

AAPI ADVENT GATHERING



"Flight Into Egypt" (1978) - Sadao Watanabe

DEC. 17TH, 2023
5:00 PM
ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL

Prelude

O Magnum Mysterium

Tomás Luis de Victoria, arr Chris Cho

Laós Chamber Music – Jaewon Ahn, Chris Cho, Niall Taro Ferguson, and Dustin Seo

The Gathering

God Is With Us

Joyce Swaving

In this season of waiting and watching,
For the God that is with us. Let us know that this very God is meant for us too
No matter the shape of our eyes or the color of our skin
For the coming Savior comes to dwell within,
All of us
So open your eyes, your heart, your life will expand
As we look for ways to be reintroduced to the good shepherd of every land
In this season of waiting, watching and hoping
For an end to war, unrest and all forms of violence
We must press on, speak out, we can not stand by in silence
For we have a Prince of peace
Whose family walked through the desert and braved indignity, brutality
Uprooted lives, birthed on foreign soil, a stranger
This precious child, born in a manger
In this season of waiting, watching, hoping and teaching
What and who are you willing to see? The lonely one, the souls behind bars, migrant
children caged
For to encounter the Christ child, we are to be forever changed
We are to feed the hungry, clothe the naked
visit the imprisoned
As we gaze out for the guiding star that leads us to the light
Let us let go of our self centered desire for more and the possessions we hold tight
Release the notion of power and control, and embrace the babe
Innocent, swaddled in simplicity and love
Recognizing that this and every holy family that fled a regime
is precious and longing for safety and security beyond what is seen
Let us embrace one another as siblings of the Wonderful Counselor
In this season of waiting and watching, hoping, teaching and trusting
In the Lamb of God, the Alpha and Omega, the King of Kings, Immanuel
God with us.

Amen

*The temple bell signals a time of reflective silence.
When the time is right all stand to sing this gathering song.*

1 Watch-man, tell us of the night, what its signs of prom-ise
2 Watch-man, tell us of the night; high-er yet that star a -
3 Watch-man, tell us of the night, for the morn-ing seems to

are. Trav - eler, o'er yon moun-tain's height, see that glo - ry-
scends. Trav - eler, bless - ed - ness and light, peace and truth its
dawn. Trav - eler, dark-ness takes its flight, doubt and ter - ror

beam - ing star. Watch-man, does its beau - teous ray
course por - tends. Watch-man, will its beams a - lone
are with - drawn. Watch-man, let thy wan - derings cease;

aught of joy or hope fore - tell? Trav - eler, yes; it
gild the spot that gave them birth? Trav - eler, a - ges
hie thee to thy qui - et home. Trav - eler, lo! the

Service Leader

The Reverend Joshua Wong Seek the One who made the stars,
and turns deep darkness into bright morning. --Amos 5:8

Advent candles are lit.

The Light of the World comes to be among us:
O come, let us adore Christ our Lord.

Let us confess our sin to God and our neighbor.

Community

**O God, you have searched us out and known us,
and all that we are is open to you.
We confess that we have sinned against you.
we have used our power to dominate
and our weakness to manipulate;
we have evaded responsibility and failed to confront evil;
we have denied dignity to ourselves
and to our siblings, and have fallen into despair.
We turn to you, O God; we renounce evil, we claim your love;
we choose to be made whole. Amen.**

Priest

The Reverend Katherine Feng ✠ Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The people sit

Gathering Prayers

Service Leader

Keep your Church ever watchful,
prepared for the call to new service and greater witness,
and give to us keen eyes and eager minds
to know and do your will.
Prepare our eyes and minds for the coming of Christ.
O come, Lord God, anew and afresh into our lives this Advent
season. We welcome you with open hearts and minds on this day.
We light the candles so we might bring light to those around us.

Community

**Lord, we thank you for shining your light in the places in our
lives that are in need of healing and warmth.**

Service Leader

O come, Lord, into our eyes so we can more clearly see where you
appear in unexpected ways of delight. In the face of a child, a
couple holding hands, in the smiling eyes of the overworked
grocery clerk. Direct us to look up, Lord, to keep our eyes on you so
that we stay focused on the importance of being tender with
ourselves and one another.

Community

**Lord, we thank you for all the points of light that often go
unnoticed yet bless our daily lives.**

Service Leader O come, Lord God, into our hearts and minds that may be weary and anxious this day. Help us to remain humble enough to recognize that we still have much we need to learn and let us question what we think we know. Restore in us a refreshment of spirit, that is on fire to spread love and radical kindness.

Community **Lord, we thank you for cracking our heart open, in order to make space to include the forgotten and those who feel cast aside.**

Service Leader O come, Lord God, and unstop our ears so we can truly listen to those who are suffering and whose pain and hardships are too often forgotten. Help us to transform heartache into spaces of compassion.

Community **Lord, we thank you for blessing us and reminding us to share and learn from and embrace all our siblings.**

Service Leader We come, Lord God, like the wisdom seekers following the star that announced your arrival, longing for your light in our lives. Continue to guide us on our journey as we encounter the beauty you have placed in all of creation, and in the hearts of every person.

Community **Lord, we thank you for continuing to appear in our lives each day, extending your grace, mercy and love. Amen**

The Service of God's Word

Readings

Lector-Erika G. Bertling A reading from the Prophet Isaiah (61:1-4, 8-11)

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
The Merciful One has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the brokenhearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Creator, to display the LORD's glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.
Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my Creator;
for the Holy One has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
God has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom is bedecked with a garland,
and as a bride is adorned with 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.

Lector

The Word of the Lord.

Community

Thanks be to God.

The temple bell signals a time of reflective silence.

Lector-Dustin Nguyen

A reading from *An Asian American Theology of Liberation* by Wong Tian An

The Asian American church cannot stay silent as people cry out against sexual abuse, police brutality, economic oppression, and environmental racism. It cannot stand idly by when people are fighting and dying in the streets for freedom. Asian American theology must point to the God who is for the poor and against the rich, who speaks from the mouths of Asian children participating in strikes and protests. There is no neutral ground for Asian American theology to stand upon: it can only be against oppression and repression of any kind in any place, aligning itself with the masses, the 99 percent, the minjung.

(*Minjung* 민중: A Korean word describing oppressed masses of people.)

Lector

Here ends the lesson.

The temple bell signals a time of reflective silence.

The people stand.

Sequence Hymn 573

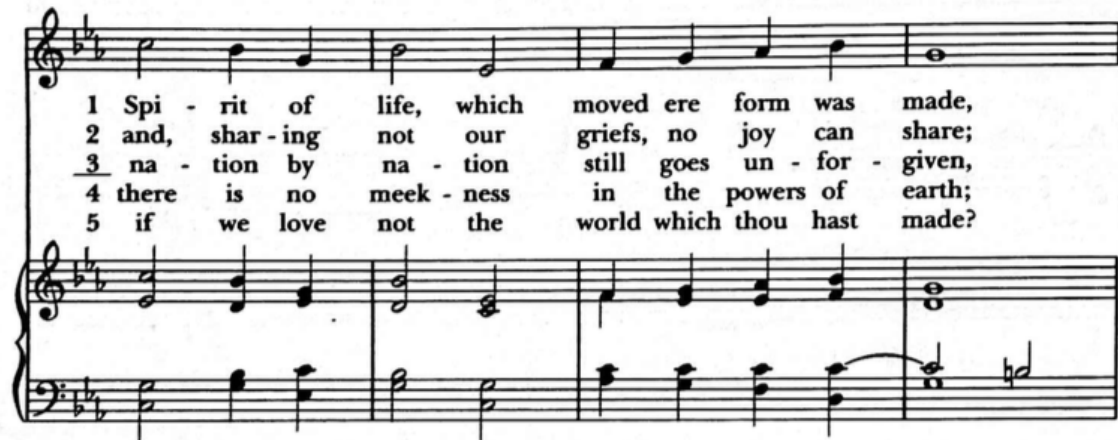
Father Eternal, Ruler of Creation

Langham

(Stanzas 1,2 before the Gospel, 3-4 after the Gospel)



1 Fa - ther e - ter - nal, Ru - ler of cre - a - tion,
2 Rac - es and peo - ples, lo, we stand di - vid - ed,
3 En - vious of heart, blind - eyed, with tongues con - found - ed,
4 Lust of pos - ses - sion work - eth des - o - la - tions;
5 How shall we love thee, ho - ly hid - den Be - ing,



1 Spi - rit of life, which moved ere form was made,
2 and, shar - ing not our griefs, no joy can share;
3 na - tion by na - tion still goes un - for - given,
4 there is no meek - ness in the powers of earth;
5 if we love not the world which thou hast made?



1 through the thick dark - ness cov - ering ev - ery na - tion,
2 by wars and tu - mults love is mocked, de - rid - ed;
3 in wrath and fear, by jea - lous - ies sur - round - ed,
4 led by no star, the ru - lers of the na - tions
5 Bind us in thine own love for bet - ter see - ing

1 light to our blind - ness, O be thou our aid:
 2 his sav - ing cross no na - tion yet will bear:
 3 build - ing proud towers which shall not reach to heaven:
 4 still fail to bring us to the bliss - ful birth:
 5 thy Word made flesh, and in a man - ger laid:

Refrain

thy king - dom come, O Lord, thy will be done.

Deacon
 Community

A reading of the life of Jesus as written in John (1:6-8,19-28)
Glory is yours, O Christ.

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.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Deacon
Community The Gospel of the Lord.
 Praise to you, O Christ.

The people sit
Reflection

Sharon Crandall

The temple bell signals a time of reflective silence.

Service Leader God of grace,
Community **you nourish us with the wisdom of your Word**
 which is the bread of life. Fill us ever with your Holy Spirit,
 that through us the light of your glory
 may shine in all the world. Amen.

Welcome
Soriano

The Rev. Mel

The Very Rev. Anne Sawyer, *Interim Dean and Priest-in-Charge*
The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor, *Bishop of Los Angeles*

Offertory *Bogoroditse Devo* from All-Night Vigil by Sergei Rachmaninoff,
 arr Niall Taro Ferguson

The Service of Holy Communion

The Table is set for the Communion and everyone is invited at the Table.

Link for online donations can be found on the last page.

Gifts of bread, wine, water and money are brought to the table.

Priest Accept this gift, O Gracious God, the offering of our labor
 for the building up of your kingdom. **Amen.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness
we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Community **Blessed be God forever.**

Priest Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
 through your goodness
 we have this wine to set before you,
 fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
 It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Community **Blessed be God forever.**

Consecration Prayer

Priest

God dwells in you.

Community

And also in you.

Priest

Come to the table with thankful hearts.

Community

We open our hearts to God with praise.

Priest

Mystery of winter skies,
We thank you in the darkening hour
for opening our eyes to see your starlit beauty;
for parting the wide heavens to send your gentle light;
for offering your word to take our mortal flesh

Jesus was promised by those who shared your dream of peace;
John the Baptist cleared the way with words of desert fire;
Mary and Joseph accepted this coming with tenderness and faith;
we know that the Christ draws near again
to show us who we really are with honesty and love.

Now we take up the song of hope
that we might awaken to this coming among us
and the world be touched
by the foot-fall of Jesus' glory:

Glory and thanksgiving to you,
most gracious Father, most loving Mother;
for our hope is built on the Light
you brought into the world:
The First, the Last, the Living One.
Obedient, even to accepting death on a cross,
your Son Jesus opened the gate of glory
and now calls us all to share the life of heaven.

Before he was given up to suffering and death,
Jesus took bread while at supper with his friends
and offered you thanks. Breaking the bread,
he gave it to them, saying:
"Take, eat. This is my Body, broken for you."

As supper was ending, Jesus took a cup of wine,
offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying:
"Drink this, all of you.
This is my Blood of the new Covenant;
it is poured out for you, and for all,
that sins may be forgiven. Do this and remember me."

Now gathered at your table,
O God of all creation,
we obey your Son's command,
as we look for the coming of Jesus' holy reign.

Community

**✠ Hear us loving God,
and send your Holy Spirit upon us and
upon this bread and this wine,
that they may be for us the Body and Blood of Jesus.**

Priest

Through these gifts
may we be kindled with the fire of your love
and renewed for the service of your kingdom.
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
be all honor, glory and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen**

The Lord's Prayer from the New Zealand Prayer Book

All are invited to pray in the language and style of their choice.

Priest

As Jesus Christ taught us, we now pray,

Community

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Mother and Father of us all,
Loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustains our hope and
comes on earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.
Amen

Breaking of Bread

Priest

Your light, O Christ, shall rise in the darkness;
and your healing springs up at dawn.

Community

Invitation to Communion

Priest So, come to this table,
you who have much faith
and you who would like to have more.
You who come to this table often,
and you who have not been for a long time.
You who have tried to follow Jesus,
and you who, like me, have failed.
Come.
It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

All are invited to the Table to receive bread and wine, or blessing.

Cello Presentation *Sarabande from Suite for Unaccompanied Cello in D Major BWV 1012
by JS Bach, arr Chris Cho*

The people stand.

Post-communion Prayer

Priest Let us pray.
Community **O Lord our God,
make us watchful and keep us faithful
as we await the coming of our Lord Jesus;
that when he shall appear,
we may not be found sleeping in sin
but awake in service and joyful in praise. Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Priest May our life-giving God,
whose wisdom speaks to us
in light and breath,
in word and sacrament,
in earth and flesh,
illumine us with the Light of the World
and the radiance of the Spirit.
And the blessing of God;
✠ Abba, Word and Wisdom,
enlighten us, sustain us,
and be with us this day and always. **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able

Message

(Stanzas 1-3 only)

1 The an - gel Ga - bri - el from hea - ven came,
 2 "For know a bless - ed Mo - ther thou shalt be,
 3 Then gen - tle Ma - ry meek - ly bowed her head,
 4 Of her, Em - man - u - el, the Christ, was born

his wings as drift - ed snow, his eyes as flame;
 all gen - er - a - tions laud and hon - or thee,
 "To me be as it pleas - eth God," she said,
 in Beth - le - hem, all on a Christ - mas morn,

"All hail," said he, "thou low - ly maid - en Ma - ry,
 thy Son shall be Em - man - u - el, by seers fore - told,
 "my soul shall laud and mag - ni - fy his ho - ly Name."
 and Chris - tian folk through - out the world will ev - er say—

most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!
 Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy, Glo - ri - a!
 "Most high - ly fa - vored la - dy," Glo - ri - a!

The Dismissal

The temple bell signals the end of the service. Everyone is invited to stay for fellowship and meal.

Postlude

Vocalise

Sergei Rachmaninoff arr by Niall Taro Ferguson

The Gathering's programs are largely self-funded. We depend on the generosity of the community. To support The Gathering for this service and throughout the year, please visit <https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/TheGatheringEDLA> or photograph the below QR Code.



Today's liturgy is adapted from "Holy Spirit, The Episcopal Community in Silverlake/Atwater Village"

Special thanks to:

Laós Chamber Music:

Jaewon Ahn, Chris Cho, Niall Taro Ferguson, and Dustin Seo

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The Gathering Leadership Team:

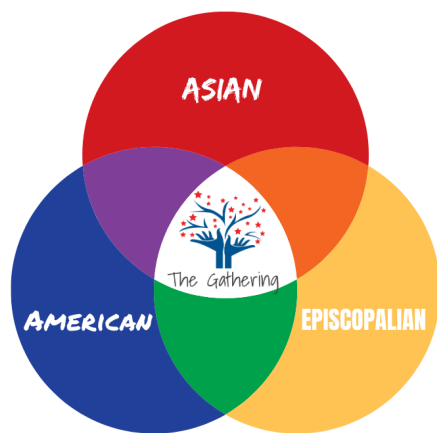
Dustin Nguyen, Dustin Seo, Erika Bertling, Jenny Goto, The Rev. Joshua Wong, Joyce Swaving,

The Rev. Mel Soriano, Sharon Crandall

After-service fellowship food prepared and provided by Joyce Swaving

Our host St. John's Cathedral & The Rev. Katherine Feng, The Very Rev. Anne Sawyer,

and The Rt. Rev. John Harvey Taylor, Bishop of Los Angeles



For more information about The Gathering

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