



Ante-Communion
The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020

THE WORD OF GOD

Officiant: Alleluia! To us a child is born.

People: O come let us adore him. Alleluia!

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Officiant: 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.*

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE ON CHRISTMAS EVE

Today we celebrate Christmas Eve, the joyous culmination of our Advent journey and the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ.

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, we yield our grateful praise and thanksgiving for lives reborn in him. Through our baptism, we are God's new Creation and our hope and promise is founded in this Child, the Light of God in the world. It is a Light that shines in the darkness and the darkness has never overcome it. We pray that we might celebrate this Christmas Eve and the season to come by seeing our lives and the world anew by that everlasting Light.

Light the first, second, third, fourth and fifth candles.

Let us pray:

O ever-loving Father, you sent your Son to be the Light of the world. Grant that this Christ Candle might burn in our hearts with the rebirth of our souls and devotion for your mission on earth---bringing the light of hope to a world in despair, forgiveness for those who are lost and healing for those who suffer sickness. Receive this prayer through your son Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

Choir Response: Christmas is a time of joy, of welcoming the light.
To lead us to the promised One to break the dark of night.
Light a candle, our Messiah has come.
Light a candle, for the promised One.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Officiant: Let us pray.

COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS

Officiant: 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.*

THE LESSONS

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: 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.

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

The Psalm: Psalm 96:1-8

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

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

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

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

Reader: As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
People: but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Reader: Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
People: Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Reader: Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
People: ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Reader: Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; *
People: bring offerings and come into his courts.

The Epistle: Titus 2:11-14

Reader: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: "What child is this, who, laid to rest" Hymn 115

Susan Hollinger

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 2:1-20

Officiant: 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 swaddling clothes, 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 swaddling clothes 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.

Officiant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

The Rev. Dr. Laurence K. "Larry" Packard

NICENE CREED

Officiant 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

Prayers of the People, Form III

Reader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

Reader: Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Reader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People: That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

Reader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Reader: Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Reader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

Reader: We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Reader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

(Moment of Silence)

Prayers for those on Our Prayer List

Prayer for the Church Universal by Robert Louis Stevenson

Officiant and People: Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be thy children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Church Of Our Redeemer

Officiant and People: Lord Jesus, we pray that you will give us ears to hear, hearts to love, and wills devoted to serve; that in the days to come this congregation may be known, not for our glory, but for yours alone – a congregation of people who know the Lord; that this place may be an oasis, a place where people come to find out about you, where lives are straightened out and made whole, where people find the peace that passes

understanding. Give us, we pray, a heart to desire these things above all else. We pray through Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

CONFESSION OF SIN

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

Officiant and People: 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.*

Officiant: 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. *Amen.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Officiant 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.*

THE BLESSING

Officiant: May the humility of the shepherds, the joy of the angels, the perseverance of the wisemen, and the peace of the Christ-child be God's gift to you this Christmas time and always. *Amen.*

DISMISSAL

Officiant: Let us give thanks for the birth of Christ!

People: Thanks be to God.

LET US PRAY

If you have a Prayer Request, please email your request to our Prayer Chair, Bonnie Flippo at msflip925@aol.com. You may also contact the office by email redemeraldie@gmail.com or phone (703) 327-4060. Prayer Requests will be given to the Prayer Team so that they may pray for those in need. If you would like to include their name on our public prayer list, please let us know – only the name will appear on the public prayer list. If your request requires a more private nature, please contact Rev. Larry Packard by email l.packard@verizon.net or phone (703) 425-8315.

“For those whose concerns are known only to God”

All Those Afflicted by the Virus and
Those Who Care for Them
Bonnie Flippo
Martin, Kristin & Family
Tom, Resha & Bennett
Tom's Co-Workers
Don & Chris
Bob Stewart
Alan White
Fred & Ginny Warren
Mary Murray
TJ Hill
Russell & Lula
Bishop Susan Goff

Kathy
Candi & Taylor
The Fairweather Family
Tyler Gore
Gwenivere Black
Barbara Pavone
Nettie Stevens
Evan Hansen
The Rollins Family
Liam Ferguson
The Pisciotta Family
Church of Our Redeemer
Church of Our Redeemer Vestry Members

Serving Our Country

Amity Hess
All First Responders
All Front Line Workers
All Hospitals and Emergency Rooms Workers

Our Children, Our Schools, Our Neighbors, The Unemployed

O Lord, we come to you on behalf of those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work.
Help us use our public and private wealth that they may find employment
and receive just payment for their labor; this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. *Amen.*