

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 2023 at 10 AM

ALL SAINTS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH, CONCORD

THE WORD OF GOD

Entrance Rite

Voluntary

Camille Saint-Saëns/arr. Mason Jones Romance, Op. 36

Rhonda Kovar, French horn

Entrance Hymn

Good Christian Friends, rejoice

Hymnal 1982 – 107 *In dulci jubilo*

1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say:

Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.

Christ is born today!

2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.

Christ was born for this!

3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave:
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save!

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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.

Song of Praise

Canticle 6, Gloria in excelsis Angels we gave heard on high

Hymnal 1982 – 96

Gloria

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.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. 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 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**.

The Lessons

The people sit.

The First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

the rod of their oppressor,

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,

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.

December 25, 2023

Hymn

All stand.

Hymnal 1982 – 84

Love came down on Christmas

Gartan

- 1 Love came down at Christmas, love all lovely, love divine; love was born at Christmas: star and angels gave the sign.
 - 2 Worship we the Godhead, love incarnate, love divine; worship we our Jesus, but wherewith for sacred sign?
- 3 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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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.

Gradual Hymn
God rest ye merry, gentlemen

The Hymnal 1982 – 105

God Rest You Merry

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay; remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day, to save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.

Refrain: O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our heavenly Father a blesséd angel came

and unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same: how that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name. *Refrain*

'Fear not, then,' said the angel,

'Let nothing you affright;

this day is born a Savior

of a pure virgin bright,

to free all those who trust in him

from Satan's power and might.' Refrain

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place, and with true love and charity each other now embrace; this holy tide of Christmas doth bring redeeming grace. *Refrain*

The Gospel

All remain standing.

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

Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 2:1-20

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 Vern Cahoon

The Nicene Creed

BCP p. 358

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 abhor

neither the simple nor the 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 hand glorify you. *The congregation is*

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 the city to yourself. May all of the

distractions and heartache of our live 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, those

who are poor, to those in need of love. Open your

arms to those who are sick and those who are

lonely. The congregation is 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 Celebrant adds a concluding collect.

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.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

A note about receiving Holy Communion: In the Episcopal Church, we understand that Christ is "really present" in the bread and wine provided from God's table. All who claim Christ as Lord are always welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion in this church. Children are welcome to receive communion at the discretion of their parents.

Come forward at the direction of the ushers. Receive the consecrated wafer in the palm of your outstretched hand from the first person who comes to you. To receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms down. Wine may be received by lightly dipping the bread into the small cup in the center of the plate/paten from which you received the bread. Alternatively, you may choose to drink from the larger cup/chalice which the next person will offer you. Receive the consecrated wine by guiding the offered cup to your lips and sipping. Those who distribute the

wine will wipe the chalice with a food safe sanitizer and turn it for the next person after each person receives. You may also decide to take the wafer only. If you choose not to receive communion, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing as your presence is a blessing to all of us. Once you have been blessed or received communion, you may offer a short prayer and then return to your seat.

If physical limitations make it difficult to come forward, please let an usher know that we may have the honor of bringing communion to you.

The Offertory

Christmas Day, a fantasy on old carols

Gustav Holst,

arr. Don A. Abernathy

Rhonda Kovar, French horn

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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.

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.

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:

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,

Memorial Acclamation

Hymnal 1982 – S 138

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.

December 25, 2023

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

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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.**

Hymn at Communion

Hymnal 1982 – 99

Go tell it on the mountain

Go, Tell It On the Mountain

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 o'er silent flocks by night, behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. *Refrain*

2 The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain*

3 Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born, and God sent us salvation that blesséd Christmas morn. Refrain

This selection is in the public domain.

Post-Communion Prayer BCP p. 366
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.

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 wit you for ever. **Amen.**

Post-Communion Hymn The first Nowell the angel did say

The Hymnal 1982 – 109

The First Nowell

1 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.

2 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*

3 And by the light of that same star three wise men came from country far; to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went. Refrain

4 This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest, and there it did both stop and stay right over the place where Jesus lay. *Refrain* 5 Then entered in those wise men three full reverently upon their knee, and offered there in his presence their gold, and myrrh, and frankincense. *Refrain*

6 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

This selection in the public domain.

Dismissal

The Deacon dismisses the people, who then respond:

People: Thanks be to God.

Voluntary J. S. Bach/arr. Van Denman Thompson

A Festal Fanfare, from The Fourth Concerto

"A Festal Fanfare" Text & Music: J. S. Bach/arr. Van Denman Thompson © 1966 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation (Admin. by Music Services) OneLicense A-719068

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CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND GREENERY

Given to the Glory of God and in memory of

Lyons & Muriel Hamblen
Benjamin Franklin Fowler
James & Exie Preddy

Ralph & Dorothy Hollopeter

Mark S. Preddy

In loving memory of our son,

Matt Bernacki

LeRoy and Anne Way

Irvin & Gloria Beigel

Arthur & Dorothy Huggins

Charles Bremer

Tony Eichhorn

Linda Porter

Margaret & Bill Stevens

Tom Dwiggins

Courtney Bethay Collier

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John Yelton

Ruby & Adam Furr

Jane & JD Yelton

Henry Garmon

Jeff Roseman

Dixie Yelton

B.D. Yelton

Joe and Patsy Hunter

Anne and Whitney Elizabeth Hunter

Bill and Jane Thomas

Jennifer Cobb

Owen Conley

Felix & Myrtle Shirah

Dave & Irene Foskey

Peter William Hoadley

Sabert & Mary Welker Trott

Elma B. Bost

Junious L. Bost

Louis C. Lisa

Marion and Robert De Block, Sr.

Deanna Cook Shue

Charles Seaford

My mom and dad as they are reunited

in heaven

Thomas A Bennett, Sr.

James R Germany

Cass Germany

Randy Bratton

Tom Brewer

Chuck Deckerhoff

Deon Allen and Jason Fisher

Friends who died in 2023

Patrick Jones

Frances Ruffin

Bob Wydra

Jeff Wydra

MaryLou Campo

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS AND GREENERY

Given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for



Our family The blessings of children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren Jill A. Awkerman Mack, Mabry, Grace & Eliza Carolyn W Bennett Thomas A Bennett III Amy Boren Bennett Martha Campbell Bennett Tom & Maddy Cox Sam & Caddie Cox Jim & Megan Cox Jazzmine Cox Our Wydra Family The clergy & staff of All Saints' Rev. Nancy Cox Rev. Jackie Whitfield Kimberly, Britt, Collier, Hayes & Cannon Leatherman Walker, Jordan, Harrison & Caroline Collier Meredith, Jonathan, Charlie, Libby & Woods Ellis

Helena & Isabella Fowler

Our families – Joseph, Noah, Gabrielle & Michael Our marriage Our family and friends All Saints' Church Megan Windisch Women of AYA House Beth McLaughlin Janet Hollopeter Elizabeth Soloman Carolyn Aubitz Brook Smith and Olivia Bostian Hilary Smith and Kaleb Davis Vima Couvertier-Cruz Trish & Tim Harkins The gift of our wonderful sons, daughters-in-law, and grand girls David Trott & Family S. Scott Trott, III & Family Our grandchildren – Jackson & McKinley Brown Lauren Ritchie & Grace Tholen Our great-granddaughter

Finley Brown



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For announcements and information, scan the QR code to view
All Saints' Weekly Word.

