

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CONCORD



Christmas Eve Service

December 24, 2020 at 5:30 PM

PRELUDE OF CAROLS

Away in a manger

Melody by James R. Murray, arr. David Angerman

Bells of All Saints'

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O little town of Bethlehem
The first Nowell

arr. Jim Brickman

Jennifer Cook, piano

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I wonder as I wander

Appalachian Carol

Collected, adapted, and arr. John Jacob Niles

Charles McKinley, tenor

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Still, still, still
What child is this?

Trad. Austrian, arr. Catherine McMichael

Trad. English, arr. Catherine McMichael

Vasily Gorkovoy, violin

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LITURGY OF THE WORD

Opening Scripture

Isaiah 9:2,6

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. 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.



Opening Acclamation

BCP P. 355

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Processional Hymn

O come, all ye faithful

Hymnal 1982 – 83

1. 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;

*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

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

3. Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest; *Refrain*
Words and music in public domain.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.



O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Bidding Prayer

When God came into this world that first time, it was into a broken and hurting world desperate for good news and healing. The hope that Jesus brought as an infant and the message that he carried in his teachings has been spreading light to people ever since. Jesus came into this world in the most vulnerable way imaginable — as a homeless infant, threatened by the world around him. But through his message, he helped those around him to know of God’s greater plan for the world. May you who hear this story come to know this great and encouraging news, be touched by Jesus’ humble beginnings, and receive a glimpse of that hopeful promise that awaits us all. **Amen.**

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-4

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.

O little town of Bethlehem

Hymnal 1982 – 79

1. 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.

Words and music in public domain.



Gospel Reading

Luke 2:5-7

Joseph 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.

Away in a manger

Hymnal 1982 – 101

1. Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to say
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

Words and music in public domain.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:8-11

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.”

The first Nowell

Hymnal 1982 – 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.

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.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,

born is the King of Israel.

Words and music in public domain.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:12-14

“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!”

Hark! the herald angels sing

Hymnal 1982 – 87

1. 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!*



2. 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 us to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

Words and music in public domain.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:15-16

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.

What child is this

Hymnal 1982 – 115

1. 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.*

Words and music in public domain.

Gospel Reading

Luke 2:17-20

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.

Go tell it on the mountain

Hymnal 1982 – 99

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere;
go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!

1. While shepherds kept their watching
’er silent flocks by night,
throughout the heavens
shone a holy light. *Refrain*
Words and music in public domain.

Children’s Homily and Sermon

The Reverend Nancy L. J. Cox

Song of Meditation

Oh, Holy Night

Adolphe Adam, arr. Catherine McMichael

Vasily Gorkovoy, violin

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Nicene Creed

BCP P. 358 (LOC P. 280)

**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

from The Church of England

Holy Jesus,
by being born one of us,
and lying humbly in a manger,
you show how much God loves the world.
Christ born for us,
Son of God, given for us,
help us to know you,
to worship and to serve you.

Let the light of your love always shine in
our hearts,
until we reach our home in heaven,
and see you on your throne of glory.

Amen.

Lord Jesus Christ,
your birth at Bethlehem
draws us to kneel in wonder at heaven
touching earth:
accept our heartfelt praise
as we worship you,
our Saviour and our eternal God.

Amen.

Loving Jesus,
you were born in a stable but worshipped
by the angels.

Be with all who are lonely,
and with all who feel distant from
celebrations. As you healed the sick,
bring healing to those who are ill today.
Be the living hope that lightens their
hearts.

Amen.

Lord, the shepherd brought the good
news given to them by the angels.
We have nothing of our own to bring;
we bring you what you have given:
our lives for your life. Make us always
ready to proclaim your good news.

Amen.

Jesus, Saviour, son of Mary,
you know us and love us,
you share our lives
and hear our prayers.
Glory to you forever and ever.

Amen.



The Lord's Prayer

BCP P. 364

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

Celebrant and People

**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, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.**

Amen.

The Candle Lighting

Silent Night

Franz Grüber, arr. Catherine McMichael

Vasily Gorkovoy, violin

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The Peace

May God, who has called us out of darkness into his marvelous light, bless us and fill us with peace and may the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Celebrant: All ye faithful, let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**





THE CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND
GREENERY ARE GIVEN
TO THE GLORY OF GOD

In thanksgiving for

The Ackiss Family
April and Steven Bauerschlag
George & Cathy Blazier
Alison, Evan & Elena Cary Boothe
Kell, Tracy, Emma, Luca & Noah
Burkett
Walker and Jordan Collier and
daughters, Harrison and Caroline
Sam and Caddie Cox
Thomas Cox
The engagement of Jim Cox and
Megan Fay
Jazzmine Cox
Meredith and Jonathan Ellis and
children, Charlie, Libby and Woods

Tyler Gomez
Michelle, Elizabeth and Emily
Hooker
Suzanne and Richard Johannes
Kimberly and Britt Leatherman and
sons, Collier, Hayes and Cannon
Joyce Holbrook McKillop, Donna
McKillop Federall, and
all our relatives
Our Church Family
Kayla Russell
Casey and Kelli Smith
Kevin and Cathy Smith
Brittany, Tim and Andy Solano
Brian's music at All Saints' this year

In memory of

Mr. and Mrs. Doug Bethay
Jean Birch, Julia's Aunt in
England
Bob and Peg Bratton
Robert & Frances Burkett
Barbara Burkett
Cecil and Ruth Carlton

Courtney Bethay Collier
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Collier
Thomas McKillop, Scott Sauer,
Jane Naylor Sauer, William &
Susie Naylor, all the Holbrooks
Cary S. Russell
Robin Bratton Seagraves

