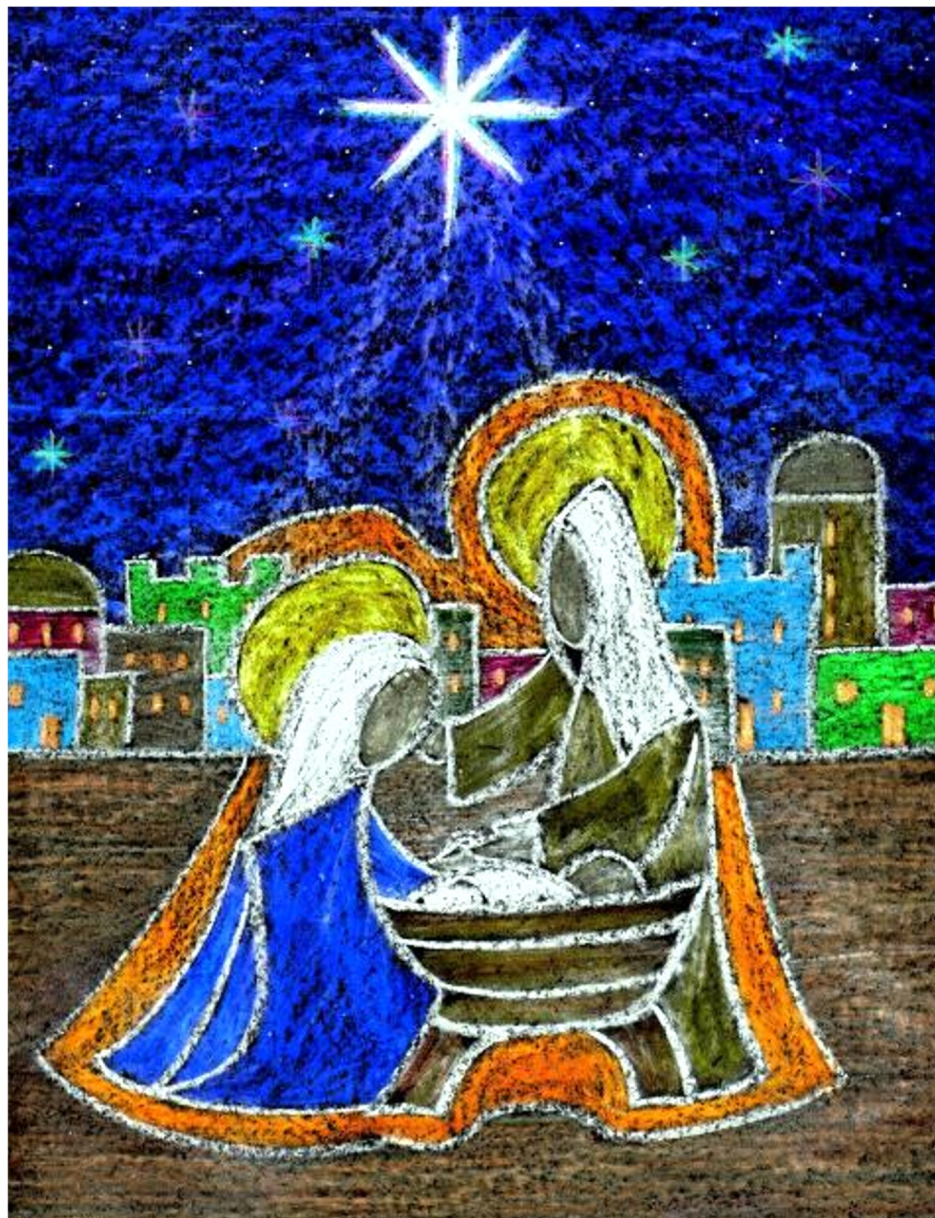


Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!



John Stuart, www.stushieart.com

First Sunday after Christmas December 27, 2020

For 134 years, Saint Mary's has been
a Christ-centered community
with a mission to express God's love for all people.

First Sunday after Christmas

Prelude

Away in a Manger
Magnificat Choir

Opening Sentence

Leader I will cause a righteous branch to spring forth for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. Then Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will dwell in security.

Opening Carol

O Come All Ye Faithful
<Screen share>

Hymnal #83

Christmas Collect

Leader God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Leader Let us pray together.

People **God in Trinity, Creator, Savior, Giver of life and truth. Reveal the possibilities within us that we may attain to the fulness of our humanity.
As we are glad, creator God when the dawn reveals the world to us, innocent and fresh, so may we discover the infant in the manger, and in delight be ready to start anew. Amen.**

Psalm: Carol

In the Bleak Midwinter
<Screen share>

Hymnal #112

First Reading

Jeremiah 31:31-34

That's right. The time is coming when I will make a brand new covenant with Israel and Judah. It won't be a repeat of the covenant I made with their ancestors when I took their hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt. They broke that covenant even though I did my part as their Master. This is the brand new covenant that I will make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law within them, (write it on their hearts) and be their God. And they will be my people. They will no longer go around setting up schools to teach about God. They will know me firsthand, the dull and the bright, the smart and the slow. I will wipe the slate clean for each of them. I will forget they ever sinned.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Luke 2:15-21

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

As the angel choir withdrew into heaven, the Shepherds talked it over. "Let us get over to Bethlehem as fast as we can and see for ourselves what God has revealed to us." They left, running, and found Mary and Joseph and the baby lying in the manger. Seeing was believing. They told everyone they met what the angels had said about this child. All who heard the shepherds were impressed.

Mary kept all these things to herself, holding them dear, deep within herself. The shepherds returned and let loose, glorifying and praising God for everything they had hear and seen. It turned out exactly the way they had been told.

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

Carol

I Wonder As I Wander

<Screen share>

Sermon

The Reverend Carol Arney

*A time of silence concludes the sermon to allow space to reflect on
what God might be saying to us personally.*

Statement of Belief and Baptismal Covenant

People **We have faith in one God, the creator and giver of life.
We have faith in the power of God's love as expressed through Jesus, a babe
born in poverty, a child refugee far from home.
We have faith in the Holy Spirit, sensing her breath in our lungs, nourishing our
growth, and inspiring our living.
And we have faith that divine love is reflected in the face of each person, of all of
creation, which calls us to build a world where we all live in peace. Amen.**

Leader Knowing there is one Body and one Spirit in each person will you continue in the apostle's teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Leader Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Carol *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Hymnal #79
 <Screen share>

Prayers of the People

Musical Introduction

***Sung response:* Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere!
 Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!**

- 1. While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,
 behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.**

Leader On this morning when we celebrate God's Incarnation in Jesus, we offer the prayers and thanksgivings of our hearts.

People **<Sung response>**

Leader We pray for the ways the Christmas story is our story as well. We pray for refugees and those who shelter them. We pray for the poor and all who are ill. We pray for those in recovery. We pray for those who like Jesus are cast out, marginalized, or fearful. We pray for those who work to end racism and oppression. We pray for an end to terrorism and gun violence. We pray for all who do harm.

Send us out with the Christmas message of hope.

People **<Sung response>**

Leader We pray for the protection and healing of our fragile earth and for all who work for climate justice.

Send us out with the Christmas message of compassion.

People **<Sung response>**

Leader We pray for all who seek you, all who speak of you, and all who follow your ways.
We pray for a Spirit of respect among races, cultures and religious beliefs and political views. We pray for those in position of leadership in every nation.
Send us out with the Christmas message of peace.

People *<Sung response>*

Leader We pray for those who have died and for those who mourn.
Send us out with the Christmas message of rebirth.

People *<Sung response>*

Leader We pray for our own concerns, those we love and those of people throughout the world. We offer you our thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life, for the love that surrounds us, and for the work you have given us to do.
Send us out with the Christmas message of faith.

People *<Sung response>*

Leader And at this Christmas time, we give you thanks for loving us enough to come among us in the person of Jesus and for the grace, the hope and the invitation to follow his ways of love and compassion.
Send us out with the Christmas message of joy.

People **2. The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth.**
**3. Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.**

<Sung response>

Blessings, Prayers, and Thanksgivings

Speak up if you've got a birthday, anniversary, transition, concern or thanksgiving to share.

Peace

Leader The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Lord's Prayer

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

People **Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God in whom is heaven:**

**The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.**

**With the bread we need for today, feed us,
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen.**

Christmas Prayer

Leader Let us pray together:

People **Gracious God, on the first Sunday of Christmas, we rejoice in heart and soul and voice! We thank you for taking on the human form of Jesus, born among us on this holy night. With your blessing and grace, we carry the power of your love into the world with tidings of comfort and joy. Amen.**

Announcements

Blessing

People **May the God who sent Jesus among us, bless us in this holy season, and brighten our hearts with the light of holiness. Amen.**

Closing Carol

Do You Hear What I Hear

<Screen share>

Dismissal

Deacon *The Deacon says the words of dismissal.*

People **Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Postlude

SOURCES

The Opening Sentence, Christmas Collect, and Lord's Prayer are from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*.

The First Reading is from *The Message*; the Gospel is from *New International Version*.

The Prayers of the People and The Christmas Prayer were written by The Reverend LeeAnne Watkins for use at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. Use with permission please.

The Statement of Belief had its origin in one by Nathan Nettleton.

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