



All Saints' Episcopal Church

An Open-hearted, Open-minded Parish of the Diocese of East Carolina

Family Christmas Eve Service

Friday, December 24th, 2021 5:00 p.m.

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting of the Advent Wreath and Christ Candle

Jen Adams-Falconer and Luke Falconer

Isaiah 9:2. 6-7

Reader: 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.

People: ***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.***

Reader: 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 onwards and for evermore.

People: ***The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.***

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: ***Thanks be to God!***

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful

ADESTE FIDELES

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

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation;
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest; (Refrain)*

Collect for the Day

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this night holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of the coming day, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reading 1: Mary and Joseph go to Bethlehem

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke (2:1-5)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered... 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.

Hymn

O Little Town of Bethlehem

ST. LOUIS

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 to-night.

For Christ is born of Mary, And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to men on earth.

Reading 2: Jesus is Born

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke 2:6-7

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.

Hymn

Away in a Manger

CRADLE SONG

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

Reading 3: An Angel Brings Good News

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke 2:8-12

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.”

Hymn

The First Nowell the Angel Did Say

THE FIRST NOWELL

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.

Reading 4: A Choir of Angels Praise God

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke 2:13-14

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!”

Hymn

Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

Angels we have heard on high, Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply Echoing their brave delight.

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid, Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love. (Refrain)

Reading 5: The Shepherds go to Bethlehem

A Reading from the Gospel according to 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.

Hymn*What Child is This, Who, Laid to Rest*

GREENSLEEVES

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.

Reading 6: Mary and the Shepherds are Amazed

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke 2:17-20

When the shepherds saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child. All who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. Then, the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn*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!

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
Rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born;
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

Reading 7: The Wise Ones Begin their Journey

A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew (2:1-2)

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage."

Hymn*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

MENDELSSOHN

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 hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!

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 Immanuel! (Refrain)

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)

Prayers of the People

Leader: Tender and compassionate God, we offer our prayers to you on this special evening
when Christ was born.

People: ***Grant us your peace.***

Leader: Jesus Christ was born homeless with only a manger for his bed.

People: ***We pray for those who have no homes.***

Leader: Jesus was held close to his mother. His father was nearby. Angels announced his birth
and shepherds came to see him.

People: ***We pray for children everywhere who need to be held and loved and celebrated.***

Leader: Jesus depended on others to give him food and clothes.

People: ***We pray for those who need both. Help us to care for others.***

Leader: Jesus was born to bring healing to the world.

People: ***We pray for those who are sick or in need.***

Leader: Jesus lived among us to bring mercy and to teach forgiveness.

People: ***We pray for all who are in trouble and need a chance for new life.***

Leader: Jesus loved everyone.

People: ***We pray for all the people of the world.***

***All: Jesus, bringer of hope and new life, help us to see the joy and abundant life
you intend for us. Hear our prayers and grant us your peace: peace which is not
the absence of trouble, but the awareness of your guiding presence in all that we do,
through your name we pray. Amen.***

The Peace

Celebrant *The Peace of Christ Jesus be always with you.*

People *And also with you.*

The Holy Communion

Offertory

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.***

Celebrant We thank you God, Father and Mother of us all. From the beginning you made the world and all its creatures; You made people to live for you and for each other.

People ***We praise you, God.***

Celebrant You created Adam and Eve and gave them a garden; You showed Noah a rainbow; You gave strength to Moses to free his people and taught Miriam to sing; You gave courage to Esther and loyalty to Ruth; You helped David defeat the giant and gave him a harp to sing with.

People ***We praise you, God.***

Celebrant And yet even they turned away from you and forgot about you, as we do too. But you did not forget. You sent your only child Jesus to the world to show how much you love us, and to bring us back to you again.

People ***We praise you, God.***

Celebrant As one of us he came, at first a tender infant, then a child, a youth, and an adult. He rejoiced with those who rejoiced, and wept with those who wept. To the despairing he spoke a word of hope. To the sick he gave healing. To the rejected he was a friend. And yet he was betrayed and nailed to a cross. But he was lifted from the grave and restored to life, that he might be with us and we with him. Alive for evermore! Therefore, with all the saints, and with angels in the heavens, our hearts beat with happiness and we sing:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high-est.

Celebrant On the night before Jesus died, he had supper with his disciples: he took bread; thanked you, as we have thanked you: broke the bread; and gave the bread to his friends saying, “Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, given for you. Each time you do this, remember me.”

After supper he took the wine; Thanked you for it, and passed the cup to his friends, saying, “ This cup is the new promise God has made with you in my blood. Each time you do this and drink from this cup, remember me.”

Remembering his death and celebrating his resurrection. We await with hope his coming again to bring peace and justice to the earth.

People ***Come, Lord Jesus.***

Celebrant We pray you, God of Love, send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other, and to all the world. Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, In the unity of the Holy Spirit, All glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever. ***Amen***

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

The Lord's Prayer

*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.*

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

This is the Lord's Table. We welcome all who know or seek to know Christ and who wish to receive communion. Gluten-free wafers are available by request from a server. We invite parishioners to come forward as they are able and willing, at an usher's direction, to the front of the altar to receive communion bread or a blessing. Please wear masks and maintain reasonable distancing between others. When approaching the server, please extend arms, palms open. The server will drop a bread wafer into the palm of the worshiper's hand. If desiring a blessing, please cross arms across shoulders or note "blessing, please." Worshipers with mobility issues are asked to alert an usher if needing communion to be brought to them.

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Hymn 100

Joy to the World! The Lord is Come

ANTIOCH

Blessing

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

***Lighting of Candles and Hymn**

Silent Night, Holy Night

STILLE NACHT

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. Sleep in heavenly peace.

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

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. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Let us depart in peace, savoring the wonder of this holy night. Christmas joy and blessings to all.

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Christmas Poinsettias are Given By:

Arline and Fred Arnold in loving memory of Maddie Hsu, and in honor of Rebecca and Hannah Hsu.

Betsy Robbins in loving memory of Jo Utley & Don Peters

Brewster & Betsy Brown in loving memory of Susan McKenna, and in thanksgiving for Caitlin & Madison,
Andrew & Asher

Carol Sparks in loving memory of Francis & Gertrude Rogallo (from their children), and Phillip Samuels, and in honor of Norman Sparks.

Carole & Gray Kimmel in loving memory of Ernest & Sunbeam Davis and Ada & Fred Kimmel

Charles & Jeanne Coppage in loving memory James & Eleanore Overstreet and W.F. & Mary Coppage

Dale Draper in loving memory of Mary Draper

Hilary Klein loving memory of Daniel E Klein Jr. and in thanksgiving for her children and grandchildren.

John Gualtieri & Maureen McGrath in thanksgiving for our friends and family

Larry & Linnea Morrow in loving memory of Robert Nelson, Pat Nelson and Carl Morrow

Nick and Dawn Kiousis in loving memory of Perry Kiousis, Grace & Bob Powers and Wayne & Mable Keller

Paula Myatt in loving memory of David Myatt

Ruthie Charlton in loving memory of all loved ones in Heaven

Suzanne Utley in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. BJ Utley and Mr. & Mrs. V.E Davis

Tess Judge in loving memory of Warren C Judge III and in thanksgiving for Monty, Mike, Mary & Mark Dixon

Tom O'Brien in loving memory of Kay O'Brien and in thanksgiving for Family

The Loves and Brights in loving memory of Charmian Carter & Ada M. Bright and
Thanksgiving for Tatum Love

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Pageant Leaders: Katie Blanchard, Director

Carol Sparks & Barbara White

Dawn & Nick Kiousis

Arline Arnold & Betsy Robbins

Julie Simpson & Rev. Cindy

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The Rev. Cindy Simpson, Celebrant

Steve Blackstock, Organist and Choir Master

Greeters : Arline Arnold

Ushers: Ann Laughner & Arline Arnold

Sound: Karen and Kenny Murrill

LEM: Leckie Conners

POP: Hilary Klein

Advent Wreath & Christ Candle Lighters: Jennifer Adams-Falconer & Luke Falconer

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The parish office will be closed on Dec. 27 & 28. Rev. Cindy will be away late Dec. 26 - 28.

For emergency pastoral care please contact Fr. Tom Wilson at 252-599-0752.

Children's Godly Play classes resume January 9, 2022 at the 10:30AM hour.

All Saints' Episcopal Church
40 Pintail Trail, Southern Shores, NC 27949 Phone: 252-261-6674
E-mail address: allsaintsobx@gmail.com - Webpage: www.all saintsobx.org
The Rev. Cynthia Simpson, Rector - rector@allsaintsobx.org



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