CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

First Sunday after Christmas
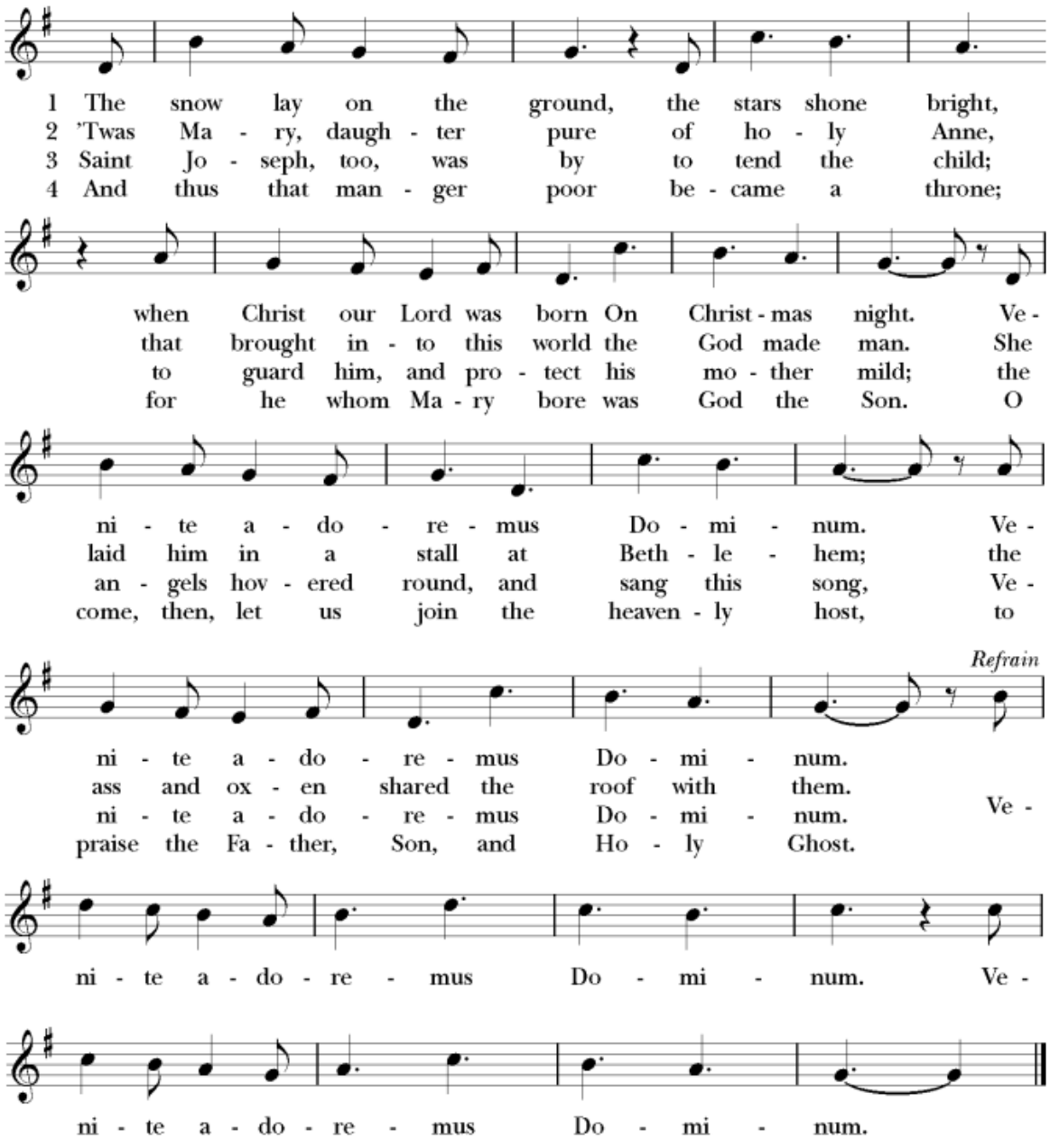
December 26, 2021 | 10:30 a.m.

You may stream this service from Christ Church's website, YouTube, or Facebook pages

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE – *Improvisations for the Christmas Season* Paul Manz

OPENING HYMN 110 – The Snow Lay on the Ground Venite adoremus



Opening Acclamation

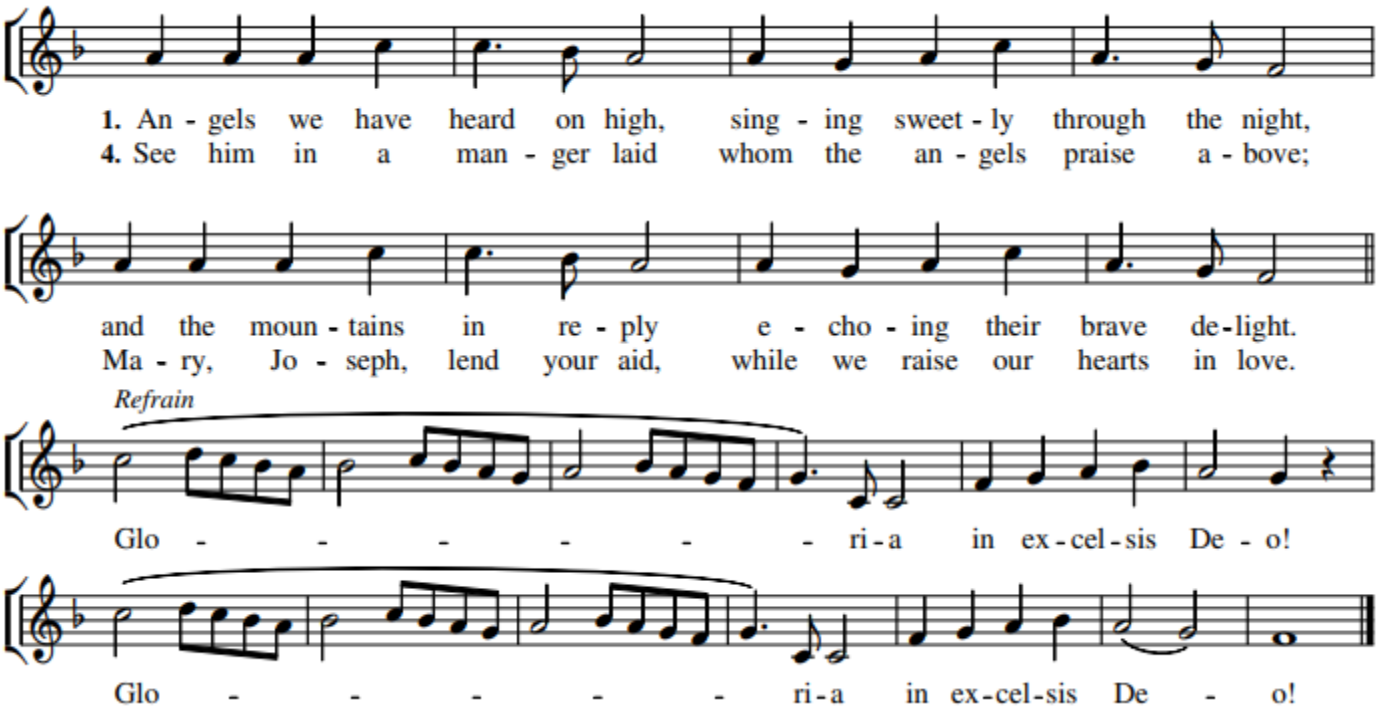
Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

Celebrant: 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.**

Hymn of Praise 96 – Angels we Have Heard on High

Gloria



The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may 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 forever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON — Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 147

The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.

Hallelujah!
How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!
The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.
He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.
He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.
Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.
The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.
Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

He covers the heavens with clouds *

and prepares rain for the earth;

He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *

and green plants to serve mankind.

He provides food for flocks and herds *

and for the young ravens when they cry.

He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *

he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;

But the Lord has pleasure in those who fear him, *

in those who await his gracious favor.

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *

praise your God, O Zion;

For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *

he has blessed your children within you.

He has established peace on your borders; *

he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, *

and his word runs very swiftly.

He gives snow like wool; *

he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *

who can stand against his cold?

He sends forth his word and melts them; *

he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

He declares his word to Jacob, *

his statutes and his judgments to Israel.

He has not done so to any other nation; *

to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

THE EPISTLE

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7
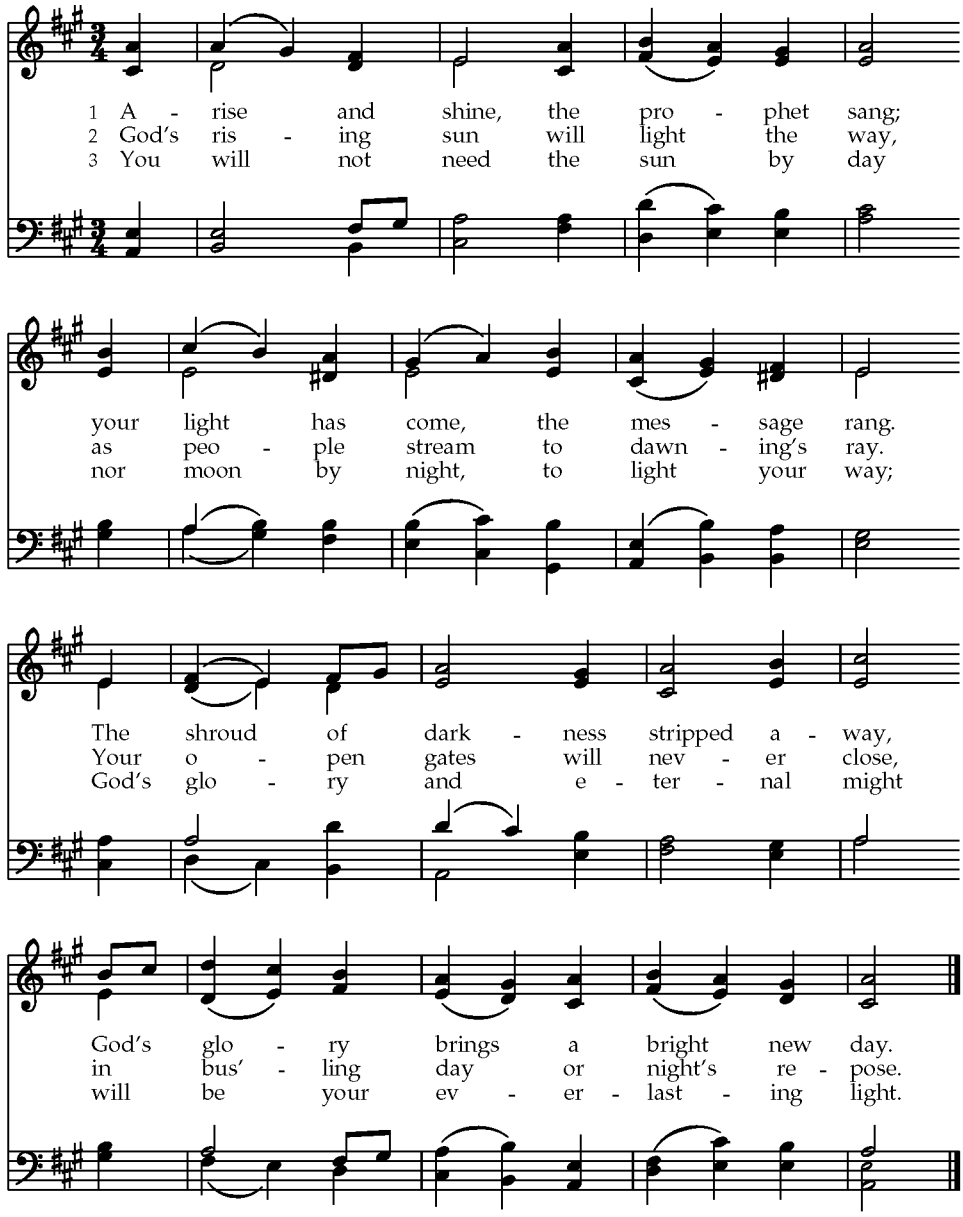
Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able for the singing of the hymn and remain standing for the reading of the Gospel and the prayers.

SEQUENCE HYMN VF 156 – Arise and Shine — Wareham



THE GOSPEL — John 1:1-18

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The people may be seated at the invitation of the preacher.

SERMON Kathleen Lyon

The people stand as able.

THE NICENE CREED

All: **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

Praise to Lord Jesus, the Prince of Peace, who came into our world and lived among us, uniting beauty, purpose, and power. Our heavenly King became incarnate as an awesome and incomprehensible gift of love to all of mankind. The heavens rejoice, and the earth is full of joy that the magnificence of our Lord has graced our world. **Let us declare His glory.**

The Lord's kingdom will be established with authority, justice, and devotion. All will be redeemed, for the spirit of truth reigns. We wait in hope for the manifestation of His glory. Let us worship the Lord, live in His Grace, and honor Him always .**Let us live in peace.**

We offer our prayers for the unity of the Christian church, and we ask for faith, strength, and courage in our world today. We ask our Lord to bless the Anglican Communion, especially the Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America, and guide the Diocese of Maryland in leadership and service. We pray for our sister parishes of St. Peter's, Ellicott City; Trinity, Elkridge; and All Hallows, Davidsonville.

We pray for our Presiding Bishop, Michael; our Diocesan Bishops, Eugene and Robert; our Rector, Emmanuel; our Associate Priest, Marcia; our Deacon, Denise; our Rector Emeritus, Richard; our Christ Church Vestry and for the amazing work of our dedicated laity. We are so grateful to all visitors and newcomers who share in our beautiful first Sunday after Christmas service and extend our warmest welcome to you. **Let us rejoice in His presence.**

May all who experience physical or emotional pain or illness feel Christ's healing touch, especially Erin Cassidy, Chuck, Shahra, Sherry, Bunmi, Frantz, Sam, Chad, Alta, Alfred, Kathleen, Ashley & Jeanette. We also remember those who have died and entered eternal life. We extend our love to those who grieve their loss. **Let us care deeply for others in His name.**

We celebrate this week's occasions of joy in our faith community. We honor those with birthdays, especially Gardiner, Jonathan, Kristen, Ben, Ni, Andrew & Priscilla, and the anniversary of Pamela & Shannon Pruitt. God blesses us in so many ways. Our spirits revel in His goodness. **Let us live abundantly in Christ Jesus.**

Alleluia, our Savoir and Messiah, is in our midst. Such an amazing and wonderful realization! **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

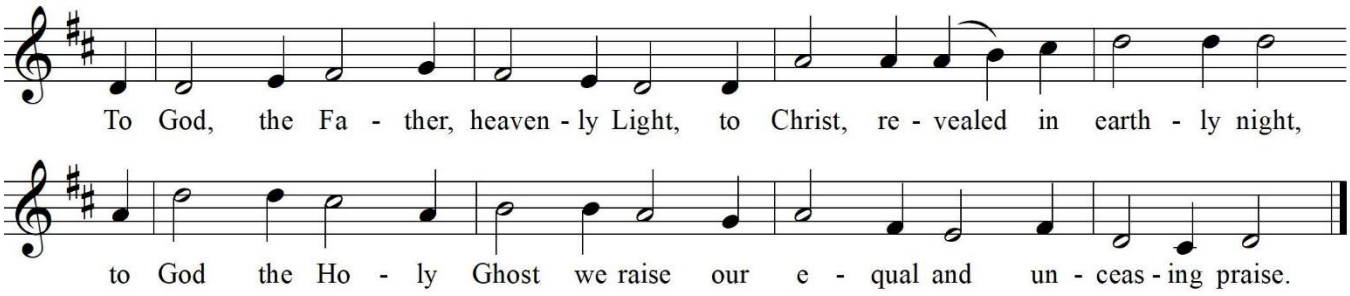
MUSIC DURING THE OFFERING – Gesu Bambino — Pietro A. Yon

Soprano: Catherine Hinton

When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows upon a winter night
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose the King of Love and Light.
The angels sang, the shepherds sang the grateful earth rejoiced
And at His blessed birth the stars their exultation voiced.
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord.
Again the heart with rapture glows to greet the holy night
That gave the world its Christmas Rose its King of Love and Light.
Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name the grateful chorus swell
From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.
O come let us adore Him Christ the Lord.

The people stand as able.

PRESENTATION HYMN 124, V. 5 — Puer Nobis



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER C

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: **By your will they were created and have their being.**
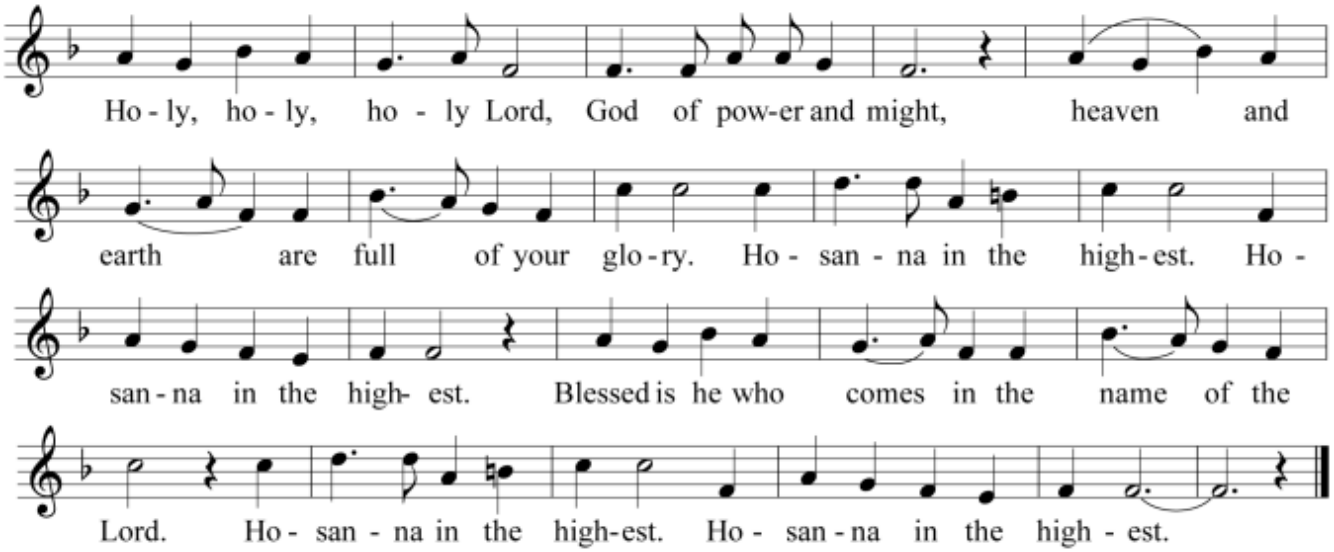
Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: **By his blood, he reconciled us.**
By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:



The Celebrant continues

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

People: ***We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.***

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant: Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. ***AMEN.***

The Lord's Prayer

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

All: **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.
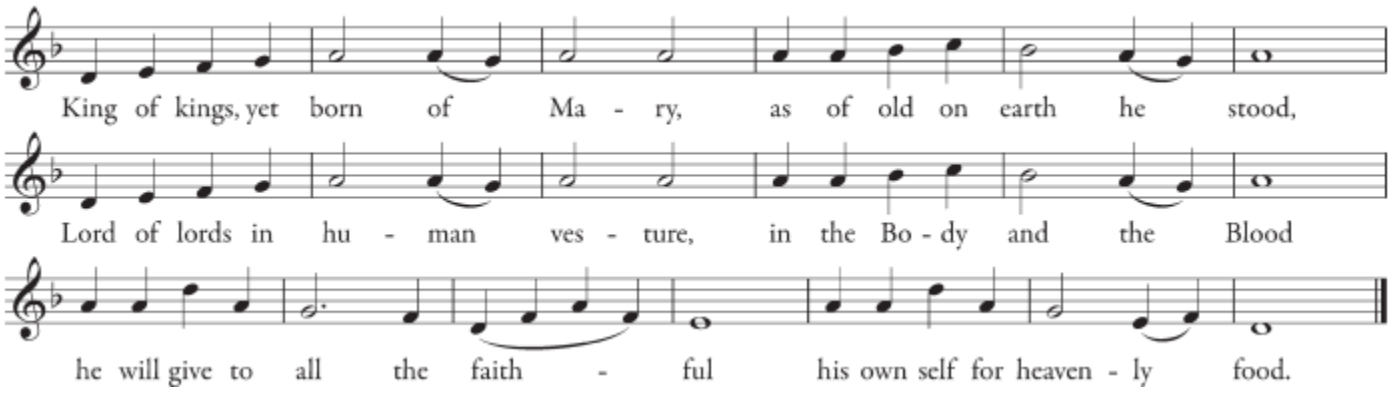
The Breaking of the Bread

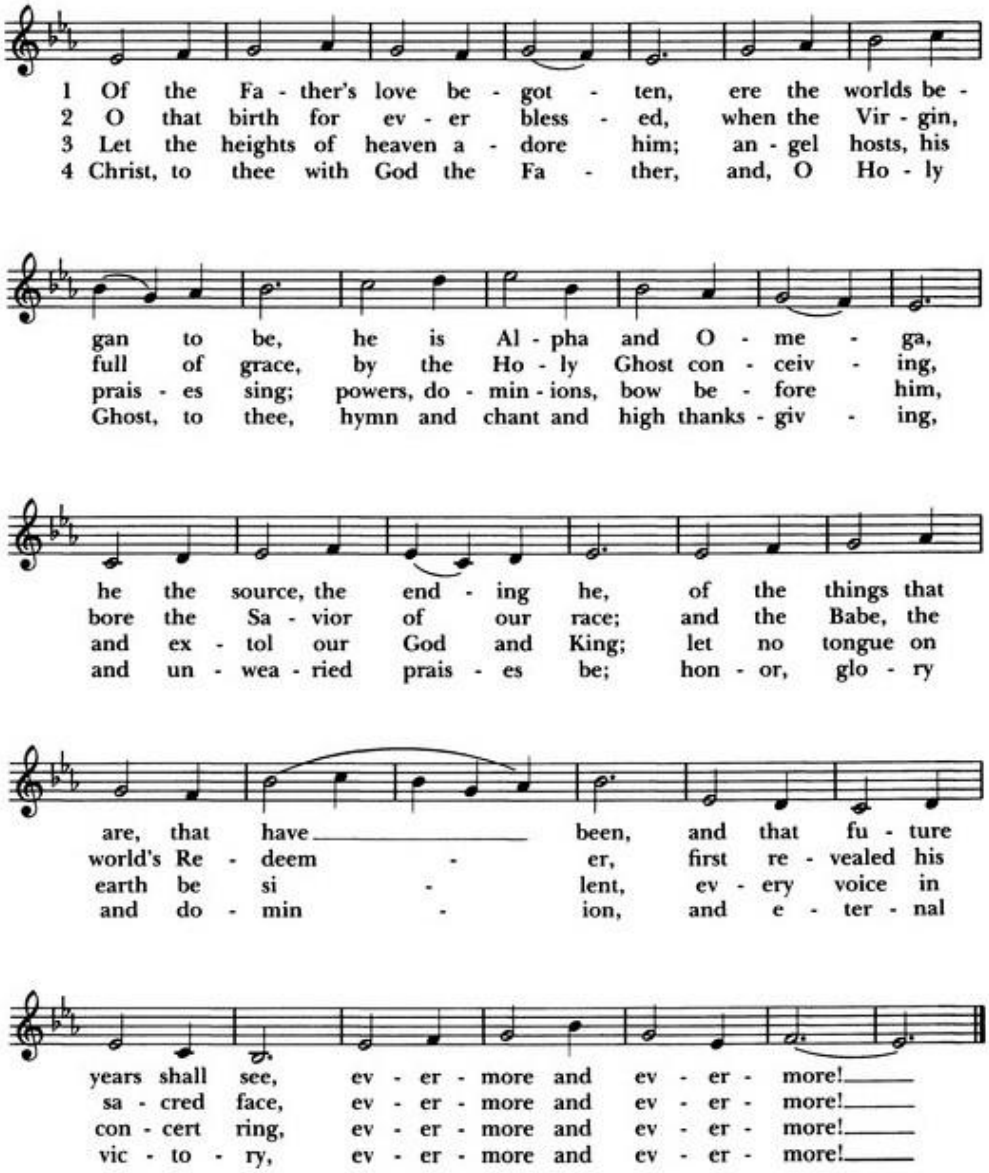
Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem Hymn 324, V. 2

Picardy





POST-COMMUNION PRAYER
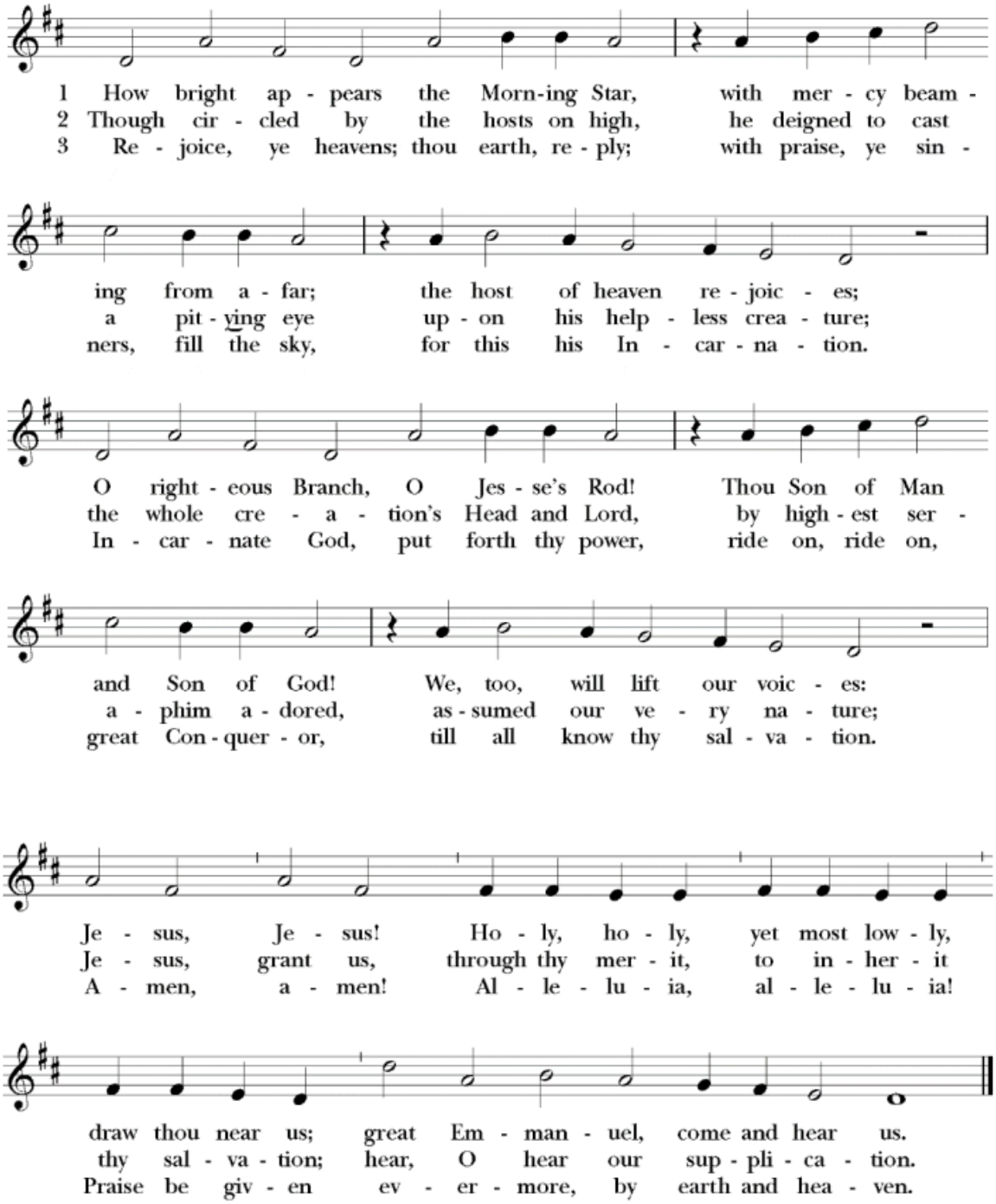
Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: **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 BLESSING

The Celebrant offers a blessing and the People respond ***Amen.***

CLOSING HYMN 497– How Bright Appears the Morning Star Wie Schön Leuchtet



DISMISSAL

The Deacon dismisses the people, who respond:

Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

POSTLUDE – *Verset III, Dans La Gloire des Invalides (In the Glory of the Invalides)* Marcel Dupre

Ola Oladipupo, organist

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

A Quick Note About Services this Weekend | As Maryland experiences a new increase in COVID cases (more on that below), Christ Church requests that all parishioners attending services over Christmas complete our brief attendance registration form prior to worship. One form is all you need for every service this weekend; just check the box(es) of those services you expect to attend so that we can keep tabs on the number of attendees and maintain a safe environment for all. Thank you.

Youth Formation: Sunday School | Please note that there are no Sunday School sessions over the next two weekends. We'll resume on January 9th. If you need to reach us, please email ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org

Adult Forum: Sunday Circle | Sunday Circle takes a break for Christmas, so we will not gather on December 26th.

Adult and Children's Choir - Tuesdays and Thursdays | After Adult Choir rehearsal this evening, we will take the rest of 2020 off. Adult Choir resumes on January 6th and Children's Chorus starts back up on January 11th. Please email Len Langrick, our Director of Music, at music@christchurchcolumbia.org to learn more.

Bible Study – Wednesdays | Bible Study gathers in person next Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and will be a discussion on the readings for that coming Sunday. Next week's gathering focuses on these readings. You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and let's all study together.

We STILL Need More Ushers and Lectors! | YOUR church needs you! We need ushers and lectors for both services, especially during the 8 a.m. service. You will serve at specified scheduled services and select events, will know your schedule well ahead of time, and all ushers and lectors will receive training before scheduling. Please contact Yetti Lipede at ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org for more information.

Garden Tribute for Seiko Shields | As a tribute to Seiko Shields, we are collecting spring and summer bulbs for flowering plants to be planted around the church grounds. This will become a living memorial called *Seiko's Garden*. You are invited to drop bulbs off at the Church Office or in the basket located on a Narthex table.

Diocese of Maryland's COVID Update for Christmas Week | With the uptick in cases around our area, we are currently back in the Orange Phase, with most of Maryland in the Red Phase. This week's Diocesan update can be read in full here. The Bishops of our Diocese have also released a COVID-19 Vaccination Directive that you can view on this page. Please note that masks are still required at all times while indoors at Christ Church, and we'll continue our dialogue with the appropriate organizations and ease restrictions with care and consideration.

Christ Church Supports CCD-USA to Help Disabled Children in Thailand | Christ Church has received warm Christmas greetings and best wishes for the New Year from CCD-USA, the nonprofit organization in this county that supports care for disabled children in Thailand. It does so through Christian Care Foundation for Children with Disabilities (CCD), which was recently recognized for high standards as a charity by the Minister of Social Development and Human Resources.

At the Outreach Commission meeting on December 13th, members voted to contribute $500 in Vestry-approved funds to CCD. As you may recall through past fundraisers such as a quilt raffle, Christ Church is a long-time supporter. We are credited for helping fund CCD's physical therapists on a CCD-website. To read CCD's hearty "Thank-You" to Christ Church once you are online, scroll down past the post about the kitchen garden and look for photos of therapists with children.

In a 2021 holiday newsletter that takes note of the pandemic impact, CCD writes: "2021 was a busy time for the staff and children at CCD! Lockdowns slowed a few programs, but exciting progress was still made. More therapists and food/supply donations went to the Community Based Rehabilitation programs in the outer provinces of Thailand."

The newsletter also informed us that older residents of Rainbow House now operate a local coffee shop and that CCD's award for high standards is called the Prime Minister's Shield. Parishioners can take pride that their contributions to Christ Church are helping CCD improve the lives of children and young people who are differently abled.

To speak to someone who has seen firsthand CCD's work in Thailand, please email outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we will put you in touch with Michon Semon.

Refugee Ministry Update: Good News to Share! | Lutheran Social Services has finally matched us with a family of four: a mother, age 46, with three sons, ages 20, 19, and 17. The family is already in Maryland, currently staying in temporary housing. A team of people from Christ Church has been busy preparing their townhome in Ellicott City, and we will be ready to move them in early the week of December 27th.

Many thanks to Jan DeBoissierre, Cherryllynn Williams, Paula Rees, Pat DeLorenzo, Diana Hall, Steve Alpern, Ray Lyon, and Ann Barnes, for their leadership and tireless dedication in getting us organized and prepared for the family's arrival. Grateful thanks also go out to Michon Semon, Dione Mahoney, Nancy Winchester, Phil Bray, and Nathanial Knox, for their assistance in setting up the home.

Our ministry group is now approximately 40 people, including several volunteers from partner faith communities Patapsco Friends and St. John's Episcopal. We're excited to meet and get to know this family and will be sharing more information in the coming weeks. If you're interested in learning more, please contact Jan DeBoissiere or Cherryllynn Williams. You can also join us for our next Zoom gathering, taking place next Thursday, December 30th at 6:30 p.m. Those details will be in next week's communications.

READ ALL THE LATEST CHRIST CHURCH OUTREACH NEWS ON OUR BLOG:
https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/post/cec-outreach-news-december-23-2021

THE BLESSING OF CHRISTMAS

The blessing of Christmas is the joy of giving and receiving gifts from loved ones and friends. Saint John reminds us of God's love for us with these words: ***For God so loved the world that he GAVE his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, so that all who believe in Him may have eternal life.*** The operating word, according to John, is ***gave***. And this represents the fullest manifestation of God's love for you and me. Love compels us to give - in just the same way that God gave us his Son, Jesus Christ.

On my part, I cannot thank you enough for all the many ways in which you live out the operating word - ***gave***, every single day of your life and, especially, within the life of our Christ Church family.

Because of your genuine and overwhelming acts of selflessness, kindness, grace, compassion, and love, you continue to give immensely to support and build our common life at Christ Church. You inject life into Christ Church so that we may be able to serve the world.

This is the highlight for me - in spite of the individual and communal challenges that we have faced over the past several months, you continue to give, you feel compelled by love to give. It is your giving that has made it possible for us to accomplish some of the work that God has given us. The truth is that we have been able to minister and serve countless people because of your faithfulness, and for that, I thank God for each one of you and I thank God for what God is doing in your lives.

I also want to thank ***YOU***. Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables Christ Church to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us.

We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness. Your beloved Christ Church counts on you and your faithful giving, and so as we celebrate the season of giving, I want to highly encourage all who have not fully completed their pledge for 2021 to remember their faithfulness. I also want to appeal to all who have not as yet returned their pledge for 2022 to remember their faithfulness. Lastly, to all of you who have given so much and yet still sense God's call to give some more, may you please remember your faithfulness.

With God's blessings of peace and joy, I wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas.
Fr. Manny

Text Giving

You can now give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text **CECGIVING** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

Online Giving

You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing towards your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our **overview page** for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at **info@christchurchcolumbia.org**



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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*
Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*
Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*
Len Langrick, *Interim Music Director*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
Tim Beaty • Jan DeBoissiere • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • Greta Pike-Barnes •
Jason Whong • Jane Adams • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Beth Johnson • Andrea Leeman