CHRISTMAS COME EARLY!

We are delighted to have you with us this evening.

If you would like to attend Christmas services with us, see the following offerings.

December 11: 5:30 PM // Blue Christmas in St. John’s Chapel

December 24: 12:00 PM // Holy Eucharist in St. John’s Chapel, 3:00 PM // Holy Eucharist in Bondurant at St. Hubert the Hunter, 3:30 PM // Family Christmas Pageant, 6:00 PM // Holy Eucharist with St. John’s Choir, 9:00 PM // Holy Eucharist with Brass, December 25: 10:00 AM // Holy Eucharist in St. John’s Chapel, 4:00 PM // Carols and Candlelight at the Chapel of the Transfiguration
PRELUDE

“The Snow Lay on the Ground”
“Sing We Now of Christmas”
“Hark the Herald Angels Sing”
“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

OPENING HYMN

The People stand as able for the Hymn and opening

“The People may be seated

ACCLAMATION

Celebrant  Blessed are you, holy and living God.
People       You come to set your people free.
Celebrant  Let us pray. 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.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE LESSONS

The People may be seated

A Reading from the Hebrew Scriptures

ISAIAH 9:2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the New Testament
Titus 2:11-14

En verdad, Dios ha manifestado a toda la humanidad su gracia, la cual trae salvación y nos enseña a rechazar la impiedad y las pasiones mundanas. Así podremos vivir en este mundo con justicia, piedad y dominio propio, mientras aguardamos la bendita esperanza, es decir, la gloriosa venida de nuestro gran Dios y Salvador Jesucristo. Él se entregó por nosotros para rescatarnos de toda maldad y purificar para sí un pueblo elegido, dedicado a hacer el bien.

Lector: La palabra del Señor.
People: Gracias a Dios.

HYMN
“Angels We Have Heard on High” The Hymnal 96

The People stand as able for the hymn and the Gospel
Verses 1-3 are sung before the Gospel and verse 4 is sung after the Gospel
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.

Deacon
The Gospel of the Lord.

People
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

Jimmy Bartz

A moment of silence will be observed for reflection after the sermon

THE NICENE CREED

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 Intercessor and People pray responsively, kneeling or standing

Celebrant
My sisters and brothers in the peace of God, 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 this night. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: O God, in your goodness, hear our prayer.

Intercessor
That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherd’s field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence, O God, in your goodness,

hear our prayer.

That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry, O God, in your goodness,

hear our prayer.

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, O God, in your goodness,

hear our prayer.

That the rejoicing of this day might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship, O God, in your goodness,

hear our prayer.

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness, O God, in your goodness,

hear our prayer.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially those on our prayer list, and those we now name:

People may add their petitions silently or aloud at this time.

O God, in your goodness,

hear our prayer.
For those who have died, especially those we name before you:

*People may add their petitions silently or aloud at this time.*

O God, in your goodness,

**hear our prayer.**

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, O God, in your goodness,

**hear our prayer.**

_Celebrant_

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your word in our flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever.

**THE PEACE**

_The People stand as able_

_Celebrant_  

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

_People_  

And also with you.

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**THE HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERTORY**

“Go Tell It On the Mountain”, Karee Miller, Soloist

**PRESENTATION HYMN**

“The First Nowell The Angel Did Say” The Hymnal 109

_The People stand as able_

1  The first Nowell the angel did say  
   was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
   in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,  
   on a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

   Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,  
   born is the King of Israel.

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

_The People 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.

We thank you, Creator God, that we live in a place where the glorious revelation of you is all around us. The prairie bursts with song from wind and birds and waving grasses. The abundance of animals roaming freely reminds us of our own freedom and the many ways you provide sustenance in your kingdom. From the depths of the ocean floor, you lifted your massive mountains and pointed them toward the heavens.
We, like your Son, our Lord, are called to these high places to get away and rest in communion with you. We marvel as we wander through stately pines and twirling aspens along the creeks, where trout dance on their tails above the rocks, and deer and elk sip from the water’s edge. And we remember that you have given us the Living Water to quench our thirst. Our spirit is refreshed and our strength renewed.

We welcome the passing of seasons in broad circles of time, with anticipation of new things to come, and we recognize that same feeling of hope that encircles our faith. Our lives are lived between sunrises and sunsets and brilliant colors. But at night, the limitless stars have a way of pushing back the boundaries of our lives and we dream of heaven and your wonder.

And with all these blessings of your creation around us, O God, we come together in communities on the prairie, by rivers and streams, on mountain tops, and in their shadows in the valley, to receive your Word, which has been sown in rich soil and grown into a fruitful crop in the Body of Christ.

And so we join with saints and angels in proclaiming your glory, as we say,

**Celebrant & 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 kneel or stand as the Celebrant continues**

As we gather to praise your name, we see your greatest glory, your Son our Savior, reflected in each other’s faces and we know the magnitude of your love for us and ours for you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time, bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

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

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.

BREAKING OF THE BREAD
As the Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, a period of silence is kept

Celebrant Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

This is Christ's table, and Christ is our host at this feast. Children of any age and people of any denomination are welcome to receive communion. Gluten-free hosts are available upon request. If you are unable to come forward, but desire Communion, please notify an usher. If, for whatever reason, you do not wish to receive bread or wine, you are invited to come forward for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMNS
The People are invited to sing “Away in a Manger, No Crib for a Bed” The Hymnal 101
Kirsten Farney, Soloist will sing v. 1 in Spanish, the People are invited to sing vs. 1-3

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 for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.
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 blessèd Child,  
where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild;  
where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,  
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

LIGHTING OF THE PEOPLE’S CANDLES
The Celebrant and Ushers will first light their candles from the altar candles, then pass the light to other worshipers.

POST COMMUNION HYMN
Kirsten Farney and Karee Miller, Soloists will sing v. 1, the People are invited to sing vs. 2-3
POST COMMUNION PRAYER

The People kneel or stand as able

Celebrant Let us pray.
Celebrant Most loving God, creator and redeemer,
& People we give thanks for this foretaste of your glory.
Through Christ and with all your saints,
we offer ourselves and our lives
to your service. Send us out in the power
of your Spirit, to stand with you in your world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ,
the servant, our friend and brother. Amen.

BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. Amen.

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior’s birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.
**CLOSING HYMN**

“Joy To the World” vs. 1-4, The Hymnal 100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-
2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our-
3 No more let sin and sorrow grow, nor thorns in-
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and
songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, rest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far
na-tions prove the glo ries of his right-eous ness, and

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

1 and heaven and nature sing, and
2 re-pete 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 nature sing.
joy, re-pete, re-pete the sound-ing joy.
found, far as, far as the curse is found.
love, and won-ders, won-ders of his love.

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

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**THE DISMISSAL**

*As the procession passes down the aisle, you are invited to face the doors of the church for the Dismissal*

**Deacon**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**People**

Thanks be to God.

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

**POSTLUDE**

“Ding Dong Merrily on High”

“O Sanctissima”
Thank you to our film crew today and to our musicians.
And, thank you to all of you that were able to join us!

Judy Bowser, Organist
Kirsten Farney, Soloist
Karee Miller Jaeger, Soloist

Jimmy Bartz, Preacher
Brian Nystrom, Celebrant
Margaret Hutton, Lector
Lety Liera, Lector

The Episcopal Church’s Media and Production Crew:
Mike Collins
Jeremy Tackett
Chris Sikkema
Rich D’Elia
Tony Ditata
Tom Verga
Mike Henrichs

ST. JOHN’S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
JACKSON HOLE

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US TODAY!
To learn more about St. John’s Episcopal Church go to our website, stjohns.jackson.org.
The Reverend Jimmy Bartz, Rector
The Reverend Brian Nystrom
The Reverend Suzanne Harris
The Reverend Mary Erickson
David Wagner, Music Director
Kirsten Farney, Music Assistant
Margaret Hutton, Director of Faith, Care & Action
Catherine Morahan, Director of the Children & Youth Community
Pam Woodson, Parish Life
Robyn Reed, Director of Operations
Haley Deming, Communications Director
Liz Collins, Assistant to the Pastoral Staff
Stephanie Abbey, Administrative Assistant
Tim Schwarz, Sexton
Lonnie Brown, Browse ‘N Buy Manager
Julie Tobiason, Bright Beginnings Preschool Director