

**ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
CHRISTMAS CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
December 24, 2025 7:30pm**

Aloha and Welcome!

Whoever you are, whatever your story, you are welcome here. We pray that your soul is nourished through worship, the beauty of this sacred space, and the presence of God's love within this unity.

We are blessed to have you join us for worship!



CONTACT US

1317 Queen Emma Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Church Office: 808-533-1943 Fax 808-531-9904

Office Manager's Hours: Mon., Tues., Thurs., 9am-3pm; Fri., 9am-1pm

On the Web: www.stpetershonolulu.org

Carols for Congregation

The congregation is invited to sing as indicated.

WELCOME!

CONGREGATION	<i>Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming</i>	Hymnal #81
READING	<i>Baby Jesus, Child of Love</i>	by Marcia A. Newton
CONGREGATION	<i>Once in royal David's city (vs 1,2,3,6)</i>	Hymnal #102
READING	<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i>	by Christina Georgina Rossetti
SOLO	<i>O Holy Night</i>	Adams
	Joseph Eppink, Piano	
CONGREGATION	<i>The snow lay on the ground</i>	Hymnal #110
SOLO	<i>The First Noël</i>	English Carol
	Ale Kaneshiro, Violin	
ORGAN PRELUDE	<i>Noël</i>	<i>Daquin</i>



The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Congregation participation in bold.

WELCOME!

The Processional Hymn *O come, all ye faithful (vs 1,2,3,5,6)* **Hymnal #83**

The Word of God

All remain standing.

Presider The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People **Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.**

Presider May the grace and love of Christ be with you all.

People **And also with you.**

Presider 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.**

All are seated.

The First Reading

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Congregation joins in singing the refrain

TODAY IS BORN OUR SAVIOR

Psalm 96

Francis Patrick O'Brien

To - day is born our Sav - ior, born our
Sav - ior, Christ the Lord! To - day is
Sav - ior, born our Sav - ior, Christ the Lord!

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1. Sing to the Lord a new song;
Sing to the Lord, all you lands.
Sing to the Lord; bless God's name.
Bless the name of God.

Refrain

2. Tell his salvation day after day.
Tell God's glory among the nations;
among all peoples.
Tell God's wondrous deeds.

Refrain

3. Heaven and earth be glad in the Lord;
Seas and plains resound in our God;
Trees of the forest exult with joy!
Bless the name of God.

Refrain

4. They shall exult before the Lord,
For God comes to rule the earth.
God shall rule with faithfulness,
Faithfulness and justice.

Refrain

The Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that

are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

All stand.

CONGREGATION *Go tell it on the mountain, (vs. 1, 3)* **Hymnal #99**

The Christmas Gospel **Luke 2:1-20**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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!"

The Congregation joins in singing:

**Angels we have heard on high. Singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.**

Glo—ria, in excelsis Deo. Glo—ria, in excelsis Deo.

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.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

All sing.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo. Glo-ria, in excelsis Deo.

Please be seated.

The Sermon

Pastor Ruth

Music Meditation

Manny Dayao

Prayers of the People

*After each prayer petition, the people are invited to respond "**hear our prayer**".*

The Presider Bless your people, O Lord, and turn our faces ever toward you. For peace, for mercy, for the sake of all that is holy. We come to adore you, O Christ. **Amen.**

The Peace *Please greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offering

Presider O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being. (*Revelation 4:11*)

Welcome to those of you who are visiting with us today! Please take a moment to sign a pew card and place it in the offering bowl so that we can extend a personal welcome to you. We are glad you're here!



QR code for electronic giving

Offertory Music

Mary Did You Know
Austin Lee, Violin

Lowery

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

All stand and sing, as the gifts are brought forward.

Offertory Response *Angels from the realms of glory (vs 1,4)* Hymnal #93

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 newborn King.	Though an infant now we view him, He shall fill his heav'nly throne, Gather all the nations to him; Ev'ry knee shall then bow down: Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ, the newborn King.
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The Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Be joyful in Christ.

People **Our Savior has come.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Presider continues.

We praise you, God, and give thanks, for this night our Savior is born. In Jesus we see your love for the world: His humble birth, his life lived for others, his suffering and death in our place. Like the shepherds of old, and Mary and Joseph, with Christians everywhere this night, we worship and adore Christ, our Lord.

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.

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. 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, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, 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." As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his suffering and death and proclaiming the resurrection and ascension of Jesus our Redeemer, who was and is and is to come, we bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Christ.

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 Lord's Prayer

**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

Presider The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have seen his glory.

People **Make yourself known to us, O Christ,
in the breaking of bread and the sharing of the cup.**

Communion of the People

All baptized are welcome to receive Christ's body and blood. Those who are not baptized are encouraged to come forward for a blessing, signaling this by crossing your arms over one's chest.

** Gluten free wafers are available upon request of the server.*

** You may partake from the cup by drinking or by intinction (dipping a small portion of the bread, being careful not to touch the wine with your fingers).*

** If you wish to receive communion in the pew, please let an usher know.*

For those joining by live-stream or watching online at a later time, although you are not physically receiving communion, you are invited to spend this time in prayer, acknowledging your desire to be wholly united with Jesus and for your soul to never be separated from him.

Communion Music

The First Nowell (vs 1,2,6)

Hymnal #109

**The first Nowell the angels 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.**

Refrain:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.**

**They look-ed 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. *Refrain***

**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***

Hymn

O little town of Bethlehem (vs 1,4,5)

Hymnal #79

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

**Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed 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.

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!

The Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING

The Ushers will bring a light to each row of the congregation and worshippers are asked to light their candle from their neighbors. As the light is passed from one to another, a reading from the Gospel of St. John is read. After the scripture reading, we will join in singing " Silent Night" together.

Hymn

Silent Night

Hymnal #111

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
Glorious stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! 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. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

A Christmas Prayer and Blessing

The lights come up. All remain standing.

Sending Forth Hymn

Joy to the World

Hymnal #100

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.** *Repeat line 3 times*

**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 line 3 times*

**No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.** *Repeat line 3 times*

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love.** *Repeat line 3 times*

The Dismissal

Priest Filled with the joy of Christ's birth,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Improvisation on *Mendelssohn*

Eppink



Upcoming Events

Christmas Day Worship
Thursday, December 25, 9:30am
one service only; no live-streaming

No Christmas Jazz Vespers on Thursday, Dec 25.
Jazz Vespers resumes on Jan. 8th, 6:00pm
“in person” and on church Facebook page and website.

Sunday, Dec. 28, 9:30am – one service only
This will be a festival worship of lessons and carols
as as we continue to celebrate!

Sunday, January 4, 2026
7:30am -- 2nd Sunday of Christmas
10:00am – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, January 25, 8:45am —
St. Peter’s Annual Meeting of the Parish

2025 Christmas Dedications

**Cheryl Bochentín, Pamela & Colin Leong, Dan & Mei Ching,
Laura Ching & Robert Thue** In loving memory of Sam & Florence
Ching, Daniel & Ethel Ching, Lee-Anne Leong Tagawa,
Hans-Gerd Bochentín

Kathleen Chang In loving memory of Doreen Yuen, Ellen Jean Fo

Myron & Beth Chang In loving memory of Warren & Eleanor Chang,
Annette Chang, Rita Pound, Jim Collie

Adrienne Ching In thanksgiving and loving memory of Koon Yoy Ching and
departed family and loved ones

Dianne Fong In loving memory of Henry W.K. Fong & Nora Fong

Lynda Hino, Dennis Chew, Daryl Chew, Yolanda Griffiths
In loving memory of Clarence & Violet Chew

Sue Jennings In loving memory of Harley Clark, Jennings and
Hunt families

Mary Ellen & Colin Johnson In loving memory of Anne Chambless Hawks,
Mary Ann & Aubrey Neeley, Anna Young, Ruth Schmeck

Patricia Kim In loving memory of Richard & Pauline Au

Myrna McCarthy In loving memory of John J. McCarthy

Ruth D. Merz In honor and memory of loved ones

2025 Christmas Dedications, cont.

Audrey Mueh, Laurie Ong, Natalie Chu & Nicole Nakamoto

In loving memory of Samuel & Helen Liu, Jerry & Rose Liu, Frederick Liu, & Dr. John Mueh

Ray & Tiare Ono In memory of Lani & Puanani Hanchett, Stuart Hanchett, Alfred & Alston Ono. In thanksgiving for all the blessing in our life

Franklin Pang In loving memory of Jane Pang

Ruth Peterson In thanksgiving for and in honor of Duane and Betty Peterson

Nancy Rowe In loving memory of Chan Rowe

The Family of Cheryl Saito, Velma & Keith Lee, and Franklin Kau and Families In memory and thanksgiving of Benjamin & Jasmine Kau, Richard & Ethel Saito, Shoo Tsin Tseu, Ruth Kau, Philip Kau, and Theodore Saito

Dr. Glen & Susan Sugiyama In loving memory of Joso & Miyuki Uyetake and Masaru & Violet Sugiyama

Patricia Suzuki In loving memory of Jordan

Stephanie Vlachos With love and gratitude from the family of Dr. & Mrs. Raymond Kong. In loving memory of Barbara K. Vlachos, with aloha from her family

Ian, Dina, Elyse, Chloe, Jenna, Cindy, Ky, Casey & Becca Wong
In loving memory of Donald & Emily Wong, Jon Wong, Milton Muraoka and Beatrice Lyen

The Ministers at the Service

President	The Rev. Ruth Peterson
Deacon	The Rev. Peter Wu
Organist	Dr. Joseph Eppink
Lectors	Catie Wiecking, Stephanie Wight
Intercessor	Rosa Dayao
Eucharistic Ministers	Ron Kim
Acolytes	Lily & Jasmine Dayao
Greeters	Myron & Beth Chang
Live-Streaming	Terry Dang, Manny Dayao, Ron Kim

The St. Peter's Staff

Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Ruth Peterson
Assisting Priest	The Rev. Dr. William Heran
Director of Music	Dr. Joseph Eppink
Lay Associate for Worship and Music	Manny Dayao
Office Manager	Susan Sugiyama
Bookkeeper	Richert Au Hoy
Sexton	Oriel Agcaoili
Custodians	Oriel & Caridad Agcaoili

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**A blessed Christmas
to all from
the St. Peter's Staff!**

