



## *Grace Episcopal Church*

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 25, 2021

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II - 10:30 a.m.

BCP

PRELUDE

*In Dulci Jubilo* – J. S. Bach

PROCESSIONAL HYMN #83 (vv. 1-3 & 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 God the Father;

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

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

*Celebrant* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE #87

*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 the angelic host proclaim  
 Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

**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 the incarnate Deity.  
 Pleased as man with man to dwell;  
 Jesus, our Emmanuel!**

**Hark! the herald angels sing  
 glory to the newborn King!**

**Mild he lays his glory by,  
 born that we no more may die,  
 born to raise us from the earth,  
 born to give us second birth.  
 Risen with healing in his wings,  
 light and life to all he brings,  
 hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
 hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!**

**Hark! the herald angels sing  
 glory to the newborn King!**

## A COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS DAY

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.*

## LIGHTING OF CHRIST CANDLE

*As the candle is lighted, the leader will explain its significance.*

*Leader* The center candle reminds us that Jesus is the spotless lamb of God, sent to save us from sin. His birth was for his death, his death was for our birth! As John the Baptist announced: "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!" Christ himself is before all things, and in Christ all things hold together.

*Leader* Lord, you are the light of our world.  
*People* **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**  
*Leader* Alleluia. To us a child is born: Come let us adore him. Alleluia.  
*People* **O come, O come, Emmanuel.**  
*Leader* May the light of your love always shine in our hearts.  
*All* **Amen**

**THE FIRST LESSON**

*Isaiah 62:6-12*

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted  
 sentinels;  
 all day and all night  
 they shall never be silent.  
 You who remind the LORD,  
 take no rest,  
 and give him no rest  
 until he establishes Jerusalem  
 and makes it renowned throughout the  
 earth.  
 The LORD has sworn by his right hand  
 and by his mighty arm:  
 I will not again give your grain  
 to be food for your enemies,  
 and foreigners shall not drink the wine  
 for which you have labored;  
 but those who garner it shall eat it  
 and praise the LORD,

and those who gather it shall drink it  
 in my holy courts.  
 Go through, go through the gates,  
 prepare the way for the people;  
 build up, build up the highway,  
 clear it of stones,  
 lift up an ensign over the peoples.  
 The LORD has proclaimed  
 to the end of the earth:  
 Say to daughter Zion,  
 "See, your salvation comes;  
 his reward is with him,  
 and his recompense before him."  
 They shall be called, "The Holy People,  
 The Redeemed of the LORD";  
 and you shall be called, "Sought Out,  
 A City Not Forsaken."

- The Word of the Lord      **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 97** (*responsively, by whole verse*)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice;  
 let the multitude of the isles be glad.  
<sup>2</sup> **Clouds and darkness are round about him,  
 righteousness and justice are the foundations  
 of his throne.**  
<sup>3</sup> A fire goes before him  
 and burns up his enemies on every side.  
<sup>4</sup> **His lightnings light up the world;  
 the earth sees it and is afraid.**  
<sup>5</sup> The mountains melt like wax at the presence  
 of the LORD,  
 at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

<sup>6</sup> **The heavens declare his righteousness,  
 and all the peoples see his glory.**  
<sup>7</sup> Confounded be all who worship carved  
 images and delight in false gods!  
 Bow down before him, all you gods.  
<sup>8</sup> **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of  
 Judah rejoice,  
 because of your judgments, O LORD.**  
<sup>9</sup> **For you are the LORD,  
 most high over all the earth;  
 you are exalted far above all gods.**

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

- The Word of the Lord    **Thanks be to God.**

## SEQUENCE HYMN #115

*What child is this, who laid to rest*

**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.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate  
where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
the silent Word is pleading.**

**So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
come, peasant, king, to own him;  
the King of kings salvation brings,  
let loving hearts enthrone him.**

## THE GOSPEL

*Luke 2:8-20*

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

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.**

## 358 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.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (FORM III)

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

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.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

We pray O Lord, for your deliverance from the pandemic afflicting your people everywhere, especially those who are sick, those who have died, and those who mourn. *Silence*

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Cameron** Klass and **Josey** Parker,  
and those with special needs:

**Leslie** Bell, **Jeff** Check, **Emily** Pate, **Mark** Adkins, **Chris** Alexander, **Cora** Alexander, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Baylee** Brown, **Andrea** Cain, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Morgan** Curia, **Barbara** Dixon, **Anita** Ewbank, **Renee** Ewbank, **Mark** Frye, **Aubrie** Gallen, **Shana** Garland, **Marlon** Gaskins, **Susan** Gibson, **Holly** Gray, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare, **Kristen** Harris, **Virginia** Hartzog, **Matt** Haynes, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris and Mike** Hodges, **Jon** Huff, **Lindsay** Layfield, **Cara** Lee, **Lynn** Mack, **Carol** May, **Kate** McKenzie, **Nicholas** Melomo, **Joyce** Metters, **Molly** Michael, **Roan** Mitchell, **Dan & Fran** Moore, **O'Lema** Morgan, **Gilliam** Nicholson, **Page** Onorato, **Melissa** Owens, **Lynn** Parsley, **Doris** Reece, **Libby** Robert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Tommy** Shaw, **Suzy** Sheets, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Robin** Sink, **Amy** Burkhart Smith, **Dan Griff** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Patty** Sori, **Robin** Tilley, **Jackie** Touchton, **Toni** Underwood, **Kathy** Watson, **Courtney** Weller, **Flynn** Williams, **Mary** Williams, and **Charlotte** Young.

“Are there others?”

Lord in Your mercy      **Hear our prayer**

*Silence*

*The celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE PEACE

*Celebrant*      The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*          **And also with you.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

### OFFERTORY SENTENCE

### OFFERTORY VOLUNTARY

*Lo, a Rose – W. Held*

### PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

*The offering is brought forward as the hymn is sung.*

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  
throngèd the air;  
but his mother only,  
in her maiden bliss,  
worshipped the belovèd  
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.

367 THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Eucharistic Prayer B)

*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.

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:

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

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

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*The people may stand or kneel*

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,

*Celebrant and People*

**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. **AMEN.**

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

364      **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.**

## 364 THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

### FRACTION ANTHEM

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

### INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

## 365 POST-COMMUNION PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**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.**

### THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

### DISMISSAL HYMN #100

*Joy to the World!*

**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.**

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

## THE DISMISSAL

*Officiant*     Go in peace, and may the love and Spirit of Christ fill your hearts and homes at Christmas. Alleluia, alleluia!

*People*        **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

## POSTLUDE

*Good Christian Men, Rejoice* – C. Sergisson

### WELCOME GUESTS AND NEWCOMERS!

We are delighted to have you worship with us today, and we would welcome the opportunity to get acquainted. Please sign the Guest Book in the narthex.

**During Holy Communion**, if you are unable to receive communion at the altar rail, please notify an usher so that communion can be brought to you.

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



*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 Edward T. Kelaher, Rector  
Joan Clodfelter, Organist & Choir Director  
Maureen Tinchler, Parish Administrator  
John Taylor, Facilities Manager

### **THE VESTRY**

Tommy Black - Sr. Warden

Miles Cleckley - Treasurer

Linda Cox - Clerk

Belinda MacKinstry

Wes Allred

Pam Harvey - Jr. Warden

Sandra Husted

Mark Petruzzi

Walter Beeker

David Jones

Cathy Riggan

Robin Sink

The Vestry person of the month for December is Walter Beeker.



If you do not wish to keep this bulletin, please recycle it in the basket in the narthex on your way out.