

The Church of St. Barnabas

in the Episcopal Diocese of New York



Christmas Eve Mass
December 24, 2020

Christmas Eve Mass

Prelude “Sweet Was the Song” from *The Sacred Harp Collection*, arr. David Johnson
Sandra Summer-Parks, soprano

*Sweet was the song the Virgin sang:
To Bethlehem she came
And was delivered of a Son:
Lo, Jesus was his name.
“Ah, lullaby my joy!”
Singing, “Lullaby my Baby Boy.”
She was delivered of a Son:
Lo, Jesus was his name.*

*“Sweet Babe,” sang she so tenderly,
With love, and joy, and mirth,
In awe and wonder gazed on him,
God’s Son now come to earth.
“Ah, he is born, God’s Son!”
Singing, “He is born, God’s Holy Son.”
In awe and wonder gazed on him,
God’s Son now come to earth.*

William Ballet (?), 17th c.

Liturgy of the Word

Opening Hymn 83 “O Come, All ye Faithful” 1982 Hymnal
Please stand as able

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.*

God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin’s womb; only begotten Son of the Father;

Refrain

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above; glory to God, glory in the highest;

Refrain

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

Refrain

Opening Acclamation

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia, alleluia!

People: **And on earth peace, goodwill to all. Alleluia, alleluia!**

Christ Candle Lighting

Bidding prayers adapted from Times and Seasons, Services and Prayers for the Church of England. The collects for Advent composed by the leaders of REPAIR (Rivertowns Episcopal Parishes Action on Inclusion and Race).

People of God: Behold!

God bends down in love to earth.

God with us, God beside us, comes to the world he has made.

The candle is lit.

Lord, you show us how to live together as members of your family.
We pray for families divided, for those who feel unwanted or unloved,
and for families who are homeless at this time.
Help us to bring your hope to all those in need of family.

Make us one in the hope of the Christ Child this night and for ever. Amen.

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.

A Reading from the prophet Isaiah

Isaiah 9:2-7

Please be seated.

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

Please stand, as able.

- 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.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations, "The LORD is King! *
**he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."**
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the 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.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

A Reading from the Epistle to Titus

Titus 2:11-14

Please be seated.

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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Please stand, as able.

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Alleluia, Alleluia.

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

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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Gareth C. Evans, Rector

Please be seated.

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant and People

**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

In peace let us pray to the Lord.
Father, in this holy night your Son our Saviour
was born in human flesh.
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.
Protect with your love those who have no home
and all who live in poverty.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night Mary, in the pain of labour,
brought your Son to birth.
Hold in your hand [...and] all who are in pain or distress.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.
Bring comfort to [...and] all who suffer in the sadness of our world.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night the angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.'
Strengthen those who work for peace and justice
in [...and in] all the world.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night strangers found the Holy Family,
and saw the baby lying in the manger.
Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Holy God
hear our prayer.

In this holy night heaven is come down to earth,
and earth is raised to heaven.
Hold in your hand [...and] all those who have passed through death
in the hope of your coming kingdom.
Holy God
hear our prayer.

Father,
In this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and the saints
through him who is your Word made flesh,
our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,
And his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Word made flesh, life of the world,
In your incarnation you embraced our poverty:
By your Spirit may we share in your riches.
People: Amen.

Music at the Offertory “Shepherd’s Pipe Carol”

John Rutter

Please be seated.

Sandra Summer-Parks, soprano

*Going through the hills on a night all starry
On the way to Bethlehem,
Far away I heard a shepherd boy piping
On the way to Bethlehem.
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh,
‘Dance and sing for joy
that Christ the newborn King is come
to bring us peace on earth
and he’s lying there in Bethlehem.’*

*“None may hear my pipes on these hills so lonely
On the way to Bethlehem.
But a King will hear me play sweet lullabies
When I get to Bethlehem.”
Angels in the sky came down from on high,
Hovered o’er the manger
where the babe was lying
cradled in the arms of his mother Mary,
Sleeping now at Bethlehem.*

*“Where is this new King, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Is he there at Bethlehem?”
‘I will find him soon by the star shining brightly
In the sky o’er Bethlehem.’
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
‘Dance and sing for joy
that Christ the newborn King is come
to bring us peace on earth
and he lying there at Bethlehem.’*

*‘May I come with you, shepherd boy piping merrily,
Come with you to Bethlehem?
Pay my homage, too, at the new King’s cradle.
Is it far to Bethlehem?’
Angels in the sky brought this message nigh:
‘Dance and sing for joy
that Christ the newborn King is born this night
in lowly stable yonder,
Born for you at Bethlehem.’*

John Rutter

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 him thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: It is truly right to glorify you, God, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever. Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance. Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

**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.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Gracious God, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, matriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: Rejoicing in the presence of God among us, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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

Celebrant: We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

People: **God here among us,
Light in the midst of us,
Bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.**

The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Music at Communion

Hymn 111 “Silent Night”

*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 al-le-lu-ia;
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.*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: 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 Christmas Blessing

Please Stand, as able.

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 holiness. **Amen.**
May God, who sent 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 favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn 100 "Joy To The World"

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.*

*Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
Let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.*

*He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.*

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the birth of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude Choral Prelude: "In Dulci Jubilo"

J. S. Bach

The Pew Candles were given by the following families:

The Bunaes Family
Barbara & James Casey
Dorothy & David Dalia
Cynthia Ferguson
Hubbard & Colwell Families
Harriet & Ken Kelly
Marsha Kemp

Katherine & Frank Martucci
Mary & Andrew Merryman
Laura & Ed Midgley
Sue Reuter Stanley
Jane Waterbury
Susan & Russell Watson
Peggy and Paul Wise

The Christmas flowers are in loving memory of:

Kate Bryan
John Barraby Evans
Douglas E. Ferguson
Carol Hartley
Marsha Kemp
Adelaide S. Kords
John H. Kords
Suzanne Marzuke, Christine Thomas' mother
Ann and Andy Merryman
Cecelia Olson, Barbara Mahoney's sister-in-law
Ted Olson, Barbara Mahoney's Dad
Bob and Ellen Phillips
Gustave Popiel
Seaman and Maxwell Loved Ones
Emily and Fred Stronk
Ann and Larry Thomas
Jane and John Waterbury
Russell Watson
Tom and Billie Wright

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen.

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