

# St. Paul's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2020 | 3:00 P.M. SERVICE

## The Word of God

### PRELUDE

*Variations on "Adeste Fideles"*

Charles Callahan

### ENTRANCE HYMN

*O come, all ye faithful* (stanzas 1-3 and 6)

H 83

1 O come, all ye faithful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
\*4 See how the shep-herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6        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**

BCP p. 355

*Celebrant*        Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
*People*            And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
 2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
 What great bright-ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

*Refrain*

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*          And also with you.  
*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

<sup>2</sup>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.  
<sup>3</sup>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.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
    and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

*Reader*          The Word of the Lord.  
*People*          Thanks be to God.

<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>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.

## PSALM

Psalm 96



<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
    sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.  
<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
    proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to  
    day.  
<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations \*  
    and his wonders among all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
    he is more to be feared than all gods.

<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
    but it is the LORD who made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup>Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
    Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!  
<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
    ascribe to the LORD honor and power.  
<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
    bring offerings and come into his courts.

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.  
<sup>10</sup>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."

<sup>11</sup>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.  
<sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.  
<sup>13</sup>He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

## SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>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.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

## SEQUENCE HYMN

*O little town of Bethlehem* (stanzas 1-3, 5)

H 79

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
\*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;

1 A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
2 while mor - tal sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.

## GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14

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

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

## THE SERMON

### THE NICENE CREED

BCP p. 358

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

p. 387

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;  
*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
*Silence*

*[The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.]*

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

## The Holy Communion

### OFFERTORY

*I Wonder As I Wander*

John Jacob Niles

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

BCP p. 367

*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.

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:

*Celebrant 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.

*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,

*Celebrant and People*

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 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 to your Son in his 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 [ ] and 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.*

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

BCP p. 364

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, forever and ever. Amen.

**THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**FRACTION ANTHEM**

BCP p. 364

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

**PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of Thy Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body with the earnest wish that they may always be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate Thee from me. May I live and die in Thy love. Amen.

**COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Away in a Manger*

Arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

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.

## POST-COMMUNION HYMN

*Silent night, holy night* (all stanzas)

111

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

## BLESSING

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.*

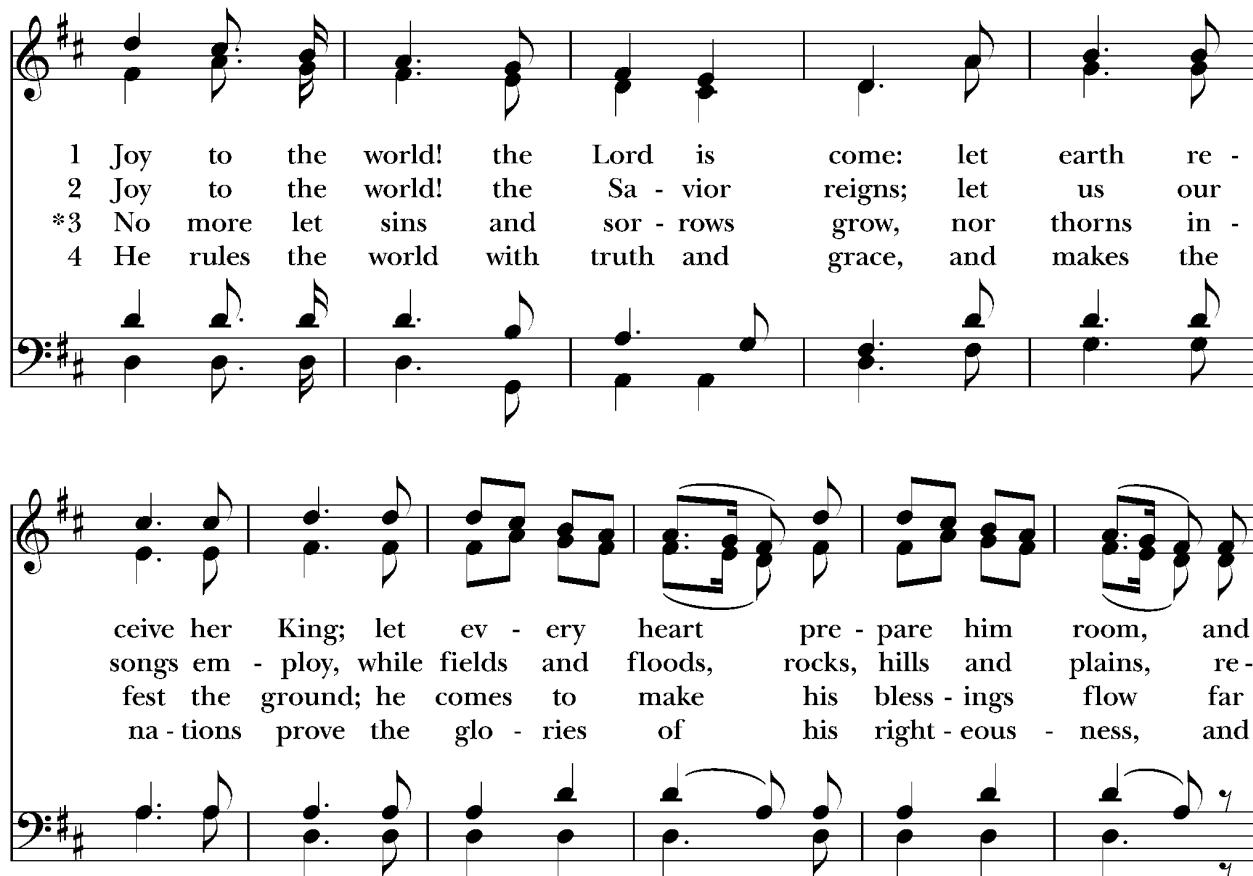
May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Joy to the world! the Lord is come* (stanzas 1, 2, and 4)

H 100



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -  
2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
\*3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the  
  
ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and  
songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -  
fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far  
na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture  
peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
as the curse is found, and as the curse is  
won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and  
2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -  
3 far as the curse is found, far  
4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.  
joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,  
peat the sound - ing joy,  
as the curse is found,  
won - ders of his love,

## DISMISSAL

BCP p. 366

*Celebrant* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE

*Toccata on "Antioch"*

David Cherwien

## CHRISTMAS DEDICATIONS 2020

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### WREATHES

Given in thanksgiving for God's precious gift to us, His only Son, our Lord, by Stan & Laney Golden  
Given in memory of loved ones by Bill & Juanita Williams

### POINSETTIAS

Given in thanksgiving for God's many blessings by Tom & Barbara Collins  
Given in thanksgiving for my grandchildren, Jane & Henry, by Ginger Jenkins  
Given in grateful thanksgiving for Jan Severn by Stephen, Susan & Will Severn  
Given in thanksgiving for our families by Don & Melanie Clayton  
Given in thanksgiving for family & friends in the U.K., Canada, and Australia by Rex & Jenny Fayter  
Given in loving memory of Jay Becker, Carol Becker & Al Severn by Stephen, Susan & Will Severn  
Given in memory of our parents, Conrad & Rene Cole, Sydney & Nora Fayter by Rex & Jenny Fayter  
Given in memory of Carole Felciano by the Felciano family  
Given in celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ by Newton & Charlotte Molloy  
Given to the Glory of God by an anonymous Coldest Nights client

*Additional thanks from the guild to those who donated greens from their yards:*

Mike & Marlene Becker  
Richard & Carol Detmer  
Bill & Juanita Williams  
George Carlson  
Ginger Jenkins  
David & Nancy Loucky  
Sandy Gleaves  
Gina Garner  
The Hammery

## PRAYER CONCERNS FOR DECEMBER 24, 2020

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### **We remember those in need of healing and relief from pain especially:**

**Those with cancer:** Betty, Brandy, Eric B., Lucinda and family, Sarah, and Zanie.

**For those in cancer remission:** Andie.

**Those healing from Surgery:** Beth J.

### **Those experiencing a mental health issue.**

**Those with other needs:** Ann, Ashlynn, Bennett/Bentz Families, Claire, Dillon, Franklin, Gene, Jason, Jane, Leah, Lorrie, Michael, Micki, Miller, Richard, Stephanie, Steven, Susan, Toni, and those who are ill, isolated, or fearful because of the coronavirus.

**Prisoners, especially:** Abu-Ali/death row, Charles, Charlie, Chris, David, Derrick/death row, Dillon, Gregory, James, Jessie/death row, Joe, Keith, Linda S., Oscar/death row, Purvis/death row, Quinten, Terrance, Tiffany, Tyrone, and Walter.

**The homeless, especially:** Andrea, Carol, Cindy, Connie, Deborah, Donna, Jeri, Jessica, Kelly, Kelsey, Kimberley, Kristi, Laura, Lori, Melissa, Renada, Sharon, and Tiffany.

**All veterans and those in military service and their families, especially:** Benjamin, Brady, Brent E., Chris G., Derrick, Elaine, Evan, Kaitlin, Patrick, Trevor, and Zach.

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### **PARTICIPANTS**

The Rev. Dr. Kristine Blaess, Rector

The Rev. Michael Whitnah, Associate Rector

Angela Tipps, Organist and Director of Music

Virginia Tipps, Soloist

Dale, Virginia, and Sam Tipps, and Amelia Clark, choir

Lectors: DeAnna Bartsch, Molly Bartsch

Intercessor: Kris McCusker

Technical Team: Dr. Alex Hollis, Andy Metz

Altar Guild: Sue Koechlein, Patty Washer, Patricia Melvin