



THE WORD OF GOD

Entrance Rite

Voluntary

Still, still, still

trad. Austrian, arr. Catherine McMichael

What child is this?

trad. English, arr. C. M.

Vasily Gorkovoy, violin

Brian Sapp-Moore, piano

Entrance Hymn

Love came down at Christmas

Hymnal 1982 – 84

Gartan

Vasily Gorkovoy, violin

Brian Sapp-Moore, organ

Courtney Steinberg, soprano

Love came down at Christmas,
love all lovely, love divine;

love was born at Christmas:
star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
love incarnate, love divine;
worship we our Jesus,
but wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token;
love be yours and love be mine,
love to God and neighbor,
love for plea and gift and sign.

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Opening Acclamation

BCP p. 355

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

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

Collect for Purity

BCP p. 355

All: **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.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Song of Praise

Canticle 6, Gloria in excelsis

Hymnal 1982 – 96

Angels we gave heard on high (Vs. 1, 4)

Gloria

Vasily Gorkovoy, violin

Brian Sapp-Moore, organ

Courtney Steinberg, soprano

1 Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

4 See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Lessons

The people sit.

The First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Silence may follow.

Sequence Hymn

All stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 87

Hark! The herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

Vasily Gorkovoy, violin

Brian Sapp-Moore, organ

Courtney Steinberg, soprano

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!

Refrain: 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 man to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

3 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! *Refrain*

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The Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Remain seated.

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel

All remain standing.

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

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.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Reverend Jackie Whitfield

The Nicene Creed

All stand.

**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.**

The Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

From Praying the Scriptures, by Jeremiah D. Williamson

Intercessor: Come let us adore Christ, the Lord. Let us pray, “Glorious Lord,
grant us your peace.”

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts.
Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might

triumph over the power of evil. *Silence.*

Glorious Lord,

People: **Grant us your peace.**

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love those who are simple and those who are lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Silence.

Glorious Lord,

People: **Grant us your peace.**

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hands glorify you. *The people are invited to add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.*

Glorious Lord,

People: **Grant us your peace.**

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of this community to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence. *Silence.*

Glorious Lord,

People: **Grant us your peace.**

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to those who are materially poor, and to those who are in need of love. Open your arms to those who are sick and to those who are lonely.

The people are invited to add their petitions, followed by silence.

Glorious Lord,

People: **Grant us your peace.**

Intercessor: Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you.
You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection. *Silence.*

Glorious Lord,

People: **Grant us your peace.**

Silence.

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

The Lord's Prayer

BCP p. 363

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

People and Celebrant

**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 Peace

BCP p. 360

All stand

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Christmas Blessing

BCP p. 366

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.**

Closing Hymn

Hymnal 1982 – 109

The first Nowell the angel did say (Vs. 1-2, 6)

The First Nowell

Vasily Gorkovoy, violin

Brian Sapp-Moore, organ

Courtney Steinberg, soprano

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*

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. *Refrain*

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Voluntary

Noël nouvelet

trad. French, arr. Catherine McMichael

Vasily Gorkovoy, violin

Brian Sapp-Moore, piano

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The Christmas poinsettias and greenery are given
to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for: Acelyn Abney; Carol Ann Abney; George &
Cathy Blazier; Kelly, Tracy, Emma, Luca & Noah Burkett; Walker, Jordan, Harrison &
Caroline Collier; Sam & Caddie Cox; Jim & Megan Cox; Thomas Cox; Jazzmine Cox;
Daniel and Rachel Dillard; Steven Dwiggin; Meredith, Jonathan, Charlie, Libby & Woods
Ellis; Mick Griswold; Kimberly, Britt, Collier, Hayes & Cannon Leatherman; Margaret
Ericson; Anna, Jason, Kemp & Garet Stanley; Kris Vogler Seifert; My wonderful family;
The Clergy and Vestry at All Saints' Episcopal Church; and The People of All Saints'

The Christmas poinsettias and greenery are given
to the Glory of God and in memory of: Mr. and Mrs. J. Douglas Bethay, Sr., Elma B. Bost,
Junious L. Bost, Bob and Peggy Bratton, Robert K. Burkett, Frances Turner Burkett,
Barbara A. Burkett, Fumi Burgess, Cecil and Ruth Carlton, Mary Lou Campo,
Courtney Bethay Collier, Mr. and Mrs. Charles W. Collier, Sr., Tom Dwiggin,
Priscilla Dyson, Dianne Ericson, Gary & Nancy Everhardt, Ruby & Adam Furr,
Adam & Fannie Furr, Henry Garmon, Our Heavenly Loved Ones, Dr. Lavius & Marjorie
Robinson, Jeff Roseman, Cary Smith Russell, Gerald Russell, Marion Carlton Stewart,
Robin Bratton Seagraves, Margaret & Bill Stevens, Sabert & Mary Welker Trott, Frank &
Madeline White, Ronnie, Gary, and Jim White, Charles Whitfield, William and Mary
Whitley, Bob Wydra, Dixie & BD Yelton, Jane & JD Yelton, and John Yelton