



**Grace Episcopal Church
Galena, Illinois**

CHRISTMAS EVE
December 24, 2020

Ministers of the Service

- | | |
|---|---|
| * Members and Guests, <i>Celebrants</i> | * Robin French, <i>Music Director</i> |
| * Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell, <i>Presider</i> | * Nancy Cook, <i>Erben Organist/Pianist</i> |
| * Rev. Diane Luther, <i>Deacon</i> | * Greg Serwich, <i>Vestry Coordinator</i> |
| * Lynn Giles, <i>Lector & Zoom Host</i> | * Charlotte Stryker, <i>Greeter</i> |
| * Donna Davis, <i>Intervessor</i> | |

PRELUDE

A Christmas Medley

Traditional/JoPurifoy

The Word of God

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O, Come, All Ye Faithful

verses 1, 3 & 6

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

*Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning:
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lo*

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Presider: Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: You come to your people and set them free.

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

Presider and

**People: Holy God, Holy and Mighty,
Holy Immortal One,
Have mercy upon us.**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: 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.

People: Amen.

THE LESSONS

(sit for reading)

Lector: A reading from **Isaiah 9: 2-7**

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 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.

THE RESPONSE

PSALM 96:1-4, 11-12

(alternately by verse as directed by the lector)

**Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.**

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

**Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.**

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.

**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.**

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.

**He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.**

THE EPISTLE

Lector: A reading from **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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE GOSPEL

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE BLESSING OF THE CRECHE

ANTHEM

Away in a Manger
Virtual Choir

Kirkpatrick/Cox

At the anthem's conclusion, the altar party will process to the crèche and place the baby in the manger.

Priest: The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

People: And we beheld his glory.

Priest: Let us pray.

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this day 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 this day, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Deacon: Rejoice, people of God! The light has come into the world.

O God, now we light the candle of your nativity!

(With all Advent candles lit, the acolyte lights the center white Christ candle.)

With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us.
This is the time of light and resplendent joy.

Priest: The prophet Isaiah proclaimed a time when those who walked in the shadows would see a great light. A light would shine and a child would be born to us. The evangelist Luke painted the nativity sky and repeated the heavenly song of the angels, "Glory, peace on earth and goodwill!" John declared that this great light is Christ, the Word made flesh. This great light lives among us. By it we behold God's glory—full of grace and truth. At Christ's nativity, we now rejoice.

People: God, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night (day) to us. Thanks for touching all heaven and earth with your splendor. In every corner of the world, shine (this night) with your peace. In every corner of our hearts, shine (this night) with your grace. Amen.

(be seated)

THE SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Gloria Hopewell

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Deacon: God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh.

People: May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us.

Intercessor: In this holy night angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered Sun of righteousness.
People: Strengthen all who work for peace and justice.

Lector: In this holy night you came to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed of straw as there was no room in the inn.
People: Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

Intercessor: In this holy night shepherds and outcasts heard your good news.
People: Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation.

Lector: In this holy night we rejoice at the coming of this time of re-creation.
People: Be with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us.

Intercessor: In this holy night Christians throughout the world are celebrating Christ's birth.
People: Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one light that scatters all our darkness.

Lector: In this holy night your living Word leaped down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death.
People: Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

Intercessor: Fulfill in your love all who have gone before us in the faith.
People: May we, like them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light.

Deacon: In this holy night heaven and earth embrace and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Hear these prayers we bring to you and fulfill your purposes in us in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word.
People: Amen.

(stand or kneel)

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(a time of silence is kept)

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
People: Amen.

THE EXCHANGE OF PEACE

Priest: The peace of the Christ Child be always with you.
People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Priest: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

PRESENTATION HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2. Heav - en can - not hold Him, nor earth sus - tain;
3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
4. What can I give Him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when He comes to reign:
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed the
but His moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
wor - shiped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.
what I can I give Him: give Him my heart.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Priest:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, 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:

Priest 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.

(please stand or kneel)

Priest:

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,

Priest and people:

We remember his death;

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

Priest:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting 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 in the sacrifices of Jesus Christ through whom we are acceptable to you, 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 Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever.

People: *Amen.*

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

People: **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.**

Priest: Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

FRACTION

Presider: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

People: **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

COMMUNION MUSIC

For those who do not have the consecrated wafers, you may say this prayer as others receive.

PRAYER FOR WHEN WE ARE UNABLE TO SHARE COMMUNION

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. 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.*

-- The Prayer Book for the Armed Services

Priest: Let us pray.

People: **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.**

*(Following the prayer, begin lighting your candles.
The lights in the church will be lowered, we will kneel, as able, and those at home may sing;)*

CANDLE-LIGHT HYMN

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 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.*

THE BLESSING

Priest: 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.

People: *Amen.*

Priest: May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

People: *Amen.*

Priest: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

People: *Amen.*

(as the lights come up, please stand and extinguish your candles)

CLOSING HYMN 100

Joy to the World

Watts/Handel

*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.*

*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.*

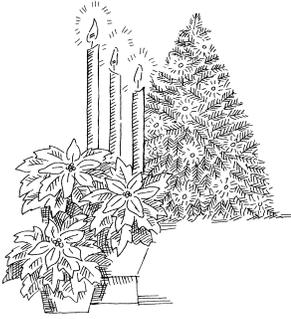
Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Joy to the World

Handel/Sanborn



The poinsettias today are given by the Altar Guild.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers are Requested: *Please include the following concerns during worship today and throughout the week:*

Cycle of Prayer:

The Most Rev. Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury and for our companion Parishes: Glory Parish in the Diocese of Renk and La Santa Cruz parish in the Diocese of SE Mexico.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Jeffrey, our Bishop and all members of Grace Church.

We pray for those who are sick or in need:

*Ruth (Beegle), *Bob (Burton), Buttell Family, *Bill (Calvert), *Nancy (Cook), Olivia (Coconi), *Kathy (Doig), Matthew (Dowe), *Renee (Dowe), *Al (Elsbree), Keith (Ferguson), *Jennie (Fjelde), Rev. Paul (Goddard) Susan (Haerle), *Barb (Hooper), Howell Family, Ginger (Komiskey), Alden (Kuntz), Verity (Liljedahl), *Alice Maffit, *Diann & *Robert (Marsh), *Mary (Nelson), Sarah (Newton), *Bill (Norton), Lisa (Prindle), David (Schaller), Jason (Schaller), Gabriel (Serrano), Melody (Serwich), *Pat (Terry), *Tom (V.), Joe(Watts), Mina, Heather (H.), David (J.), Kathie (O.) and Bruce (W.)

We give thanks for the many blessings we have received:

Max (Vollkommer) and Matthew (Morel) serving in the military; the birthday of: *Carl (Davis); our Outreach partners: the United Thank Offering, the Galena ARC, the United Churches Food Pantry, Episcopal Relief and Development, Shelter Care Ministries, Dubuque Rescue Mission and all who worship in this place and those who have not yet walked through these doors.

We pray for those who have died, including and the anniversary of the deaths of:

Theodore (Menegas), Florence (Stellenberg), Elizabeth (Marten) and Abby (Martin).

ANNOUNCEMENTS for the week of December 20, 2020

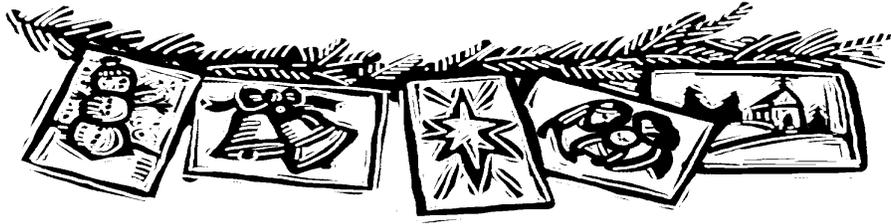
Zoom Poetry Meeting

A Zoom Poetry group is meeting at Grace Church on Mondays at 2:00pm. If you are interested, write Carol Poston at poston@sxu.edu or call her at 815-777-0220 to receive the link to the meeting.

Mid-Week Morning Prayer is this Wednesday, December 31st, at 7:30am in the church and online.

Wednesday Morning Study Group is Wednesday, December 31st, at 10:30am online.

Meditative Prayer meets Friday, December 25th, at 9:00am online. You are welcome to join, and gentle guidance will be provided for those unfamiliar with this practice.



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O Come All Ye Faithful
In the Bleak Midwinter
Silent Night
Joy to the World



grace episcopal church
galena. illinois

The Rt. Rev. Jeffrey Lee, Bishop of Chicago
The Very Rev. Gloria G. Hopewell, D. Min., Rector
The Rev. Linda Packard, Priest Associate
The Rev. Diane Luther, Deacon
Nancy Kenney, Parish Administrator

Vestry

Greg Serwich	Sr. Warden	Lynn Giles	Jr. Warden
Richard Luther	Treasurer	Diann Marsh	Clerk
Anita Sands (2018-21)	Tony Packard (2018-21)	Charlotte Stryker (2019-22)	
Elizabeth Ludescher (2019-22)	Nancy Cook (2020-23)	Eric Kallback (2020-23)	

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