

Christmas Eve Service

The Eve of the Nativity

December 24, 2021

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Hymn 83 (v. 1-3 and 6) “O Come All Ye Faithful”

O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;

Refrain:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord.

God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of the Father; *[Refrain]*

Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest; *[Refrain]*

Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *[Refrain]*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

***All* And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

***All* And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray together.

All **Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

Gloria – Hymn 96 (v. 1-3) “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.

Refrain:
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? *[Refrain]*

Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *[Refrain]*

The First Lesson..... Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the Lord to Zion.
Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the Lord has comforted his people,

he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The Lord has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
***People* Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98 (*said responsively by whole verse*)

Reader Sing to the Lord a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

***All* With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.**

Reader The Lord has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations

***All* He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Reader Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

***All* Sing to the Lord with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.**

Reader With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the Lord.

***All* Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

Reader Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,
when he comes to judge the earth.

***All* In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.**

The Epistle..... Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 87 (v. 1-2) "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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 th'angelic hosts proclaim,
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:
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 th'incarnate Deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Immanuel. [*Refrain*]

The Gospel **John 1:1-14**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light,

but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

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

The Sermon..... Pastor Jane Jeuland

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.**

The Prayers of the People

On this holy night in which God joins heaven and earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need.

We especially lift up all the prayers of our children here at Christ Church.

We pray for Madison and Jamison's grandmother to stay healthy. We pray that we get to be back together in church in 2022. We ask God for peace in the world and more hugs in Jonah's home.

Let us pray for the Church around the world as it celebrates the birth of Christ. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry that your Word might be proclaimed with truth across our world.

Bless all those who are working on the frontlines. Give them courage and strength to endure. Protect them as they work, surround them with your compassion as they leave work, and give rest to their weary souls.

Bestow your wisdom on all who govern, that in honoring the earth and its diverse races, cultures, and religions, we may celebrate the light of this holy night.

Grant reconciliation to those surrounded with conflict, racism, and violence, that they may live in the peace of this holy night.

Let us pray for all who are cold and hungry this night. Embrace with your tender care all who have no place to lay their head that they may experience the hope of this holy night.

Let us pray for all who are anxious, depressed, lonely, or ill. Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief. Be present for all those who are isolated this

Christmas. Heal this world of COVID. We especially pray for those who are facing illness who we remember in our own hearts ... *silence* ... that all may feel the comfort of this holy night.

On this Christmas, open our hearts to your presence, deepen and strengthen our faith, help us to seek your light and hope in you that we may be transformed by the new birth of this holy night.

Let us give thanks for all the faithful departed who have been bearers of the Word made flesh. Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may we join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy night.

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God, for the sake of him who died and rose again, and now lives and reigns with in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

All **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

Offertory Solo by Matthew Johnson “Oh, Holy Night”

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant continues

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**All Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues

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. 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;

The Celebrant continues

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, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

All **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
 have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
 have mercy on us.**
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
 grant us peace.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn 109 “The First Nowell”

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where 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 looked 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*)

And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. (*Refrain*)

This star drew nigh to the northwest,
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay
right over the place where Jesus lay. (*Refrain*)

Then entered in those wise men three
full reverently upon their knee,

and offered there in his presence,
their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *(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)*

As you listen to the music selections, we invite you to pray silently the prayer of spiritual communion if you are virtually joining us or the post-communion prayer if you are in person and have received communion.

Prayer of Spiritual Reception *(silently)*

Lord Jesus, I cannot now worship you at the altar of the church in this Sacrament of your Body and Blood, yet in spirit I receive this bread and this wine in my heart, mind, and spirit. Visit me, I pray, with your mercy, pardon, and blessing, and fill me with faith and love and repentance, and so strengthen and sustain me by your grace that I may with pure heart and mind follow you, the only God, now and ever. Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer *(silently)*

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

We encourage you in this time to reflect on what has stood out for you in our worship together. What is God inviting you to in the week ahead?

Blessing *(please stand)*

Celebrant Remember friends, as we go, that life is short. And we have too little time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So be swift to love, make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Hymn 111 “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.

*Here ends the Christmas Eve service. Feel free to take a moment of silent reflection with your candle.
You may blow out your candle and leave whenever you are ready.*