

Christ Memorial Episcopal Church

Service of Lessons & Carols

December 31, 2023
9:30 a.m.

Opening hymn #102: Once in Royal David's city (verses 1-2)

The figure of the Christ Child may be carried in the procession and placed in the crèche.

Blessing of the Crèche

Presider: Let us pray.
People: O great mystery, and wonderful sacrament, that animals should see the new-born Lord, lying in a manger! Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Presider: The Word was made flesh
People: And dwelt among us.

Presider: Together let us bless this representation of the holy birth of Christ into our world.

People: Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Bidding Prayer
Beloved in Christ, in this Christmastide, let it be our care and delight to hear again the message of the Angels, and in heart and mind to go even to Bethlehem and see the Christ child lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's great love for us from the beginning of all things, and the shining of light in the darkness, to the time of our wilderness, our wayward journey, and our turning away, until the glorious reunion brought to us by the holy Child Jesus.

Let us look forward to this yearly remembrance of the birth of Jesus the Christ with hymns and songs of praise.

But first, let us pray. Let us pray for the needs of the whole world, God's creation of all things, for peace and justice on earth, for the

unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for the Church in our country, the town of Kilauea, and our island home of Kaua'i.

And because God particularly loves them, let us remember throughout the world the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, and all those who do not know and love Jesus Christ.

Let us remember especially all those wandering in search of safety, the multitudes of displaced ones and refugees, throughout the world. It is the birth of Jesus within the holy family, as they wandered in search of refuge, that offers profound witness to the lost, the wayward, and insecure.

Finally, let us remember before God the holy virgin Mary, Mother of God, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope is in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather all these prayers together in our hearts, let us pray in the words which Christ has taught us, saying together:

Presider and 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.

Presider
The Almighty God bless us with grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

Lesson One: Genesis 1:1-5
In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Hymn #423 Immortal Invisible God only Wise (verses 1-2)

Lesson Two: Genesis 3:1-7
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and

you will be like God, knowing good and evil.’ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

#105 God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen (verses 1-2)

Lesson Three: Isaiah 9:2-6

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 Counsellor, Mighty God,
    Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Hymn #112 In the Bleak Mid-winter (verses 1-2)

Lesson Four: Isaiah 11:1-3a, 6-9
A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse,
    and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him,
    the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
    the spirit of counsel and might,
    the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
    the leopard shall lie down with the kid,
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
    and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,
    their young shall lie down together;
    and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
    and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy
on all my holy mountain;
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord
as the waters cover the sea.

Hymn #81 Lo, how a Rose e'er Blooming (verses 1-2)

Lesson Five: Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, 'Greetings, favoured one! The Lord is with you.' But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob for ever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be, since I am a virgin?' The angel said to her, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God.' Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.' Then the angel departed from her.

Hymn #89 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear (verses 1 & 4)

Lesson Six: Luke 1:29-56

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

And Mary said,

'My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked with favour on the lowliness of his servant.
Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.
He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,
    in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
    to Abraham and to his descendants for ever.'
And Mary remained with her for about three months and then returned to her home.

Hymn #101 Away in a manger (verses 1-2)

Lesson Seven: Luke 2:8-14
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 Saviour, 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!'

Hymn #115 What child is this? (verses 1-2)

Lesson Eight: Luke 2:25-32
Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to

him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.'

Hymn #87 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (verses 1-2)

Lesson Nine: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all

who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Collect
Presider: Let us pray.
In the hearing and singing of the sacred scriptures, in the remembering of the birth of Christ, may we receive the true light into our world and into our hearts, for we are children of God. May we testify to the Word made flesh, living among us, full grace and truth. May the Spirit give us life, and life abundant, in the mystery of the incarnation, as this true light shines always in the darkness and the darkness does not overcome it. Amen.

The Sharing of the Peace

Celebrant: The peace of Christ be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

Offertory

The Holy Communion

Doxology *(Hawaiian)*

Hoʻo-na-ni i ka Ma-ku-a mau,
Ke kei-ki me ka U-ha-ne no,
Ke Aku-a mau Hoʻo-mai-kaʻi pu,
Ko ke-ia ao, ko ke-la ao. `Amene.

Presentation of the Gifts
Celebrant: *All things come of thee, O Lord;*
People: **And of thine own have we given thee.**

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant:
Thank you, Loving God,
for making us and our wonderful world.
Wherever we are in your world,
we should always thank you,
through Jesus, your Son.
When your Holy Spirit came to Mary,
Jesus was born as one of us.
Jesus lived as one of us;
Jesus died on the cross for us;
Jesus is alive because you gave him life again;
Jesus is with us now.
So, with the angels and everyone in heaven, we sing together:

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.

Celebrant:
Great and wonderful God, we remember when Jesus had supper with his friends the night before he died, he took the bread; he thanked you, broke it, gave it to his friends and said: Take this and eat it – this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me.

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine; he thanked you, gave it to his friends and said: All of you drink from this cup, because this is my blood – the new promise of God's love. Do this every time you drink it to remember me.

Together we remember that Jesus is always with us when we say:

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come in glory.

So loving God, remembering how dearly Jesus loves us, we should love him too. Send your Holy Spirit, gentle as a dove, on us and on these gifts, so that, with everyone who eats and drinks this bread and wine, the body and blood of Jesus, we may be full of your life and goodness. With the Blessed Virgin Mary, with King Kamehameha IV, Queen Emma, Queen Lili'uokalani and all your saints, near and far, from all over the world, help us all to walk hand in hand with Jesus and live our lives with him. All honor and glory belong to you, Loving God, through Jesus, your Son, with the Holy Spirit: one God, for ever and ever. **AMEN**.

And now, 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.

E ko mākou Makua i loko o ka lani,
E ho'āno 'ia Kou inoa, E hiki mai Kou aupuni, E

mālama 'ia Kou makemake ma ka honua nei.

E like me 'ia i mālama'ia ma ka lani lā.
E kala mai ho'i iā mākou i kā mākou lawehala 'ana, Me mākou e kala nei i ka po'e i lawehala i kā mākou.
Mai ho'oku'u 'oe iā mākou i ka ho'owalewale 'ia mai, E ho'opakele nō na'e iā mākou i ka 'ino. No ka mea,
No uke apuni, a me ka mana, a me ka ho'onani 'ia a mau loa aku.
AMENE.

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
People: Though we are many, we are one body for we all share in one bread.

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Ministration of Communion

Communion Hymn: Bless the Lord (Taizé refrain)

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in-to life

Postcommunion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.
People: **Son of Mary, Son of God, may we, for whom the heavens have opened, remember always your heavenly vision. Like the shepherds, who have seen in your birth a new kind of love, may we be a witness to that great love in our lives and all the world. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn #109 The First Noel (verses 1-2)

The Dismissal

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

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Aloha! Welcome!

If you are visiting our beautiful island, ALOHA.

We are blessed by your visit and pray that God's beauty greets you at every scenic turn and in the eyes of every person you meet. If you're thinking and praying, searching and hoping for a place to belong, to serve God, and to make a difference in this world, be our guest! There's a special place at Christ Memorial just for you.

We're so glad you're here.

Many wonderful lay ministers lead our congregation with the support of our priest, vicar, and pastor,

The Rev. Catherine Amy Kropp

pastor@christmemorialkauai.org

&

The Rt. Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, Bishop of Hawai'i

Christ Memorial Episcopal Church

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