St. Paul Lutheran Church of Catonsville



Christmas Eve 10 pm December 24, 2023



Join us for worship, a service of Lessons & Carols, on Christmas Day at 10:00 am.

Welcome to the worship of the Newborn King!

Today we greet our Savior and Lord and God wrapped up in baby clothes. He comes not as a judge, not in strength and power but in the lowliness and meekness of His love for us. He comes as one of us, the true God who has become a human being to give us salvation. We join the angels in praising this saving mystery, the Word made flesh, God among us!



If you are a guest with us today, we extend a special welcome in the name of Jesus! If you have questions or prayer requests or want to get in touch with us, please sign the guest book in the lobby (or use this QR code) or email or call.



Children's Bulletins are available in the lobby.

For Those Who Desire to Receive the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. Paul in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. (Non-alcoholic wine is available in the center of the communion trays.)

St. Paul Lutheran Church and School

2001 Old Frederick Road Catonsville, Maryland 21228 Church: 410-747-1897 School: 410-747-1924 www.stpaulcatonsville.org email: secretary@stpaulcatonsville.org

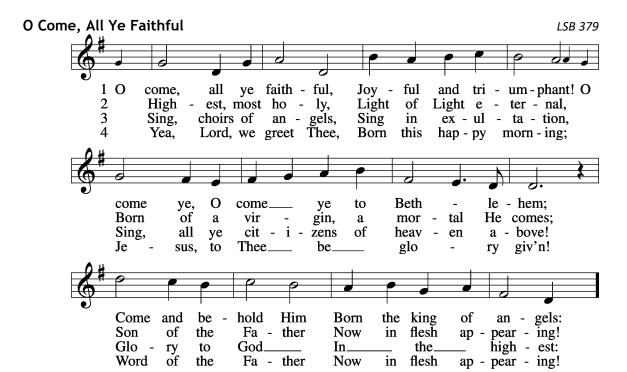
Pastor Gregory Alms Renata O'Reilly, Organist & Choir Director

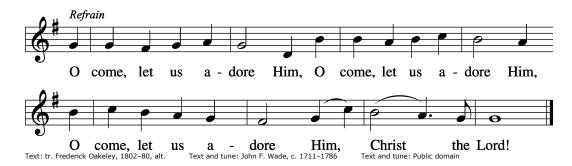
Christmas Eve December 24, 2023

Prelude: O Little Town of Bethlehem Aaron David Miller (b. 1972)

Entrance Responses

- P To us a child is born, to us a son is given;
- C and the government shall be upon his shoulder.
- P Sing to the Lord a new song,
- C for he has done marvelous things!
- P Glory to God in the highest,
- C and on earth peace!





Service of the Word

Kyrie Mark 10:47

- A In peace let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For the gift of divine peace and of pardon, with all our heart and with all our mind, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A For these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.
- A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C Lord, have mercy.

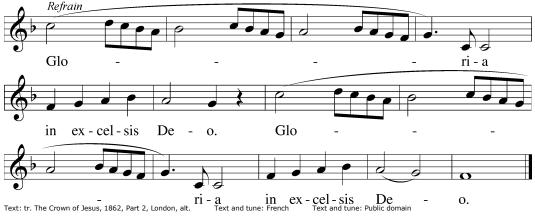
Gloria in Excelsis



- 1 An gels we have heard on high, Sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains, 2 Shep-herds, why this ju bi lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro-long?
- 3 Come to Beth-le-hem and see Him whose birth the an gels sing:



And the moun-tains in re-ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains. What the glad-some tid - ings be Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Salutation and Collect of the Day

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.
- C O God, You make this most holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that as we have known the mysteries of that Light on earth we may also come to the fullness of His joys in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Sit

Anthem: Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella (Un flambeau, Jeannette, Isabelle)

French Traditional Carol arr. John Rutter (b. 1945)

Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella! Bring a torch to the cradle run!
It is Jesus, good folk of the village, Christ is born and Mary's calling, Ah!
Beautiful is the Mother! Ah! How fair the Mother! Ah! Beautiful is her Son.
It is wrong when the Child is sleeping to talk so loud. Silence, all, as you gather around,
Lest your noise should waken Jesus: Hush! See how fast He slumbers;
Hush! See how fast He sleeps.

Softly to the little stable, Softly for a moment come!

Look and see how charming is Jesus, How He is white, His cheeks are rosy! Hush!

See how the Child is sleeping: Hush! See how He smiles in dreams!

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

² The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. ³You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil. ⁴For the voke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For to us a child is born. to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
 on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
 with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.
 The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Anthem: Gesù Bambino Carol Taylor, Clarinet

Italian Christmas Carol Pietro Alessandro Yon (1886-1943) arr. Jay Rouse

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.

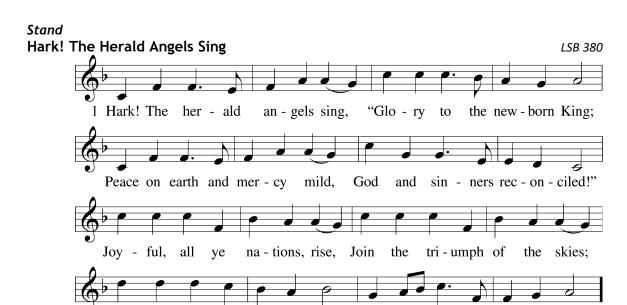
Let every voice acclaim His name, the grateful chorus swell!

From paradise to earth He came that we with Him might dwell.

Epistle Titus 2:11–14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, ¹²training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, ¹³waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.



Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1–14

"Glo - ry

born

to

Text and tune: Public domain

in Beth - le - hem!"

the new-born King!"

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

the an-gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is

an-gels sing,

Tune: Felix Mendelssohn, 1809-47

C Glory to You, O Lord.

The her-ald

With

Hark!

Refrain

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-88, alt.

¹In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³And all went to be registered, each to his own town. ⁴And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, ⁵to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. ⁶And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with fear. ¹⁰And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

¹²And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.



Sermon

Stand Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life T everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering

(An offering plate is available in the narthex. You may also give electronically via the QR code or through our website at stpaulcatonsville.org/donation. If you would like to send in an electronic offering via text, text the dollar amount you would like to give to 410-888-0161.)





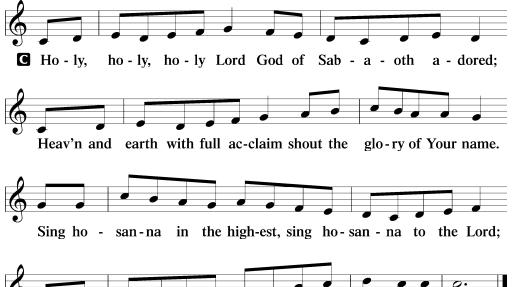
Service of the Sacrament

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You. . . . evermore praising You and saying:





Prayer of Thanksgiving

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Tru - ly

P Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

in

the name of the Lord!

In the beginning You created all things by Your Word; and in the fullness of time Your Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth.

Let Your Word made flesh dwell richly among us that, faithfully eating His body and drinking His blood, we may receive the fullness of Your grace and truth in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

blest is He who comes

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 forever and ever. Amen.

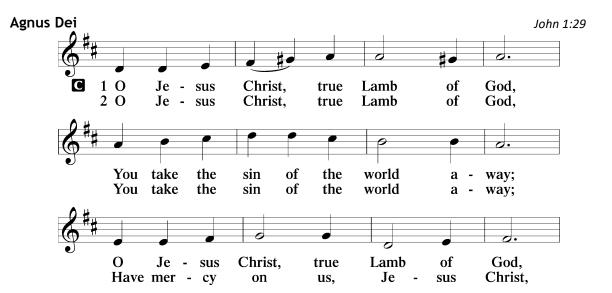
The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

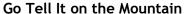
- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.



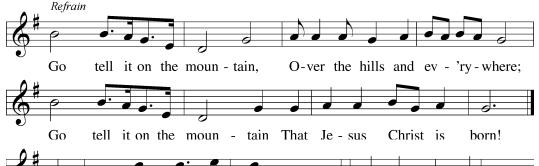


Sit





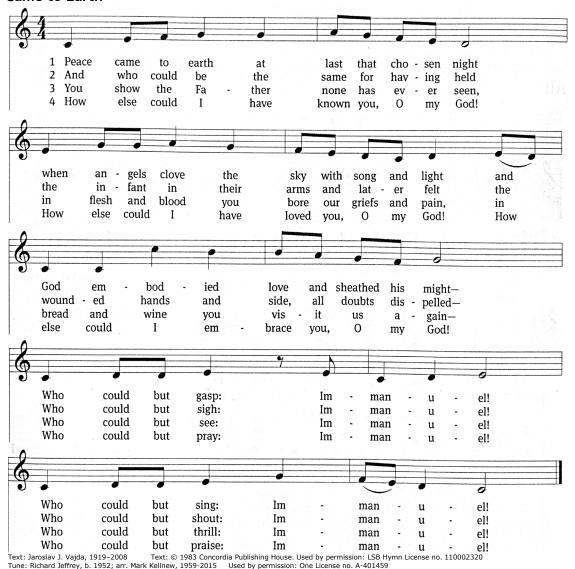
LSB 388



- 1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing O'er si-lent flocks by night,
- 2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled When lo, a bove the earth
- 3 Down in a lone ly man ger The hum-ble Christ was born;



Peace Came to Earth



What Child Is This LSB 370 is this, who, laid 1 What child to rest, On Mar - y's lap is such mean es - tate 2 Why lies He in Where ox and ass are bring Him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, peas - ant, king, to



sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet an - thems sweet While with feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear; The for sin - ners here Him. The King kings of sal - va tion brings; Let



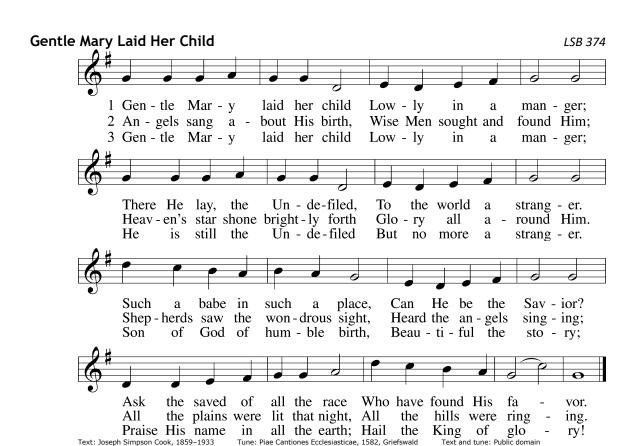
herds keep - ing? This, this watch shep are is lent Word plead - ing. Nails. shall si is spear lov ing hearts en - throne Him. Raise. the raise



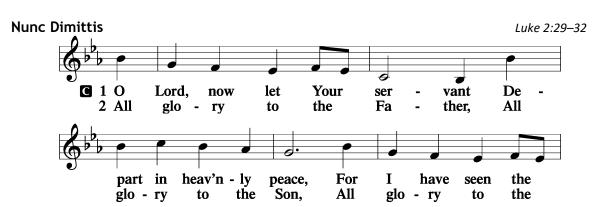
Whom shep - herds guard Christ the king, and an - gels sing; pierce Him through, The me, for you; be borne cross for The vir lul - la - by; song on high, gin sings her

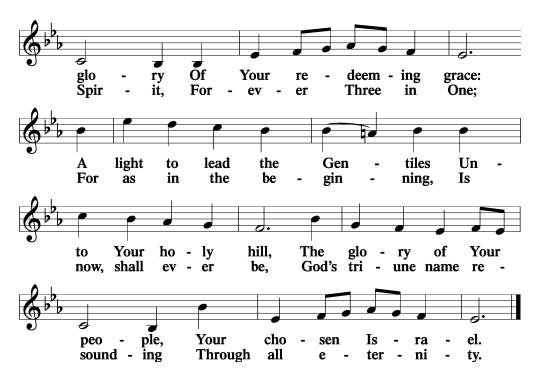


Haste, haste Him laud, The babe, the of Mar-y! to bring son made flesh, The babe, the Hail, hail the Word of Mar-y! son joy, is born, The babe, the for Christ of Mar-v! Joy, son Text: William C. Dix, 1837-98 Tune: English, 16th cent. Text and tune: Public domain



Stand Post-Communion Blessing





Post-Communion Collect

- A Let us pray. . . .
- C Amen.

Benedicamus Psalm 103:1

- A Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Benediction

- P The Lord bless you and keep you.
 - The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 - The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.
- C Amen.

Sit

The Candlelight portion of our worship begins.

As you pass the light and hold your candles, please try your best not to drip wax on yourself, hymnals, furnishings, and the floor. Tip the unlit candle.

Bell Choir: Ukrainian Bell Carol arr. Diana Meux

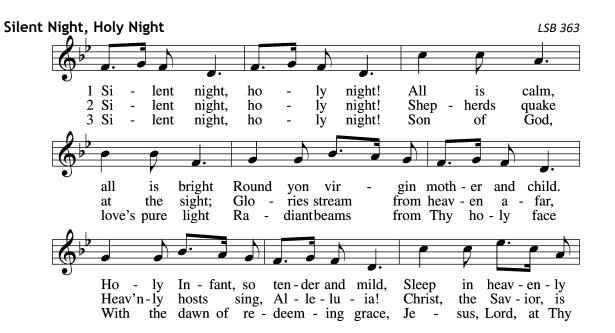
Psalm (read responsively)

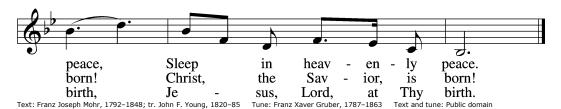
Psalm 96; various

 Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!
 Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.
 Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!
 Let the heavens be glad,

and let the earth rejoice;

Please join in the singing of Carols, as printed below.









It Came upon the Midnight Clear

LSB 366



- 1 It came up-on the mid-night clear, That glo-rious song of old,
- 2 Still through the clo ven skies they come With peace-ful wings un furled, 4 For lo, the days have come to pass By proph-ets seen of old,



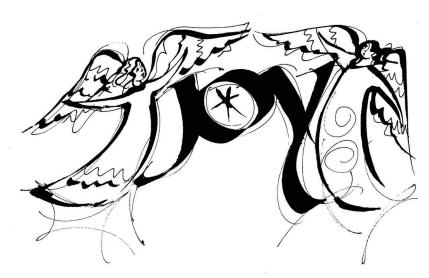
From an - gels bend - ing near the earth To touch their harps of gold: And still their heav'n-ly mu - sic floats O'er all the wea - ry world. When down in - to the cir-cling years Came Christ as was fore - told.

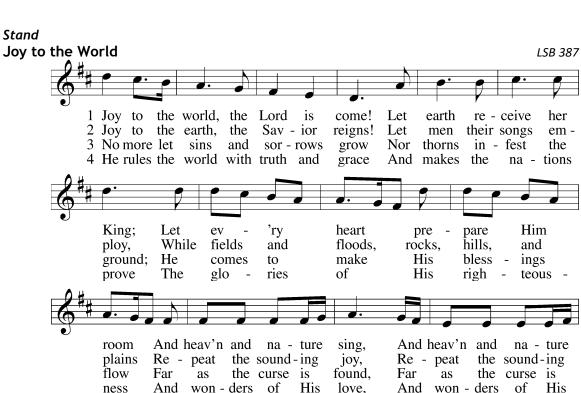


"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, From heav'n's all-gra-cious king."

A - bove its sad and low-ly plains They bend on hov-'ring wing,
His word of peace shall to the earth God's an - cient prom-ise bring,







ness And won - ders of His love, And won - ders of

And heav'n, heav'n sing, and and sing. na ture Re the sound - ing joy, peat, re peat joy. found, Far far the curse is found. as, as love. And won ders, ders of His love. won

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748
Tune: George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759, adapt.
Text and tune: Public domain

Postlude: Let There Be Peace On Earth

Jill Jackson-Miller (1913-1995) Sy (Seymour) Miller (1908-1971)

Acknowledgments

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🖻 Chrístmas Poinsettías

Thank you to all who donated poinsettias to decorate our altar this Christmas:

In celebration of God's blessings by Chris & Kaity Parsons.

In honor of:

- * Our children and grandchildren by Jim & Janet Lister
- * Our parents: Fred Piegols, Harold & Nancy Redier by Jeff & Pam Piegols
- * Our loving parents by Cameron & Vanessa Jones

In the memory of:

- * Parents Alex & Mary Tews and Elsa & William Giguere, by Norman & Irene Giguere
- * Husband, Ron Louden, by Carolyn Louden
- * Parents, John & Audrey Neubert, by Carolyn Louden
- * Parents, Beth & Bob Dungey and Martha & Jack Sadler, by Kevin & Robbin Dungey
- * Husband, Don Mitchell, by Betsy Mitchell
- * Father and PopPop, Don Mitchell, by Christina Unglesbee
- * Parents, Ed & Florence Borth, by John & Karyn Borth
- * Grandparents, Eugenia & Gordon Blank, by Jeffrey Hemmeter
- * Great Aunt, Leona Dunwoody, by Jeffrey Hemmeter
- * Wife, Donna Toelle, by Milton Toelle
- * Son, Paul Toelle, by Milton Toelle
- * Wife, Carole Erwin, by Brian Erwin
- * Our parents, by the Kynes
- Father, Paul Alms and stepfather, Walter Hirsch by Greg & Suzanne Alms
- Parents, Henry & Martha Elling and brother, John Elling by Greg & Suzanne Alms

To the Glory of God by Barbara Kester, Andrea Wellington, Faith Carnes, Brian Erwin, and Dana Stigdon.