 79

1. O little town of Bethlehem,  
how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep  
the silent stars go by;  
yet in thy dark streets shineth  
the everlasting Light;  
the hopes and fears of all the years  
are met in thee tonight.

2. For Christ is born of Mary;  
and gathered all above,  
while mortals sleep, the angels keep  
their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together  
proclaim the holy birth!  
and praises sing to God the King,  
and peace to men on earth.

3. How silently, how silently,  
the wondrous Gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still  
the dear Christ enters in.

4. Where children pure and happy  
pray to the blessed Child,  
where misery cries out to thee,  
Son of the mother mild;  
where charity stand watching  
and faith holds wide the door,  
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,  
and Christmas comes once more.

5. O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin, and enter in,  
be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
our Lord Emmanuel!

*(text by Phillips Brooks, former Bishop of Massachusetts, 1868)*

1. It came upon the midnight clear,  
that glorious song of old,  
from angels bending near the earth,  
to touch their harps of gold:  
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,  
from heaven's all-gracious King."  
The world in solemn stillness lay,  
to hear the angels sing.

(2. Still through the cloven skies they come  
with peaceful wings unfurled,  
and still their heavenly music floats  
o'er all the weary world;  
above its sad and lowly plains  
bend on hovering wing,  
and ever o'er its Babel sounds  
the blessed angels sing.)

(3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife  
the world has suffered long;  
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled  
two thousand years of wrong;  
and warring humankind hears not  
the tidings which they bring;  
O hush the noise and cease your strife  
and hear the angels sing!)

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
when peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
and the whole world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.

*(text by Edmund H. Sears, 1849)*

*After Communion, please stand as the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*The Priest may bless the people.*

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 Celebrant dismisses them with these words*

Let us bless the Lord.

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

Exit Procession

“Joy to the world! the Lord is come”

Hymnal 100

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King;  
let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

*(text by Isaac Watts, 1719)*

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Christmas gift

“Silent night, holy night”

Hymnal 111

1. Silent night, holy night,  
all is calm, all is bright  
round yon virgin mother and child.  
Holy infant, so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace.  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glories stream from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ, the Savior, is born!  
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
radiant beams from thy holy face,  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.  
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

*(text by Joseph Mohr, 1818, translated from German by John Freeman Young, 1863)*

*Please sit quietly until the usher indicates your exit.*

*Reprinted and podcast / streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-#736619. All rights reserved*

As a way of minimizing touching shared objects, we have placed offering plates in both the front and rear of the church. We are very grateful for your gifts and offerings. You may leave them in the plates as you enter or leave our service of worship.

Thank you for observing physical distancing between households to the best of your ability, and for wearing a mask while inside the building.

Ministers today

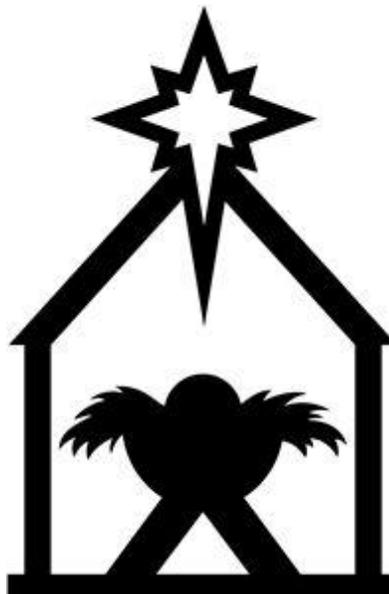
Priest-in-charge  
Lector-in-chief  
Lector  
Prayers of the People  
Director of Music and Organist  
Singers  
  
Acolyte  
  
Usher  
Film Crew (Video)  
  
Film Crew (Audio)  
  
Film Crew (Assistant)

The Rev'd Jennifer D. Beal  
Mr. Edward Giroux, Co-Warden  
Ms. Sue Geen  
Mr. John Geen  
Mr. Peter Morelli  
Ms. Maria Martin  
Mr. John Chang  
Ms. Brenda Komarinski  
Mr. Michael Hopkins, Co-Warden  
Ms. Linda Kusnierz  
Ms. Sandra Giroux  
Mr. Ron Desmarais  
Mr. Mark Komarinski  
Mr. Michael Hopkins, Co-Warden  
Mr. Eli Baldwin

Schedule of Christmas Services:

**Sunday, December 26:** 9 am Pre-recorded Service of Lessons and Carols (online)

**Sunday, January 2:** 9 am Service of Lessons and Carols (in-person and online)





*Thank you to all who have contributed to the adornment of our sanctuary this Christmas.*

*The plants and greens which so beautifully adorn our church this Christmas season are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:*

*Jose & Maria Chuna from Norm & MJ Zarella  
Inez & Major Cousens from George & Genevieve Cousens  
Arthur & Etta Marie DeGarmo from Richard & Marguerite Massey  
Les & Nancy Ferris from Ed & Sandra Giroux  
Marge Fudge from Donald Fudge  
Peter Giroux from Ed & Sandra Giroux  
Marietta Hamner from Doris Hamner  
Loved ones from John & Sue Geen  
Loved ones from John & Linda Kusnierz  
Evelyn & Terri Massey from Richard & Marguerite Massey  
Dot & Al Meech from Chick & Nancy Meech  
McCarthy family members from Dave & Kathy Brewster  
Alma & Francis Moran Guevara from George & Genevieve Cousens  
Past members from St. Anne's Thrift Shop  
Robert Peck from the Peck family  
Dot Richard from Donald Fudge  
Esther & Mickey White from Chick & Nancy Meech  
Christopher Zarella from Norm & MJ Zarella  
Shirley Zarella from Norm & MJ Zarella*

*And, to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for:*

*Current staff of volunteers from St. Anne's Thrift Shop  
Family & friends from John & Sue Geen  
Family & friends from Ken & Rosemary Kinser  
St. Anne's Yes! Good Work from Doris Hamner  
The people of St. Anne's from Jennifer Beal*



## **Prayers for the Festival of Christmas Eve**

**December 24, 2021**

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Diocese of Ilesa South West –  
The Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion)

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Parishes of the Alewife Deanery  
Episcopal Chaplaincy at Harvard, Cambridge;  
Lutheran Episcopal Chaplaincy at Mass. Institute of Technology, Cambridge;  
The Society of St. John the Evangelist, Cambridge;  
Hospital Chaplaincies & Healthcare Chaplains;  
Our Presiding Bishop, Michael; Our Bishops, Alan and Gayle; Our Priest, Jennifer

### **St. Anne's Prayer List**

**Let us pray for our own needs and those of others**

Ana Blesso, Barbara Rogers, Cyndi, Debbie Blesso, Dianne Brown, Donald Fudge,  
Donald Sutton, Sr., Elaine Howland, Elaine McLaughlin, Fred Brown, Helen, Irene Mouradian,  
Janet Lyna, Jean Flight, John Phillips, Jose Torres, Sr., Joseph Pleva, Joshua Young,  
Kathy Chang, Leonard Youens, Linda E., Marie Figenbaum, Marie Horgan, Mark Figenbaum,  
Mary Hyatt, Mary Lander & her daughter Christine, Norm & MJ Zarella, Pat McCleave & family,  
Paul Hamner, Sally DiRocco, Sarah Komarinski, Susan Fader, Tammy, Tom, Vicki Mahoney

**Let us pray for all griefs during this season.**

### **Announcements for December 24, 2021**

**Masks must be worn inside the building and physical distancing between households must be observed—thank you for helping to keep us all safe and healthy!**

Please let Mother Jennifer know if you would like a pastoral visit: [rector@stannes-billerica.org](mailto:rector@stannes-billerica.org).

**The Thrift Shop will be closed until January 12, 2022, at 10 AM.**

Reminder that January newsletter articles are due  
to Jayleigh ([stannesbillerica@gmail.com](mailto:stannesbillerica@gmail.com)) by Monday, December 27th.

**The date for our Annual Meeting is Sunday, February 6, 2022, after the morning service.  
For those who are writing reports for the Annual Meeting, please send them to Jayleigh  
([stannesbillerica@gmail.com](mailto:stannesbillerica@gmail.com)) by January 11.**

St. Anne's Episcopal Church  
14 Treble Cove Road PO Box 134 N. Billerica, MA 01862  
[stannesbillerica@gmail.com](mailto:stannesbillerica@gmail.com) 978-663-4073 [rector@stannes-billerica.org](mailto:rector@stannes-billerica.org)  
Honoring the Pawtucket and Shawsheen peoples  
Social Justice – a way to allow everyone to feel welcome and respected when they come to worship

“The oldest Christmas tree to be decorated, standing in a parlor as we know the tradition today, is described in a fragment of a 1605 travel diary left us by an unidentified visitor to Strasbourg. The writer tells of fir trees set up and hung with paper roses of many different colors and with apples, flat wafers, gilded candies, and sugar.

In early Christian art, the rose was a symbol for the Virgin Mary, and the flat wafers are obviously related to the “host,” the communion symbol for Christ. A tree decorated with such wafers or cookies with religious designs, became known as a Christbaum.

By the seventeenth century, then, the age-old, winter-defying evergreen was a common site in Christian homes honoring the Christ child each Christmas.”

-Phillip V. Snyder

