

Christmas Eve 2020



ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

"Historic Key West's Church"

Key West, Florida

We extend best wishes for a Merry Christmas and joyous New Year to all who worship with us this evening. This is St. Paul's 189th celebration of Christmas since becoming a congregation in 1832. As we gather here this night, may any darkness and silence be pierced by light and the utterance of God's Word in our flesh. May compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us in the Holy Child, Jesus, the One whom God gave to us on that First Christmas.

The Opening Sentences *The People stand and the Celebrant says*

***Rejoice! Let the whole world rejoice!
The Holy One is come! Rejoice! Let the whole world rejoice!***

Station at the Advent Wreath:

Celebrant The glory of the Lord has been revealed:
People ***And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.***
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and ever living God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

The first, second, third, and fourth candles are lit.

All: Light of the world, in grace and beauty, mirror of God's eternal face, transparent flame of love's free duty, You bring salvation to our human race.

Celebrant: Rejoice, people of God. The Light has come into the world. Sacred Mystery, we now light the candle of your nativity.

The Christ candle is lit.

Celebrant With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us. Now is the time of celebration and joy.

People ***Blessed Jesus, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Fill us with joy at your coming, and make us instruments of your love. Help us to love those you loved, the least, the last, and the lost. Amen.***

The People remain standing and Celebrant says:

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.***

The Celebrant continues

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.

it, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant Together, let us pray.

Celebrant

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.

The First Lesson—A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah

(9:2-4 ,6-7)

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 to us a child has been born, 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 it and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Response—Psalm 96:1 - 4, 11 - 12 *Cantate Domino*

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song;
 sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;
 Proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations
 and His wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
 he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the whole earth be glad;
 let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
 let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the
 LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.

The Epistle—A Reading from the Letter of St. Paul to 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sequence Music

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Mendelssohn
(no singing permitted)



***The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to St. Luke**
Glory to you, Lord Christ

(2:1-14)

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to their own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to 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.

Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.”

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly hosts praising God and saying:

the congregation joins in saying the following loudly and joyously

***“Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace,
Good will to all whom God so favours!”***

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon

Fr. Lenworth Haughton

The Nicene Creed

All Standing

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 at Christmas

(All remain standing)

O God, we pray that all people may know the peace and love of your son Jesus.

God of kindness, be born in us tonight.

We pray for our presiding Bishop, Michael, our Bishop, Peter, for the clergy of this parish, of Key West and the surrounding communities, and for all ministers and disciples of Christ.

God of kindness, be born in us tonight.

We pray for all who have no homes, all who have no families, and all who have no joy in them this Christmas.

God of kindness, be born in us tonight.

We thank you for those through whom concern and service to others is being implemented this night. We especially remember the staffs of our hospitals whose responsibilities continue without interruption.

God of kindness, be born in us tonight.

Be present among those who reside in nursing homes and bless those who serve them with a sense of their importance in maintaining dignity and comfort for those in our human family who are so easily forgotten.

God of kindness, be born in us tonight.

Make this a day of special pleasure through service for those who work in our public utilities, workers in our transportation systems, police, fire fighters, emergency crews, and all who are sacrificing time with their families to maintain essential services. Grant, O God, a special sense of your presence to those offering hospitality at tables of celebration and places of rest and recreation, to chefs and waiters, to innkeepers and their staff. Shed on them the light of the Bethlehem Star, the Spirit of Christmas.

God of kindness, be born in us tonight.

Be with the women and men of our armed forces stationed throughout the world, so that they may be encouraged by the bonds of love which we would convey to them through messages inspired by the spirit of this season.

God of kindness, be born in us tonight.

Dear Lord, while the world celebrates around us, we remember Christmas celebrations of the past; we retain the memory of earlier seasons of joy where happiness was shared with family, friends, and loved ones who have departed this life. Grant them the continual joys of eternal life in your blessed company with all who have looked to you, O God, as the true source of light and life through Christ our own Lord.

God of kindness, be born in us tonight.

The Celebrant adds this closing Collect

Holy God, you sent your own son to be born into this world to grow from a baby to a child, and finally into an adult of love and faith, our Savior. May this day's celebration release the joy that is in the hearts of all your people in such a way that it will bring gladness to all the rest who have become weighed down with worrisome cares; through the name of our infant Savior, whose birth we gloriously delight in tonight. ***Amen.***

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People ***And also with you.***

Let us share the Peace of Christ with one another. Reach out beyond yourselves and be encouraged and empowered by God's grace to perhaps share this Peace with someone that you've not met yet. Stay in place, smile and wave and let us delight in being children of God in the House of the Lord.

Solo

Gesù Bambino

Pietro Yon

Sung by Dean Warden

Eucharist Prayer B

BCP 367

The Lord Be With You *Sursum Corda*
The Celebrant then 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.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Prayer of Consecration *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,

The Celebrant and People say

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 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 this 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.***

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 Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

Prayers when we cannot receive Holy Communion

In union, O Lord Jesus Christ, with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where your blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I join in offering the sacrifice of my praise and thanksgiving to you. I present to you myself, my soul, and my body, with the earnest longing that I may ever be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you in this Holy Sacrament, come spiritually, I pray you, into my heart. I unite myself to you, and love you with all my heart, with all my soul, with all my mind, and with all my strength. Let nothing ever separate me from you. Let me live and die in your love. Amen.

The Administration of Holy Communion

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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 Seasonal Blessing for Christmas

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 peace and favour. ***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.***

The Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
For unto us is born this night, in the city of David,
A Savior, who is Christ the Lord!
Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Those Who Serve This Evening in Our Worship

5:30 p.m. Worship Service

Celebrant: Fr. Lenworth Haughton
Organist: Tim Peterson
Cantor: Dean Warden
Reader: Lilla Whitesite

8:00 p.m. Worship Service

Celebrant: Fr. Lenworth Haughton
Organist: Tim Peterson
Cantor: Dean Warden
Reader: Wendy Niven



Christmas Flowers

Many thanks to Tom and Great Ford for their generous gift of our poinsettias this year.



Thanks to the generosity of many people St. Paul's Episcopal Church continues to provide support to the many people who live, work, and visit the Lower Keys. As you plan your year-end charitable contributions we hope that you will consider a special gift to St. Paul's. Here are our many convenient payment options:

Contribute online from the "[Giving Page](#)" page of our website by December 28, 2020. Put your payment in the offering plate at any worship service by December 31 2020. Mail checks to St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 401 Duval Street, Key West, FL, 33040, postmarked by Dec. 31, 2020.

If giving stock or funds managed by a broker, ask them to contact St. Paul's email at info@stpaulskeywest.org by December 28, 2020.

If you wish to make a donation from your IRA, here are the details:

- You must be 70½ or older.
- You may transfer up to \$100,000 from your IRA directly to St. Paul's.
- If you have not yet taken your required minimum distribution for 2019, your gift can satisfy all or part of that requirement.
- You pay no income tax on the gift. The transfer generates neither taxable income nor a tax deduction, so you benefit even if you do not itemize your tax deductions.
- Transfers will need to be made by Dec. 28, 2020, if you want your gift to qualify this year.

Thank you for considering St. Paul's in your year end giving. To do so is a direct reflection of your stewardship of that with which God has blessed us. May God, through us, continue to bless others.

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