



St. James' Episcopal Church
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2022
6:30 pm

Christmas Prelude

For Unto us a Child is Born/Open the Eyes of My Heart

O Holy Night

Christmas is Here

Opening Carols

Hark the Herald Angels Sing / God You Reign

Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King
Peace on earth and mercy mild
God and sinners reconciled
Joyful all ye nations rise
Join the triumph of the skies
With angelic hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

Christ by highest heaven adored
Christ the everlasting Lord
Late in time behold Him come
Offspring of the Virgin's womb
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see
Hail the incarnate Deity
Pleased as man with men to dwell
Jesus our Emmanuel
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

God You reign
God You reign
Forever and ever
God You reign

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 man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth
Born to give them second birth
Hark the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King

God You reign
God You reign
Forever and ever
God You reign

God You reign
God You reign
Forever and ever
God You reign

Hallelujah Hallelu!
Hallelujah Hallelu!
Hallelujah Hallelu!
Hallelujah Hallelu!

God You reign
God You reign
Forever and ever
God You reign

God You reign
God You reign
Forever and ever
God You reign

Clergy Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Clergy The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Clergy 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 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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore.
 The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

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|---|---|
| <p>1 Sing to the LORD a new song;
 sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.</p> <p>2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;
 proclaim the good news of his salvation from day
 to day.</p> <p>3 Declare his glory among the nations
 and his wonders among all peoples.</p> <p>4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he
 is more to be feared than all gods.</p> <p>5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but
 idols;
 but it is the LORD who made the heavens.</p> | <p>6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
 Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!</p> <p>7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the
 peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor and power.</p> <p>8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name;
 bring offerings and come into his courts.</p> <p>9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
 let the whole earth tremble before him.</p> |
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10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King!
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be
moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.

13 He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

Gospel Song

The Word

For the Word of God lives here
Deep in our hearts
And is sharper than the blade of any sword
Grasses fade, flowers fall
But God's love endures
Please guide us
O Lord to Your will
This is God's Word.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Clergy The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **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!" 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.

Clergy The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper

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.

Prayers of the People

Sisters and Brothers, on this most holy night, when the Word of God is made flesh among us, let us pray for ourselves, for those in need of our prayers, and for God's people everywhere. At the close of each petition, you are invited to respond "Hear our Prayer."

Almighty and everliving God, bless your holy Church, the community of believers throughout the world, that it may faithfully proclaim the Good News of salvation to the ends of the earth. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation, especially where it is wounded. Renew the whole earth with your love. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of conflict and war may be replaced by the light of your peace and love. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of the nations and peoples of the world that they may put aside their own ambitions, and strive for justice, promoting the dignity and freedom of all people. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who labor this night on behalf of others: doctors, nurses, and aides; police officers, firefighters, and those in the armed forces; For all those whose work prevents them from sharing this evening with those they love. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

On this most holy night, we commend to your loving care all those in need: the victims of war, violence, injustice and oppression, the poor, refugees, the homeless, the unemployed, the hungry, and those who are alone. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We offer our prayers for those suffering in body, mind, or spirit, for those we now name, either aloud or in our hearts [*pause*] and for those whose needs are known to you alone. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all those whom we love but see no more, commending them to your merciful care, especially those we now name [*pause*]. Grant that we, like them, may come to that place where we may dwell in the glorious light of your eternal Word. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Clergy

God of silence and darkness, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word made flesh, the gift of your Son. Accept, we pray, our words of praise and petition; let us, and all your people be strong echoes of the Christmas Word which you have spoken, that all might come to know the peace which you have given us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, this night and forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Clergy

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

All

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Absolution

Clergy

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Clergy The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Welcome

Offertory

Your Name

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank you loving God, for you did not stand far off but came in nearness with the tenderness of love. We praise you for the Word made flesh born of Mary, cradled in her arms, greeted by her song.

The fullness of God dwells in his flesh, a touch of welcome for the outcast, good news of bread for the hungry and poor, a shepherd to find those who are lost.

And so we gladly thank you, joining our voices with saints and angels, we now sing:

Sanctus (*sing*)

Michael Brown

Ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God Al - might - ty, ho - ly ho - ly Lord God of
Hosts. Heav - en and earth are filled with Your glo - ry. Glo - ry be to Thee. Glo - ry
be to Thee. Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord. Glo - ry be to Thee. Glo - ry be to
Thee. Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord. Bles - sed is He Who comes
in the name of the Lord. Bles - sed is He, ho - sa - na in the high -
est, ho - sa - na in the high - est.

Father, we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of your Son. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again.

Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Son Jesus Christ. Make us a living sacrifice of praise. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All

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

Priest Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.

Music at Communion

Noel
What Child is This?

Carol

Silent Night

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,
glories 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.

Postcommunion Prayer *(All)*

God of abundance 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 the Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

By way of Bethlehem lead us, O Lord, to newness of life;

By the innocence of the Christ Child renew our simple trust;
By the tenderness of Mary deliver us from cruelty and hardness of heart;
By the patience of Joseph save us from all rash judgment and ill-tempered action;
By the shepherds' watch open our eyes to the signs of your coming;
By the shining of a star guide our feet into the way of peace;
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you both now and forever. **Amen.**

Carol

Angels We Have Heard on High

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

Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

Shepherds why this jubilee
Why your joyous strains prolong
What the gladsome tidings be
Which inspire your heav'nly song

Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing
Come adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord the newborn King

Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

See Him in a manger laid
Whom the choirs of angels praise
Mary Joseph lend your aid
While our hearts in love we raise

Gloria
In excelsis Deo
Gloria
In excelsis Deo

Dismissal

Clergy Let us go forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!
All **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!**

Postlude

Joy to the World!

Special Thanks to Pianist Kip Coerper & Bassist Rory Edwards.

Rector	The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper
Deacon	The Rev. Dr. Charles N. Stewart
Organist/Choirmaster	Kip Coerper
Director of Contemporary Music & Technology	Michael Larkin
Assistant Dir. of Contemporary Music & Technology	Nick Kilkenny
Media Engineer	Danielle Larkin
Lector/Chalice	Carrie Chantler
Crucifer/Server	Kris Perkins
Prayers of the People/Chalice	Kris Perkins
Ushers	Bob & Nancy Lee

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