

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

Welcome! This bulletin will guide you through our worship tonight. Text **in bold** is spoken by everyone. Hymns are in the blue Hymnal 1982. Always feel free to ask a neighbor for assistance.

The Liturgy of the Word

Gathering Hymn: O Come, all ye faithful

Hymnal #83, verses 1-3, 6

The congregation stands.

The four Advent candles and the Christmas candle are lit during this hymn.

Opening Acclamation

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

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

Officiant From eternity to eternity you are God,

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

Celebrant God of all ages, in your birth at Bethlehem your boundless love for all people shattered the power of death. Be born in us with that same love and light, that our song may blend with all the choirs of heaven and earth, as we glorify your holy name. **Amen.**

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

Hymnal #96, v. 1 & 3

**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 him 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, 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.**

Please be seated for the reading of Scripture.

The First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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.

Reader The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Poem: "Advent Calendar"

Rowan Williams, b. 1950

Gospel Hymn: "What child is this"

Hymnal #115

The congregation stands. We will sing verses 1 & 2 before the Gospel, and verse 3 following the Gospel.

1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

2. Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?

Good Christians, fear: For sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;

Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:1 - 20

The congregation remains standing.

Reader 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.

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh; come, peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Miranda Hassett

The Prayers of the People

The people respond with the text in bold.

Intercessor 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,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor 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 people may name those who are suffering.

Intercessor Holy God,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor 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,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor In this holy night strangers welcomed the Holy Family. Bless our homes and all

those with whom we share our lives, and help us show kindness whenever we can.

Holy God,

People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor 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 people may name their beloved dead.

Intercessor Holy God,
People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor 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,

People **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Loving God, in this holy night 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.

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!**

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn: "Lo, How a Rose"

Hymnal #81

The purpose of the Offering is to acknowledge God as the source of all that we have and to make a thankful response for all that God has given us, in the faith that what God provides will be enough. The offerings we present include our monetary gifts, placed in the collection basket; the bread and wine of the Eucharist, carried forward on behalf of the congregation; and the offering of our selves, our souls and bodies, to serve God in our work on earth.

At the Presentation of the Gifts

Celebrant Word made flesh, Life of the world, in your incarnation you embraced our poverty; by your grace, may we share in your riches. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The congregation remains standing.

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

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy - Sung (IOam)

William Mathias - Hymnal #S-128

Ho - ly, ho - ly,
 ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

Celebrant For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All **We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all, presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant.

Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, bring all things into union with your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your beloved children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.

All **AMEN.**

Bells may be rung.

The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in the language of your heart.

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Contemporary language:

**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.**

Gender-neutral (New Zealand, adapted):

**Loving God, may your name be held holy, your
reign spread among us, and your will be done
well.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
From all the binds and burdens us,
free us and help us free others.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too sharp to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, save us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is
love, now and forever. Amen.**

Traditional language:

**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.**

Spanish version:

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu
Nombre,
Venga tu reino, Hágase tu voluntad,
En la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas,
como también nosotros perdonamos a los que
nos ofenden.
No nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el
poder, y tuyo es la gloria,
Ahora y por siempre. Amén.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Behold the Body of Christ!

People **May we become what we receive.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

The people are invited forward to the altar rail, beginning with the front rows and moving towards the back. If you prefer to receive a blessing, come forward to the rail and cross your arms on your chest as the priest approaches.

Candle-lighting & Communion Hymn: "Silent Night"

Hymnal #111

**1 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.**

**2 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!**

**3 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.**

Prayer After Communion

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **God of Light, a Child is born for us and a Son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder and light at the nearness of our God. Open our hearts to receive the life you offer, and increase our vision with the rising of the dawn, that our lives may be filled with glory and peace. Amen.**

The Blessing & Dismissal

Celebrant May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise ones, the willingness of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God the holy and undivided Trinity, the One who creates, befriends, and inspires, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

You may extinguish your candle at this time.

Sending Hymn: "Joy to the World!"

Hymnal #100

Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God!**

A word to newcomers and visitors...

Welcome! Worship in an Episcopal church is a community activity – all are welcome to take part fully.

✦ **This booklet** contains our service of Holy Eucharist. **Text in bold** is spoken by the whole congregation. This booklet also contains some of the music we will sing together. Hymns are found in the **Hymnal 1982**, the blue book you received on the way into church.

✦ Our **regular Sunday in-person worship** is at **8am** (without music) and **10am** (with music), year round. We also worship on Zoom at **9am**. We are a warm and inclusive faith community that strives to live out Christ's love in care for one another and service to the world around us. Whatever the shape of your family or the shape of your faith, you are welcome here.

✦ **Children** of all ages are always welcome in our worship. Coloring pages are available. Rev. Miranda would love to talk about your kids' needs and interests.

✦ **At Communion**, all who are hungry for God are welcome to receive God's holy food. If you would like Communion brought to your seat, or if you need a gluten-free wafer, please talk to an usher.

✦ Please sign our Guest Book, in the Gathering Area, if you'd like to be in touch and learn more about St. Dunstan's.