



The Feast of the Nativity

December 24, 2020 4:00 pm
in the St. Thomas Parking Lot

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude

Medley of Carols (feel free to sing in your car)

Opening Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

Hymnal #83

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, Christ the Lord.

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

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*

Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *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*

John F. Wade (1711-1786)

Celebrant The word was sent to live among us.

Response: ***And we beheld his glory.***

Opening Prayer

The Lessons

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah - Isaiah 9:2-7

Now those who peopled live in darkness have seen a great light. They lived in a place that is very dark, but a light will shine on them. God, you will cause the nation to grow. You will make the people happy, and they will show their happiness to you. It will be like the joy during harvest time. It will be like the joy of people. Like the time you defeated Midian, you will take away their heavy load. You will take away the heavy pole from their backs. You will take away the rod the enemy uses to punish your people. Every boot that marched in battle will be destroyed. ⁶A child will be born to us. God will give a son to us. He will be responsible for leading the people. His name will be Wonderful Counselor, Powerful God, Father Who Lives Forever, Prince of Peace. Power and peace will be in his kingdom. It will continue to grow. He will rule as king on David's throne and over David's kingdom. He will make it strong, by ruling with goodness and fair judgment. He will rule it forever and ever. The Lord of heaven's armies will do this because of his strong love for his people.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 96 (Say together)

Sing to the Lord a new song.

Sing to the Lord, all the earth.

² Sing to the Lord and praise his name.

Every day tell how he saves us.

³ Tell the nations of his glory.

Tell all peoples the miracles he does.

⁴ The Lord is great; he should be praised.

He should be honored more than all the gods.

⁵ All the gods of the nations are only idols.

But the Lord made the skies.

⁶ The Lord has glory and majesty.

He has power and beauty in his Temple.

⁷ Praise the Lord, all nations on earth.

Praise the Lord's glory and power.

⁸ Praise the glory of the Lord's name.

Bring an offering and come into his Temple courtyards.

⁹ Worship the Lord because he is holy.

The whole earth should tremble before the Lord.

¹⁰ Tell the nations, "The Lord is king."

The earth is set, and it cannot be moved.

He will judge the people fairly.

¹¹ Let the skies rejoice and the earth be glad.

Let the sea and everything in it shout.

¹² Let the fields and everything in them show their joy.

Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy.

¹³ They will sing before the Lord because he is coming.

He is coming to judge the world. He will judge the world with fairness and the nations with truth.

Children's Creed (say together)

*I believe in God above,
I believe in Jesus's love.
I believe God's spirit, too,
 who comes to tell me what to do.
I believe that I can be,
 kind and good, Dear Lord, like thee.*

Prayers of the People

Deacon or other leader says: God of Love.

People respond: "Hear our prayer."

At the end, leader says: That through us the world may know the wonder of your love.

People: "Amen."

The Confession

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor (pray together):

*Loving God, we are sorry
for the hurtful things we have said, or thought or done,
and for not doing the things we should have done.
We ask your forgiveness.
Set us on your way and make us whole. Amen.*

Celebrant:

May God have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and bring us into eternal life.

AMEN!

The Peace

HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Music

The First Nowell

Hymnal #109

The first Nowell the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as 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.

Then entered in those wise men three full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense.

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.

English Carol, 18th cent.

Family Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***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 always right to give you thanks, God our Creator, loving and faithful,
holy and strong. You made us and the whole universe, and filled your world
with life.

You sent your Son to live among us, Jesus our Savior, Mary's child. He suffered
on the cross; he died to save us from our sins; he rose in glory from the dead.
You send your Spirit, to bring new life to the world, and clothe us with power
from on high. And so we join the angels to celebrate and sing:

Sanctus ***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.***

Celebrant Father, on the night before he died, Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He took the bread, and thanked you. He broke it, and gave it to them, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After the meal, Jesus took the cup of wine. He thanked you, and gave it to them, saying: Drink this, all of you. This is my blood, the new promise of God's unfailing love. Do this to remember me.

Father, as we eat this holy food, and remember his death and resurrection, send your Holy Spirit, that we who share these gifts may be fed by Christ's body and his blood. Pour your Spirit on us that we may love one another, work for the healing of the earth, and share the good news of Jesus, as we wait for his coming in glory.

All honor and praise belong to you, Father, with Jesus your Son, and the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

And now, let us pray together the words that Jesus taught us:

The 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant When we eat this holy food it is not just for our hungry bodies. It is food for our hungry and tired hearts. It is for the parts of us inside that feel hurt, and the parts of us that have hurt others. When we eat it, we remember Jesus, and how he loves us and wants us to love each other.

The bread is given with the words: "The body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven."

Communion Music

In the Bleak Midwinter

Hymnal #112 (Rossetti)

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he
comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable-place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal #79 (Brooks)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the
silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all
the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their
watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! and praises sing to
God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the
blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, where meek souls
will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child, where misery cries out to thee, Son of
the mother mild; where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door, the dark night
wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us
today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our
Lord Emmanuel!

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

(18th cent)

God rest you merry gentlemen, Let nothing you dismay; Remember Christ our Savior was
Born on Christmas Day - To save us all from Satan's power when we are gone astray.

Chorus: O tidings of Comfort and Joy, Comfort and Joy, O tidings of Comfort and Joy.

In Bethlehem, in Juddah, This blessed Babe was born, And laid within a manger,
Upon this blessed morn; The which His mother Mary Did nothing take in scorn.

Chorus

From God our great Creator, A blessed angel came. And unto certain shepherds,
Brought tidings of the same, How that in Bethlehem was born, The Son of God by
name: *Chorus*

The shepherds at those tidings, Rejoiced much in mind, And left their flocks a
feeding, In tempest, storm, and wind, And went to Bethlehem straightway, This
blessed babe to find: *Chorus*

Now to the Lord sing praises, All you within this place, And with the true love charity, Each
other now embrace; This holy tide of Christmas, all others shall replace. *Chorus*

Postcommunion Prayer (prayer together)

***Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have brought us together 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.***

Closing Hymn

Silent Night

Hymnal #111

Joseph Mohr/Franz Gruber

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight, glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia; 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.

The Blessing and Dismissal

Joy to the World Hymnal #100 (Watts/Handel)

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.



The Order of Worship are adapted from the following sources:

Virtual Crib Service compiled by Margaret Pritchard Houston. Diocese of St. Albans, Church of England.

The Pop-Up Nativity based on "The Well Good News" of Christmas by Dai Woolridge. Bible Society UK.

Common Prayer for Children and Families by the Rev. Jennifer Gamber
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The Family Eucharistic Prayer:

Additional Eucharistic Prayers (for children and families): Prayer One.
The Church of England.

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