

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CONCORD



The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2021 at 9 PM

Under guidelines from the Bishop, based on test positivity rates and CDC guidance, masks are required throughout worship. Please wear your mask while indoors at All Saints', no matter your vaccination status. Thank you.

A BLESSED AND MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU!

Welcome to All Saints' Episcopal Church as we celebrate the nativity of Jesus Christ. Whether you are a member, visitor, family member or friend, we are glad that you are here. This is a truly sacred night, and we are honored that you have chosen to spend it here.

Tonight we celebrate much more than the birth of a child. We commemorate that time when God lived and dwelled among us in human form, a time when we knew God in a way never experienced before.

When God came into this world that first time, it was into a broken and hurting world desperate for good news and healing. The people were living under occupation by a foreign power. 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. We hope you will 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.

Please take a candle as you enter. The candles will be lit after communion. The prayers in **bold** are said by everyone.

A note about the Gospel reading: The Gospel tonight is from the King James Version of the Bible. In 1604, at the request of King James I of England, plans were approved for a new translation of the Bible into English. Work began in 1607 with 47 scholars, all from the Church of England, organized into six groups, using the Bishop's Bible of 1568 as the basis for this revision. In 1611, the King James Version Bible, also known as the Authorized Version, was published. Today, more than 400 years since its initial publication, the bestselling King James Version (KJV) of the Bible is considered one of the most influential and beautiful works of literature in the English language.

A note about receiving Holy Communion: All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church. Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Receive the consecrated wafer in the palm of your outstretched hand. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms down. Pick up a small cup of wine when it is offered and place the empty cup on the tray at the corner of the rail. Another alternative is to take the wafer only. If you are not receiving communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing. Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of their parents.

PRELUDE OF CAROLS

Trio on “Bring a torch, Janette, Isabella” Trad. French, arr. David H. Hegarty
Gabriel’s Message Trad. French, arr. Michael Bedford
Carol Arr. Craig Phillips
God Rest You Merry Trad. English, arr. Rebecca Groom Te Velde
Brian Sapp-Moore, organ

A Carol Roland E. Martin
The Father’s Love William Roger Price
Wondrous Majesty David Ashley White

Choir of All Saints’

Echoing Carols Carson P. Cooman
Courtney Steinberg, soprano
Jennifer Cook, alto

A Festal Fanfare, *from the Fourth Concerto* J. S. Bach, arr. Van Denman Thompson
Adeste, fideles arr. David Schelat
Noel: Grand jeu et duo Louis Claude D’Aquin
Brian Sapp-Moore, organ

LITURGY OF THE WORD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN *All stand.* Hymnal 1982 – 83
O come, all ye faithful *Adeste fideles*

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;

Refrain:

*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*

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*

5. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*

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

Words and music in public domain.

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.**

GLORIA

Antonio Vivildi

The Choir of All Saints'

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.

READING

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymnal 1982 – 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

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 us 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*

Words and music in public domain.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20 KJV

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

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

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the

shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

The Reverend Nancy L.J. Cox

THE NICENE CREED

All stand.

BCP P. 358

**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.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

BCP p. 360

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 WELCOME

HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Word made flesh

Philip Wilby

Courtney Steinberg, solo

I sing the birth was born tonight, the author both of life and light;
The angels so did sound it, And, like the ravished shepherds said,
Who saw the light, and were afraid, Yet searched, and true they found it.

The Son of God, the eternal King, That did us all salvation bring,
And freed our soul from danger, He whom the whole world could not take,
The Word, which heaven and earth did make, Was now laid in a manger.

The Father's wisdom willed it so, the son's obedience knew no No;
Both wills were in one stature, And, as that wisdom had decreed,
The Word was now made flesh indeed, And took on him our nature.
What comfort by him we do win, Who made himself the price of sin,
To make us heirs of glory! To see this babe, all innocence,
A martyr born in our defense, Can man forget the story?

“The Word made Flesh” Text by Ben Johnson. Music by Philip Wilby. © 1990 Chester Music Ltd.
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PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

All stand.

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

SURSUM CORDA

BCP p. 367

The People remain standing.

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.**

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds.

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

Celebrant continues with the Proper Preface.

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:

SANCTUS

Hymnal 1982 – S 124

Celebrant and People

**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.

The People stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

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 [_____ and] 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.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP p. 363

Celebrant: 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal 1982 – S 154

Celebrant: Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

INVITATION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God, and we are the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

A prayer for those joining online to be unified in Communion with Christ.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. And since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

MUSIC AT COMMUNION

Away in a manger

Hymnal 1982 – 101

Cradle Song

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.
2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,

but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus!
Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

3. Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
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.

It came upon the midnight clear

Hymnal 1982 – 89

Carol

1. It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel-sounds the blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

Words and music in public domain.

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?

Refrain:

*This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary.*

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

Refrain

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

Refrain

Words and music in public domain.

AT THE CANDLE LIGHTING

Silent night

Hymnal 1982 – 111

Stille Nacht

Please kneel as you are able.

Hold your lit candle upright and let your neighbor light theirs from yours.

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words and music in public domain.

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP p. 366

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

BLESSING

Celebrant: 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.**

PROCESSION INTO THE WORLD

Hymnal 1982 – 100

Joy to the world

Antioch

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.
2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy.
3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please remain standing.


VOLUNTARY

Hallelujah Chorus, from *The Messiah*

G.F. Handel

The Choir of All Saints'

**Following the worship service, you are invited to share a warm refreshment
outside on the patio area in front of the church.**



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

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
The People of All Saints'

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
John Yelton



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