

*Celebration of Christmas Eve*

*Sunday, December 24, 2023*

*via Zoom*

Everyone is welcome to join us via Zoom.us  
06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)  
Zoom meeting opens at 6:00 PM.

The link to join the meeting is:

<https://zoom.us/j/231599312?pwd=bHJMT1NZOEtERE1oOTQwdS84NU45Zz09>

For those joining by phone or through an app, you will need meeting ID and password:

Meeting ID: 231 599 312

Password: 333 333

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 408 638 0968 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 231 599 312

Password: 333 333

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/abm1zHjEP>

#### Additional Instructions and Preparation

- When signing into Zoom liturgy, kindly type your name and where you're joining us from in your caption.
- Please be prepared to share Eucharist with us.
- We invite everyone to have bread and wine / grape juice present if you are able to and feel comfortable doing so. We are called to share in the priesthood of all believers in this Eucharistic celebration.
- Bread recipes are available on our website Liturgy page.
- Mute mic and chat functions help to optimize your experience during the liturgy.

Dignity/New York gathers proudly as a faith community of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Straight Catholics and our friends. We welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We welcome all to our liturgies regardless of their faith tradition, and all are invited to share in the Body and Blood of Christ at Communion. Our community has both ordained and lay presiders whom we have called forth to lead us during our liturgies.

As a progressive and inclusive Catholic community, we use gender-inclusive language. For example, you will notice that we use "All-loving God" instead of "Our Father" when reciting the Greatest Prayer. We make our best efforts to change our hymnals and printed materials as necessary, but they do not always reflect our use of gender-inclusive language. Please feel free to change any non-inclusive language as you prefer.

Also in the interest of inclusivity, our community has intentionally chosen to use the language of the Mass prior to the revision of the Roman Missal in 2011.

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## WELCOME

Carol:

*O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (GC 341)*



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. God of God, Light of Light,
3. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing,



come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
Lo! He comes forth from the Vir - gin's womb.  
Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!  
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n;



Come and be - hold him, born the king of an - gels;  
Our ver - y God, be - got - ten not cre - a - ted.  
Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est.  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O



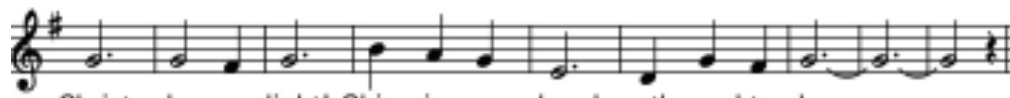
come let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord!

### **Introductory**

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark - ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

## **Sign of The Cross & Greeting**

### **Christmas Proclamation**

Throughout the season of Advent,  
the Church has reflected on God's promises,  
so often spoken by the prophets,  
to send a savior to the people of Israel  
who would be Emmanuel, that is, God with us.  
In the fullness of time those promises were fulfilled. With hearts full of joy  
let us listen to the proclamation of our Savior's birth.

Today, the twenty-fifth day of December,  
unknown ages from the time when God created the heavens and the earth and then formed  
humankind in their own image.

Several thousand years after the flood, when God made the rainbow shine forth as a sign  
of the covenant.

Twenty-one centuries from the time of Abraham and Sarah; thirteen centuries after the  
people of Israel were led out of Egypt.  
Eleven hundred years from the time of Ruth and the Judges; one thousand years from the  
anointing of David as king;  
in the sixty-fifth week according to the prophecy of Daniel.

In the one hundred and ninety-fourth Olympiad; the seven hundred and fifty-second year  
from the foundation of the city of Rome.

The forty-second year of the reign of Octavian Augustus; the whole world being at peace,  
Jesus Christ, eternal God and Child of the eternal Creator, desiring to sanctify the world by  
his most merciful coming, being conceived by the Holy Spirit, and nine months having  
passed since his conception, was born in Bethlehem of Judea of the Virgin Mary.

Today is the nativity of our Savior Jesus Christ according to the flesh.

### **Penitential Rite**

#### **Gloria:**

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH GC 347

Angels we have heard on high  
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply  
Echo back their joyous strains.

Shepherd why this jubilee.  
Why your joyous strains prolong.  
What the gladsome tidings be.  
Which inspire your heavenly song?

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!*  
*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!*

**Opening Prayer**

**Reading I**

Isaiah 9:1-6

**Responsory**

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

GC 348

Hark! The herald angels sing,  
"Glory to the newborn King;  
Peace on earth and mercy mild  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful all you nations, rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ the everlasting Lord:  
Late in time behold him come,  
Off-spring of the Virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see:  
Hail the incarnate Deity,  
Pleased as man with us to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING,  
"GLORY TO THE NEWBORN KING!"

Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!  
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
Risen with healing in his wings.  
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.

**Reading II**

Titus 2:11-14

**Acclamation**

GC 198

**Gospel**

Luke 2:1-14

Lewis Speaks-Tanner

**Homily**

Lewis Speaks-Tanner

**General Intercessions**

Our response will be: **Emmanuel, hear our prayer.**

## **Preparation of the Altar & the Gifts**

Carol:                    The First Nowell

GC 377

1.        The first Nowell, the angel did say,  
          Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
          In fields where 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.
2.        They looked up and saw a star  
          Shining in the east, beyond them far,  
          And to the earth it gave great light,  
          And so it continued both day and night.  
          Nowell, Nowell...
3.        And by the light of that same star  
          Three wise men came from country far;  
          To seek for a king was their intent,  
          And to follow the star wherever it went.  
          Nowell, Nowell...

## **Eucharistic Prayer**

**Presider     We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.**

All            From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.

All            You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.

**Presider     Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!  
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO!

All            Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.  
          To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

**Presider** 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.

**Presider** Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

**All** Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friend. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

*“Take this all of you, and eat it. This is my Body, which will be given up for you.” (Pause and Bow)*

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

*“Take this all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of my Blood, the Blood of the new and everlasting Covenant. It will be shed for you and for all. so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.” (Pause and Bow)*

Memorial Acclamation:

GC 203

**Presider** 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.

**All** You have gathered us here around the table of our Savior, in communion with Mary, Mother of God, and all the saints and all those who have gone before us in faith. In that new world where the fullness of your peace will be revealed, gather people of every race, every language, and every way of life to share in the one eternal banquet with Jesus our Savior.

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.

### **The Greatest Prayer**

Plainchant

*Begin with Ever-loving God... we continue the prayer with TFors the Kin\_dom, the power...”*

### **The Peace**

**Communion Hymn**

SILENT NIGHT (Traditional)

GC 352

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.

Silent night, holy night.  
Shepherds quake at the sight;  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heav'nly hosts sing alleluia;  
Christ the savior is born.

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.

**Prayer after Communion**

**Blessing & Dismissal**

**Sending Forth:**

Joy To The World

GC 342

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth receive her King;  
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n and nature sing,  
And heav'n and nature sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns: Let us, our songs employ;  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the  
sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sin and sorrows grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;  
He comes to make his blessings flow Far as the curse is found,  
Far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
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.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**Announcements and Acknowledgement**

We are planning to have in-person liturgies resume on January 7, 2024 if everything works out that we can safely meet for liturgy. We will keep you posted.

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We encourage those who are Zoom to stay on after the closing song to chat. [Those at St. John’s, please bring hymn book and any extra papers to the sacristy while exiting through the common room if you are staying for the social.]

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Please check the **DignityNY YouTube** page for Sunday Gospel and Homilies.

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**DignityNY 2023 Advent Appeal will be emailed to everyone on Friday or Saturday. Members will receive it in the mail. We thank you for the generosity. To get to the Donate to a Chapter option on [DignityUSA.org](http://DignityUSA.org), use the “Ways to Give” tab.**

\*\*\*\*\*

[Donate to the DignityUSA 2023 Advent Appeal!](#)

November 28, 2023 | by DignityUSA | Donate to DignityUSA's Advent Appeal to help us continue our mission of championing respect and justice for all sexual orientations, genders and identities within the Catholic Church and beyond.

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[Preregister for DignityUSA's 2025 Conference to Get a Registration Discount!](#)

November 21, 2023 | by DignityUSA | Preregistration is now open! Secure your spot and get a discount off the registration cost.

\*\*\*\*\*

2024 Calendars will be available when we are back at church.

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**The Little Blue Book Advent and Christmas Seasons has arrived! Advent starts on November 29, 2023. We want everyone in the community to have a book. The books are available at church now. If you are not able to pick one up at church, we will gladly ship one to you- email [dignitynewyork@gmail.com](mailto:dignitynewyork@gmail.com) with your mailing address and one will be shipped.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Sandy Thezan has a fundraising goal of \$3,000 as she takes the plunge for the 2024 Special Olympics NY. The Polar Plunge donations will support NY Special Olympics athletic training. Here is the link to donate: <http://events.nyso.org/goto/Sthezan>

If you would like to donate by check, please make your check payable to "Special Olympics NY," Memo: "Sandy Thezan" and mail the check to:

6 Anthony Drive  
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

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New Vatican Document Opens Some Sacraments and Roles to Transgender, Gay Catholics: LGBTQIA+ Catholic Group Calls this “Encouraging” Is the title article on DignityUSA website. Check out the work DignityUSA is doing!

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For those who are unable to watch Executive Director Marianne Duddy-Burke's keynote "Learning from Dignity: 50 Years of Ministry with LGBTQ Catholics" at the Outreach Conference you can click the link below.

[Watch Keynote](#)

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Jeff Stone has copies for sale of Sam Albano's book: *God's Works Revealed: Spirituality, Theology, and Social Justice for Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Catholics*. See Jeff if interested.

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Support Transgender and nonbinary people by going to [DignityUSA.org](http://DignityUSA.org) to sign the beloved by God Declaration. Take a moment to look up transgender history, make a donation, honor a transgender person today.

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**Volunteering at Liturgies**

If you are interested in serving as a volunteer for our liturgy: help open and close the church, reader, coordinator, sacristan or tech person, we are always looking for volunteers. Please let Larry Caputo or Lewis Speaks-Tanner know you are interested. [Volunteer@dignityny.org](mailto:Volunteer@dignityny.org)

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**THE CHOIR** is seeking new members. Speak to our Choir Director, **Norine**, if interested. • Auditions and Choir Practice will be in the choir loft at St. John's ½ hour before liturgy.

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**Liturgy Committee** will meet the second Monday at 7:30 pm on Zoom. All are welcome. The Liturgy Committee is looking for more committee members. Meeting ID: 952 513 812 Passcode: 998088

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**Steering Committee** meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm on Zoom. All are welcome. Meeting ID: 857 2315 4226 Passcode: 697371

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**Come to the Table:** Catholic Worship for All - **3rd Sunday** of the month • **10:30 am to 12 Noon**. For more information, email **Patricia Russell** at [ComeToTheTable@DignityNY.org](mailto:ComeToTheTable@DignityNY.org)

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**DefendersUSA Leather & Kink caucus**, meets the third Tuesday of each month via Zoom at 8:30 pm ET. Talk to Lewis Speaks-Tanner or Tom McLoughlin for more details.

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**The Trevor Project**

*Crisis intervention and mental health services for those ages 13-24*

<http://www.thetrevorproject.org/>

Crisis hotline: 866-488-7386 (for those ages 13-24)

**Trans Lifeline (US) 877 565-8860 [www.translifeline.org](http://www.translifeline.org)**

**National Suicide Prevention Hotline**

*24/7 hotline, staffed by trained individuals, for those in suicidal crisis or emotional distress*

<http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Crisis hotline: 800-273-TALK (8255); 888-628-9454 (en español)

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**Steering Committee members:** Chris Alberti, Robert Brande, Danny Larkin, Tom McLoughlin, James Osbourn, Lewis Speaks-Tanner, Jeff Stone

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**The Dignity/New York community enjoys and values your company** in the celebration of our liturgy each week. Donations to Dignity/New York can be made by using the “Donate Now” located on our website or use the link below:

<https://dignityusa.app.neoncrm.com/forms/donate>

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**We encourage to become a member of DignityUSA (and Dignity/New York).** By joining, you increase DignityUSA’s voice. <https://dignityusa.app.neoncrm.com/forms/membership>

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For more information about DignityNY or to view our **calendar**, visit our website **home page** at <https://dignityny.org/>

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**To join our electronic announcements (e-Bulletin) list**, send an e mail [dny@dignityny.org](mailto:dny@dignityny.org), or use the link on our home page.

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**To submit items for consideration for distribution** via our electronic announcements postings, send them to [dignitynewyork@gmail.com](mailto:dignitynewyork@gmail.com)

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Friend us on **Facebook**: [Dignity New York](#) ; **Threads**: [dignity\\_ny](#); **Instagram**: [dignity\\_ny](#)

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**DIGNITY/NEW YORK IS A SAFE SPACE.** Feel free to greet those around you and to social, remembering to respect every person’s comfort level. If anyone breaches your comfort level, please let a member of the Steering Committee know. (The members of the Steering Committee can be identified by the rainbow-colored name tags they wear).

**PHOTOS AND VIDEOS AT LITURGY.** In keeping with our Safe Space policy, Dignity/New York is a place where privacy is respected. Our policy of many years is that the taking of photos or videos during liturgy or the social is not allowed without permission being given in advance by the Steering Committee. In these cases, the community will be notified in advance, and will be told where and when cameras will and will not be allowed to shoot. Personal or small group photos should be taken or posted to social media only with the permission of each person involved.

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