

*Family Eucharist & Pageant
Christmas Eve, 2023
4:00 PM*



**“DO NOT BE AFRAID; FOR SEE —
I AM BRINGING YOU GOOD NEWS
OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL THE PEOPLE .”**

— Luke 20:15

CHRIST CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

Image: Erland Sibuea, Nativity, 2008

PRESIDING BISHOP'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE 2023

Hello to my family of faith in The Episcopal Church, and to all of our ecumenical and interfaith friends, and to all people of love and goodwill.

I want to first thank you all for your prayers and well wishes this year as I have weathered some health issues. Please know that I'm doing well, following the doctor's orders.

I'm also ever more aware of the power of the messages of Advent to watch, to wait, and to listen to the pregnant voice of silence, as one version of the Bible says. And out of that watching, waiting, and listening, following the way of Jesus of Nazareth and his way of love, the Spirit of God being our helper. So please allow me to offer a reading from the Gospel according to Luke. You know it well. The deep truth embedded in it, simple story of the birth of a baby. That deep truth has long given me strength for these 70 years, strength that I often did not have on my own. For some, it may seem fanciful, but in its own way, it points to what the Bible calls hope beyond hope. It reads:

While Mary and Joseph were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to deliver her child. She gave birth to her firstborn son, wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the guest room. Now in that same 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. The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: To you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. And 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, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

The message of the angel is as scandalous and striking now as it was then. For in it is embedded God's message in the death and resurrection of Jesus: to trust and believe in the invincibility of the good in spite of the titanic reality of evil, because God is good all the time. To trust and believe in the enduring power of love, of truth, of the good, and of justice when the reality of the opposite seems so prodigious.

To trust and believe in the enduring power of love, justice, kindness, and compassion, all because God is love and the author of all that is true, noble, and just. "Do not be afraid," the Scripture says, "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. And this will be a sign for you: You will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

Lord, we pray, give us this sign anew. Give us the lowly, the tired, those of high estate and low, and those of no estate. Church folk, those who haven't stepped through the red doors for years or ever, give us all a sign. Give us the working, the watching, the weeping. Give us that sign anew; as you did in the first century, so now in the 21st. Give us the expected, the faithful, the passionate, the undeserving; give us a sign.

"The angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all people: To you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'"

On behalf of the entire Episcopal Church, we wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a joyous new year.

God love you. God bless you. May God hold us all in those almighty hands of love. Merry Christmas..

— *The Most Rev. Michael Curry*
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church

Family Eucharist and Pageant
Christmas Eve, 2023
4:00 PM

Christ Church

5 Paterson Street, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901
732.545.6262 • ChristChurchNewBrunswick.org

WELCOME TO CHRIST CHURCH, an Episcopal parish in the worldwide Anglican Communion. We rejoice that you have chosen to worship with us this Christmas, and we invite you to enter into worship as much as you are comfortable doing so! We invite you to ask questions, explore and make yourself known to the many wonderful people around you. Please know that children are a welcome presence at Christ Church. If you need a changing table, there is one located in one of the bathrooms near the Paterson Street doors.

If you would like us to be in touch with you or if you would like to receive parish mailings, please fill out one of the white visitor cards in the pew pockets and either drop it in the offering plate during the service or give it to one of the clergy afterwards. Another option is to write your name in our guestbook near the tower doors. Also, after service, we invite you to take one of our welcome gift bags located on the back table that contain all kinds of goodies and information about the parish.

Looking for more information about Christ Church? You can find it on our website www.ChristChurchNewBrunswick.org or...

look us up on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchNB/>

Again, welcome, and MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The Rev. Joanna Hollis
Rector, Christ Church

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

Sundays

8 AM — Holy Eucharist with Music

9:30 AM — Church School

10:30 AM — Choral Eucharist

Wednesdays

12:00 PM — Noonday Prayer via Zoom

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE

Away in a Manger

by James R. Murray and William J. Kirkpatrick

Arr. Faye López

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Felix Mendelssohn Arr. Faye López

ENTRANCE HYMN “O Come All Ye Faithful”

ADESTE FIDELES

Text: J.F. Wade, 1751 tr. Frederick Oakeley

1. 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.*

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

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

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

The Presider welcomes the congregation, and says

Reader:

Candle Lighter:

Presider: Alleluia. I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

All: **Unto us a child is born; unto us a son is given. Alleluia.**

Reader: We have watched; we have waited
Trusting that you have already come. (*First candle is lit.*)
Holding fast that you comfort us always. (*Second candle is lit.*)
Knowing that you receive our lament. (*Third candle is lit.*)
Receiving the peace you offer to us. (*Fourth candle is lit.*)

Reader (Christ candle is lit.) Tonight we light the final candle, the Christ candle, for Christ is born anew amongst us. Our Advent waiting is complete, yet our yearning for justice is but re-kindled, as we continue to work and wait; call for and co-create God's final reconciliation of all things.

Let us pray.

ALL God of reconciliation, source of all life, may we seek Christ with the wonder and curiosity of a child, may we find Christ flowing through your beloved waters and healing your beloved land, and may we wait on Christ, the reconciler of nations and peoples, whose reign of justice will never end. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first two staves contain the first line of the hymn. The third and fourth staves contain the second line, with the word 'Glo' written below the first staff and 'Glo' below the fourth staff. The lyrics are: 'An - gels we have heard on high, Sing - ing sweet-ly through the night, Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing; And the moun-tains in re-ply, E - cho-ing their brave de-light. Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King. Glo - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o! Glo - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o!'.

An - gels we have heard on high, Sing - ing sweet-ly through the night,
Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
And the moun-tains in re-ply, E - cho-ing their brave de-light.
Come, a - dore on bend-ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Glo - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o!
Glo - - - - ri-a in ex-cel-sis De - o!

Presider May God be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Almighty God,
you make us glad with the yearly festival
of the birth of your Son, Jesus Christ,

the light of the world;
grant that we,
who have known the revelation of that light on earth,
may see the radiance of your heavenly glory;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God now and for ever.

People

Amen.

Please be seated

NATIVITY PAGEANT INTRODUCTION

The Reverend Joanna Hollis

NATIVITY PAGEANT

The familiar story of Christ's birth will be presented by the children of the Church School. During the story, please join in the following carols, all seated.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

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 tonight.

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.

Where children pure and happy
pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee,
Son of the mother mild;
where charity stands watching
and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
and Christmas comes once more.

AWAY IN A MANGER

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.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

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 host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

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

GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

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

WHAT CHILD IS THIS

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.*

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

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.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
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.

All who are able please stand

THE PEACE

Presider The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The People and Ministers greet one another in the name of the Lord.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY HYMN “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

FORREST GREEN
Blue Hymnal 1982, #78

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Enriching Our Worship, Prayer 3

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.**

Presider All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout for joy:

ALL 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.

Presider Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the New Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**ALL Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Presider Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice, and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

ALL AMEN.

Presider As our brother Christ taught us, we now pray,

ALL Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

BREAKING THE BREAD

The Presider breaks the bread and then says

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

ALL **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

INVITATION

Presider The gifts of God for the People of God.

The congregation may kneel or sit following the Invitation. All are most welcome to receive Communion. If you do not wish to receive communion this afternoon, you are cordially invited to come forward with your arms crossed to receive a blessing. Gluten-free wafers are available; please speak to the member of the clergy who is serving the bread.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

Minister The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

Recipient **Amen.**

Minister The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Recipient **Amen.**

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER FOR THOSE JOINING US ONLINE:

Gracious God, our sustainer and source of all good things in the universe.

As we gather in community this day, we are mindful of those who through circumstance or conscience are unable to partake of the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation at this time. You are the source of the food and water which nourishes and sustains us. As we are the product of all we have partaken, we know that we are infused with your life-giving food and drink and that are never separated from you. Though we are many, we are joined in Christ. We are one Body, one Cup in the name of the One God. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

“Good Christian Men Rejoice”

James R. Murray and William J. Kirkpatrick
Arr. Faye López

Good Chris-tian men, re-joice
With heart and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed to what we say:
News! News! Je-sus Christ is born to-day;
Ox and ass be-fore Him bow;
And He is in the man-ger now.
Christ is born to-day!
Christ is born to-day!

Good Chris-tian men, re-joice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye hear of end-less bliss:
Joy! Joy! Je-sus Christ was born for this!
He has op-ened the heav-en-ly door,
And man is blest for-ev-er-more.
Christ was born for this!
Christ was born for this!

Good Chris-tian men, re-joice,
With heart and soul and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave:
Peace! Peace! Je-sus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all,
To gain His ev-er-last-ing hall.
Christ was born to save!
Christ was born to save!

CAROLS DURING COMMUNION

“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”

Blue Hymnal 1982, #89

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o’er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o’er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife
and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

“Silent Night”

STILLE NACHT

1. 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.

2. 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!”

3. 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!

AFTER COMMUNION

All who are able please stand.

ALL

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

MENDELSSOHN

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!
2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right-eous-ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!

BLESSING & DISMISSAL

Presider Now may the true light shine on you. May the Son sent by God be your guide and strength. May you go in peace and live in hope. "And the blessing of God, Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life, be among you are remain with you always."

People **Amen.**

The Deacon dismisses the People

Deacon: Let us go forth rejoicing in the power of the Spirit!

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "Go Tell it on the Mountain- Spiritual"

Arr. Faye López

MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY
The Reverend Joanna P. Hollis, *Presider*



NATIVITY PAGEANT PARTICIPANTS

THE CAST

Narrator--*Graciela Adames*

Wonderer-- *Preya Buster*

Mary-- *Inori Walsh-Hollis*

Joseph--*Nico Adames*

Innkeeper -- *Maizie Connerton-Ryan*

Shepherds-- *Justin Buster, Harry Caruso, Ozanie Caruso*

Head Angel-- *Amisha New*

Angels -- *Ryan Buster, Maizie Connerton-Ryan*

DIRECTOR

Margaret Brown-Stansbury

HELPERS

Ashlinn Stansbury-- Fields, Jeffery Fields, Jennifer Ryan

CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS 2023 SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE -SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

4 PM -- Children's Eucharist & Christmas Pageant

8:45 PM -- Musical Prelude

9 PM -- Festive Holy Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY- MONDAY, DECEMBER 25

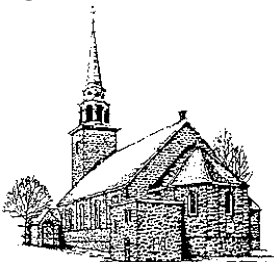
9:30 AM -- Holy Eucharist, EOW

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS- SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

8:00 AM -- Holy Eucharist, Rite 1

10:30 AM -- Holy Eucharist, EOW

EVERYONE IS WELCOME HERE



The Reverend Joanna P. Hollis, *Rector*
The Reverend Daphne Roberts, *Deacon*
Dr. Katia Kravitz, *Interim Music Minister and Organist*
Jane Esmonde, *Seminarian Intern*
Brittney Girault, *Parish Administrator*
Elaine Winkler, *Bookkeeper*
Carlos Garcia, *Sexton*