



GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

Live Streamed

Holy Eucharist, Rite II - 5:00 p.m.

GREETING

PRELUDE

Shepherds Noel (introducing "The First Noel") - J. W. Kerr

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 1:1-20

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.

The Christ Candle is lit (tall white candle).

Then, as the following is read, the four advent candles are lit.

Then the altar candles are lit.

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. (John testified to him and cried out, 'This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."') From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #83 (vv. 1, 3 & 6)

“O come, all ye faithful”



1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
 6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing; —



1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 6 Je - sus, to thee — be — glo - ry gi - ven;



1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
 6 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -



dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People: Blessed be God's Kingdom, now, and for ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

Refrain



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

READING FROM HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is Saying to the
Church: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 96

¹ Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

² **Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation
from day to day.**

³ Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be
praised; he is more to be feared than all
gods.**

⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they
are but idols; but it is the LORD who made
the heavens.

⁶ **Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his
presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his
sanctuary!**

⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the
peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

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.**

THE EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Hear what the Holy Spirit is Saying to the Church: **Thanks be to God.**

1 The first No - well the an - gel did say

1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;

1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,

1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep.

Refrain

No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,

born is the King of Is - ra - el.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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,

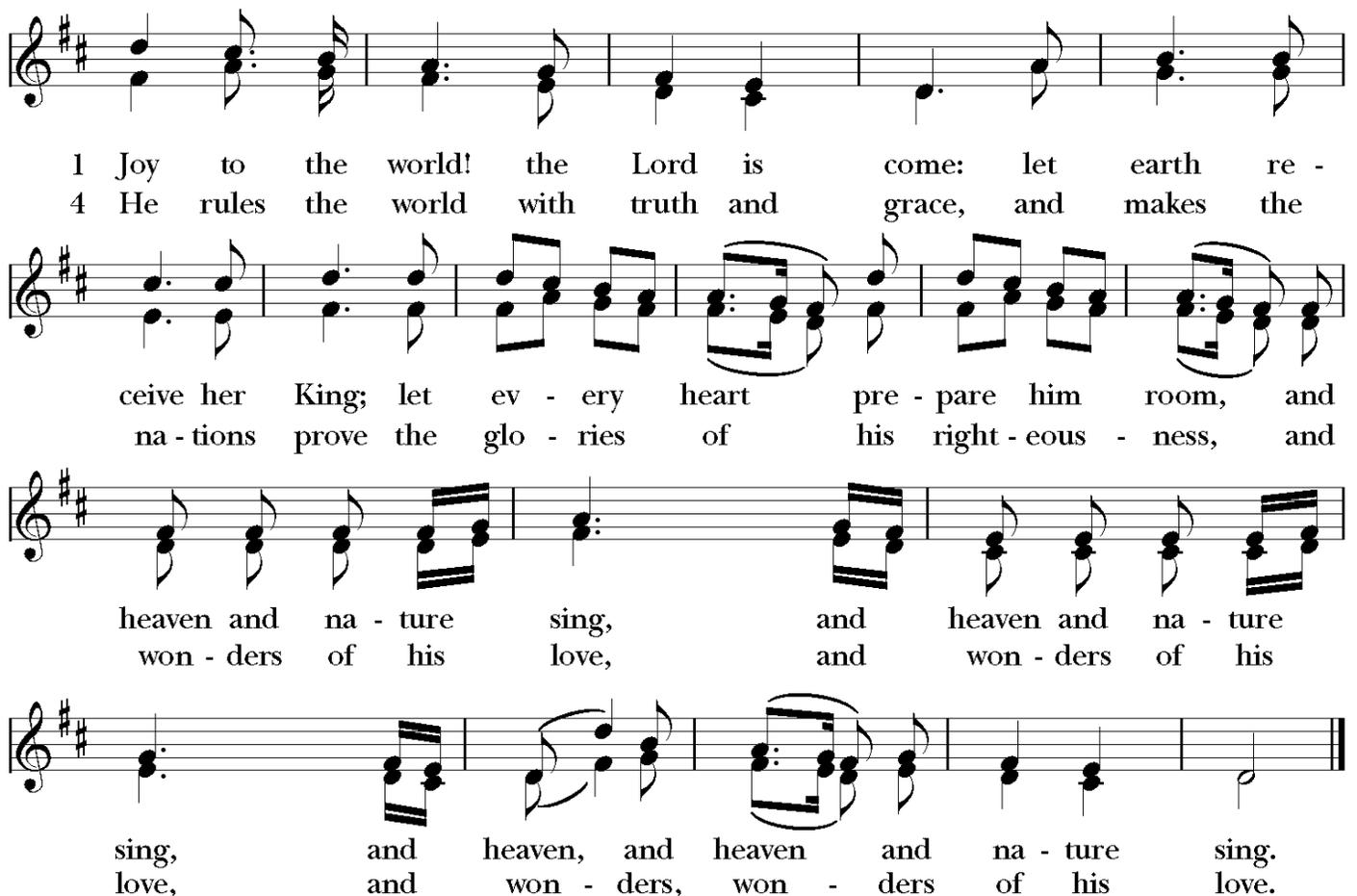
"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[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.]

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

HYMN #100 (vv. 1 & 4)

"Joy to the World"



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and
heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

MUSICAL MEDITATION HYMN #81

"Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - FORM II *Include optional intention for parish prayer list ...*

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Sam and Anne our Bishops; and Alton our priest; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

PRAY FOR ALL OF US WHO HAVE BEEN IMPACTED BY THE COVID-19 VIRUS, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND THOSE WHO MOURN.

Silence

AND FOR THE FOLKS ON OUR PRAYER LIST ...

for those who are traveling, especially **Josey** Parker and **Cameron** Klass

and those with special needs:

Suzanne Eller, **Mark** Adkins, **Chris** Alexander, **Cora** Alexander, **Bobby** Allgood, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **Barbara** Beck, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Baylee** Brown, **Andrea** Cain, **Russell** Cinque, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Morgan** Curia, **Barbara** Dixon, **Johanna** Dresser, **Mike** Egan, **Aubrie** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Frances** Garner, **Marlon** Gaskins, **Susan** Gibson, **Jan** Greer, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare, **Kristen** Harris, **Elizabeth** Harvey, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris and Mike** Hodges, **Will** Holmes, **Jon** Huff, **Nancy** Hutchins, **Brinkley** Johnson, **Anne** King, **Lindsay** Layfield, **Lynn** Mack, **Carol** May, **Kate** McKenzie, **Nicholas** Melomo, **Molly** Michael, **Roan** Mitchell, **O'Lema** Morgan, **Kathie and Scott** Nelson, **Page** Onorato, **Lynn** Parsley, **Gabby** Plott, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Suzy** Sheets, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Amy** Burkhart Smith, **Dan Griff** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Sean** Sullivan, **Clarice and Henry** Surratt, **Robin** Tilley, **Jackie** Touchton, **Toni** Underwood, **Frances** Welch, **Courtney** Weller, **Susan** Whetmore, **Bill** Whitehurst, **Flynn** Williams, and **Charlotte** Young.

✦ *At this time you may offer your prayers in the comments bar on Facebook so that we may pray with you through the week.*

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

Of the Father's Love Begotten - Plainsong

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer B*)

Pg. 367

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 him thanks and praise.**

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

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:

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.

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,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

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. **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

Pg. 364

Celebrant Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast.

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION VOLUNTARY

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Pg. 365

Celebrant and People

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.

POSTLUDE

In the Bleak Midwinter – D. Cherwien

HYMN #111

“Silent Night”



Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,
all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,
Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy
peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Unless otherwise noted, all hymns printed in this bulletin are from The 1982 Hymnal and are in public domain.

*The Altar arrangements, garland, poinsettias, and wreaths
are given to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for the birth of Jesus;
for The Vestry and Father Alton Plummer,
Maureen Tinchler, Joan Clodfelter, Carrie Ingram,
John Taylor, Cindy Key, and Wendy Ruznak, our parish staff;
for all the People of Grace Church,
and in loving memory of loved ones
by the Altar Guild.*

*The mission of Grace Episcopal Church is to be a welcoming community of faith
guided by the life and teachings of Jesus.*

In light of this mission we strive:

- *to promote spiritual growth and healing through worship, study, and fellowship.*
- *to sustain a mutually supportive community*
- *to invite and include all who would seek and serve God with us.*
- *to serve those beyond our parish.*
- *to advocate social, environmental, and economic justice.*



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The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman, Diocesan Bishop
The Right Reverend Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Suffragan
The Reverend M. Alton Plummer, Rector
Joan Clodfelter, Organist & Choir Director
Carrie Ingram, Christian Education & Communications Director
Maureen Tincher, Parish Administrator

THE VESTRY

2021
Tommy Black - Sr.
Warden
Miles Cleckley - Treasurer
Linda Cox - Clerk
Belinda MacKinstry

2022
Pam Harvey - Jr.
Warden
Mark Petruzzi

2023
Walter Beeker
David Jones
Robin Sink