



Grace Episcopal Church

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 25, 2022

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

BCP

PRELUDE

Noel - C. Daquin

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*)

¹ The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice;
 let the multitude of the isles be glad.

² **Clouds and darkness are round about him,
 righteousness and justice are the foundations
 of his throne.**

³ A fire goes before him
 and burns up his enemies on every side.

⁴ **His lightnings light up the world;
 the earth sees it and is afraid.**

⁵ The mountains melt like wax at the presence
 of the LORD,
 at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

⁶ **The heavens declare his righteousness,
 and all the peoples see his glory.**

⁷ Confounded be all who worship carved
 images and delight in false gods!
 Bow down before him, all you gods.

⁸ **Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of
 Judah rejoice,
 because of your judgments, O LORD.**

⁹ **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 (VV. 1-3)

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.**

SEQUENCE HYMN #115 (V. 4)

What child is this, who laid to rest

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.

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.

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.

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

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

We pray for all who are traveling, especially **Josey** Parker,

and those with special needs:

Allen & Wyvonne Robertson, **Kathy** Johnson, **Jahlya** Huntley, **Fred** Adkins, **Mark** Adkins, **Amanda** Amon, **Ella** Asebes, **David** Barkston, **Alice** Brandon & family, **Baylee** Brown, **Gayle** Burke, **Emily** Duquette Byers, **Lynne** Cleckley, **Morgan** Curia, **Tracy** Davis, **Ruth** DesRoches, **Barbara** Dixon, **Anita** Ewbank, **Renee** Ewbank, **Charlotte** Froehlich, **Marc** Frye, **Jenny** Gallen and family, **Shana** Garland, **Jane** Grimes, **George** Hanna, **Rob** Hare, **Kristen** Harris, **Nancy** Hinkle, **Chris** Hodges, **Jon** Huff, **Lindsay** Layfield, **Cara** Lee, **Lynn** Mack, **Carol** May, **Kate** McKenzie, **Nicholas** Melomo, **Roan** Mitchell, **Dan & Fran** Moore, **O'Lema** Morgan, **Gilliam** Nicholson, **Page** Onorato, **Howard** Palmer, **Lynn** Parsley, **Emily** Pate, **Bill** Phillipps, **Gabby** Plott, **Anne** Rives, **Libby** Robert, **Jacklyn** Rojas, **Lucas** Sanabria, **Tommy** Shaw, **Suzy** Sheets, **Talmadge** Silversides, **Amy** Burkhart Smith, **Dan Griff** Smith, **Martha Ellen** Smith, **Louise** Snyder, **Peggy** Snyder, **Jackie** Touchton, **Laura** Turlington, **Perry** Grimes Van Dyke, **Jen** Ward, **Kathy** Watson, **Flynn** Williams, **Mary and Jay** Williams, **Susan and Brian** Wilson, **Vickie** Wolfe, 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

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

The offering is brought forward as the hymn is sung.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS HYMN #112

In the bleak midwinter

**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,
worshipèd 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

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

INVITATION TO HOLY COMMUNION

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

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.

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 (VV. 1-2, 4)

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

Trumpet Tune on "Joy to the World" – D. Lasky

The beautiful poinsettias in the church are given to the Glory of God:

In thankfulness to God for our parents, children, and grandchildren by Patty & Ed Kelaher.

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Hinkle by Ian & Talmadge Silversides.

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Henry Talmadge Link by Ian & Talmadge Silversides.

(4) In loving memory of Tom Porter by David and Melissa Thayer.

In honor of Sandy Reynolds and in loving memory of Terry Reynolds by their children and grandchildren.

In honor of all of our Sunday School Teachers: Sandra Husted, Belinda MacKinstry, Elizabeth Purdy, Shannon Jones, and Penny Taylor, by Kathy Johnson.

In loving memory of Towers Dodd by the Dodd family.

In honor of our grandchildren Kayleigh, Noah, J.P. & Will by Sally Dodd.

In honor of our grandmothers, Louise Snyder and Cater Riggan, by Blythe and Cole Riggan.

In honor of our fellow pilgrims, Lyndon and Sidney Briggs, Kate Inabinett, Owen Miller, Erik Petruzzi, and Patty & Ed Kelaher, by Sims & Cathy Riggan.

In loving memory of Margaret & Arrington Wallace by Joe Wallace.

In loving memory of Diane Wallace Gregor by Joe Wallace.

In loving memory of Hank & Pam Garrity by Kathy Garrity Young.

In loving memory of Lucy Dayvault by Julie Dayvault.

In honor of the Reverend Ed Kelaher by Julie Dayvault.

In honor of Robin Sink by Julie Dayvault.

In loving memory of Walter A. "Terry" Reynolds by Sandra Reynolds and Family.

In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Winthrop C. LeShanna and Judith LeShanna Barber by Sandra Reynolds and family.

In loving memory of Shorty Grimes by Jane & Malcolm Grimes.

In honor of the Vestry by Jane & Malcolm Grimes

In honor of the Altar Guild by Jane and Malcolm Grimes.

In honor of all of the Grace Church Volunteers by Jane & Malcolm Grimes.

In loving memory of my parents Richard & Elrene Osterman Thomas by Jön-Eric Thomas.

In loving memory of my mother Gloria Brandt Shepherd and in honor of my father Stanley Shepherd by Neil R. Shepherd.



The beautiful poinsettias in the church are given to the Glory of God:

In honor of our Grace Church family by Chris and Mike Hodges.

In honor of our children, Blake, Kate and Ward, by David & Elizabeth Inabinett.

In honor of Carty & Greg Braun, Shep Husted, Tom & Shalimar Husted, by Sandra & Bob Husted.

In honor of Russ & Kathy Johnson by Wes, Kristi, Chandler and Blair Allred.

In honor of Roger & Karen Allred by Wes, Kristi, Chandler and Blair Allred.

In honor Jennifer, Eleanor, Kayleb, Benjamin, Emily, and Baylee, by Susan Terrell.

In loving memory of David R. Garner by Frances Garner.

In loving memory of Jeff Kaley and Bobby Ray Hedrick by Renee Kaley & family.

In honor of Joan Clodfelter by Staley & Jim Nance.

In loving memory of our parents, Georganne Bingham and Charlie Jordan, and Jean & Elmer Nance, by Staley & Jim Nance.

In celebration of our Grace Church family by Staley & Jim Nance.

In honor of Sims & Cathy Riggan by Staley & Jim Nance.

In loving memory of my daughter-in-law Becky Clodfelter and my husband Bob Clodfelter, by Joan Clodfelter.

In honor of my grandchildren, Ben, Palmer, Christopher, Ali, John, and Jack, by Joan Clodfelter.

In honor of the members of Grace Church Choir for their constancy and commitment, by Joan Clodfelter.

In loving memory of my parents by Judie Reed.

In honor of my siblings, Kathie, Buddy, and Bobby, by Judie Reed.

In honor of Jack & Joan Briggs by the Briggs Family.

In honor of Donna Long and in loving memory of B. A. Long, by the Briggs Family.

In honor of our grandsons, Nicholas and Henry Melomo, and Will and Sam Walser, by Peggy & Max Walser.

In honor of Ruth Owen Miller by Thompson & Kristie Miller.

In loving memory of Bill Goodman by Kathie Goodman.

In honor of Ed & Patty Kelaher by Miles & Lynne Cleckley.

In honor of Sims & Cathy Riggan by Miles & Lynne Cleckley.

In honor of Maureen Tincher by Miles & Lynn Cleckley.



WORSHIP LEADERS TODAY

Lector: Jim Nance
Usher: Richard Wolfe

Intercessor: Staley Nance
Greeter: Sandy Reynolds

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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The Most Reverend Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop
The Right Reverend Samuel Rodman, Diocesan Bishop
The Right Reverend Anne Hodges-Copple, Bishop Suffragan
The Right Reverend Jennifer Brooke-Davidson, Assistant Bishop

The Reverend Edward T. Kelaher, Rector
Joan Clodfelter, Minister of Music
Kathy Johnson, Christian Education Director
Maureen Tinchler, Parish Administrator
John Taylor, Facilities Manager

THE VESTRY

2023

Walter Beeker
David Jones Jr. Warden
Cathy Riggan
Robin Sink

2024

Lynn Meeks Treasurer
Logan Sheets
Susan Terrell Clerk
Kathy Young

2025

Wes Allred Sr. Warden
Thompson Miller Asst. Treasurer
Marjorie Parker Asst. Clerk
Marilyn Taylor

Vestry Person of the Month for December is Walter Beeker.