

Christmas II

January 3, 2021

Words of Welcome

Gathering Hymn: *Bring a torch, Jeannette, Isabella*

Prepared by the Rev. Tom McAlpine

**1 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! ah! beautiful is the mother!
Ah! ah! beautiful is her son!**

**2 It is wrong when the child is sleeping,
It is wrong to talk so loud;
Silence, all as you gather around,
Lest your noise should waken Jesus:
Hush! hush! see how fast he slumbers;
Hush! hush! see how fast he sleeps!**

**3 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! hush! see how the child is sleeping;
Hush! hush! see how he smiles in dreams.**

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant 'Do I not fill heaven and earth?' says the Lord.

All **Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.**

Celebrant From eternity to eternity you are God,

All **and now we see you as a newborn child.**

Celebrant O God the Son, Lord Jesus Christ, highest and holiest, who humbled yourself to share our birth and our death: bring us with the shepherds and the wise ones to kneel before your holy cradle, that we may come to sing with your angels your glorious praises in heaven; where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, world without end. Amen.

Lighting of the Advent & Christmas Candles

The four Advent candles and the Christmas candle are lit during these words.

Reader People of God: shout and sing! Tell the good news of peace on earth.
God, bring us today into Christ's peace.
All God's people say, **Amen!**

Reader Angels dance and the bright star shines. All creation bows to the Lord of all.
God, bring us today into Christ's light.
All God's people say, **Amen!**

Reader One with us, yet born to save, this child will show us the way to God.
God, bring us today into Christ's love.
All God's people say, **Amen!**

Reader The God who came among us as a baby, weak and small, will come again in power
and glory to save and redeem. God, bring us today into Christ's hope.
All God's people say, **Amen!**

Song of Praise: *Angels we have heard on high*

Hymn #96, verses 1 & 3

Prepared by the Behrens family

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

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity
of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled
himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with
you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The First Reading: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Reader A reading from the letter to the church in Ephesus.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O God of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing for your courts;

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, *

**by the side of your altars, O God of hosts,
my Ruler and my God.**

Happy are they who dwell in your house; *

they will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you; *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *

for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height; *

the God of gods will be revealed in Zion.

O God of hosts, hear my prayer; *

hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God, *

and look upon the face of your Anointed,

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *

**and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked;**

For God is both sun and shield *

and will give grace and glory.

No good thing will God withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

O God of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

The Second Reading: Luke 2:41-52

Reader A reading from the gospel of Luke.

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Homily

The Rev. Dr. Miranda Hassett

Hymn: "Love came down"

Hymnal #84

**Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, love divine;
Love was born at Christmas,
Star and angels gave the sign.**

**Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, love divine;
Worship we our Jesus:
But wherewith for sacred sign?**

**Love shall be our token,
Love shall be yours and love be mine,**

Love to God and to all men, Love for plea and gift and sign.

The Prayers

Celebrant We now enter a time of prayer. You may wish to bow your head, open your hands, or prepare your body for prayer in some other way.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Now, let us pray as God's beloved children, using the prayer Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Before we begin the Prayers of the People, you will be taught our sung Response, composed by some of the kids of St. Dunstan's especially for our Christmas worship.

Holy God, hear our prayer; holy God, hear our prayer!

Reader In peace let us pray to the Lord.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love those who have no home, and all who live in poverty.

Holy God, hear our prayer.

Sung Response:

Holy God, hear our prayer; holy God, hear our prayer!

Reader In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world,
especially those whom we name now, out loud or in our hearts:

The Reader pauses for people to name those who are suffering.

Reader Holy God, hear our prayer.

Sung Response:

Holy God, hear our prayer; holy God, hear our prayer!

Reader In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in our nation and the world.

Holy God, hear our prayer.

Sung Response:

Holy God, hear our prayer; holy God, hear our prayer!

Reader In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God, hear our prayer.

Sung Response:

Holy God, hear our prayer; holy God, hear our prayer!

Reader In this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom, especially those whom we miss tonight:

The Reader pauses while people name their beloved dead.

Reader Holy God, hear our prayer.

Sung Response:

Holy God, hear our prayer; holy God, hear our prayer!

Reader In this holy night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that God may be born in us today.

Holy God, hear our prayer.

Sung Response:

Holy God, hear our prayer; holy God, hear our prayer!

Celebrant Loving God, in this holy season angels and shepherds worshipped the newborn King. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints through the One who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Birthday Blessings

The Peace

Celebrant Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you!

All **And also with you!**

We greet one another in the name of Christ.

The Blessing

Celebrant May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: "Go Tell it on the Mountain"

Hymnal #99

Prepared by the Rev. Tom McAlpine

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!**

Verses on next page!

**1 While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.**

**3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.**

Dismissal

*The Celebrant dismisses the congregation. The people respond, **Thanks be to God!***

Announcements

Following the Announcements, those who haven't yet watched our video of the story of Gideon are invited to stay and do so together! It's about 40 minutes long.