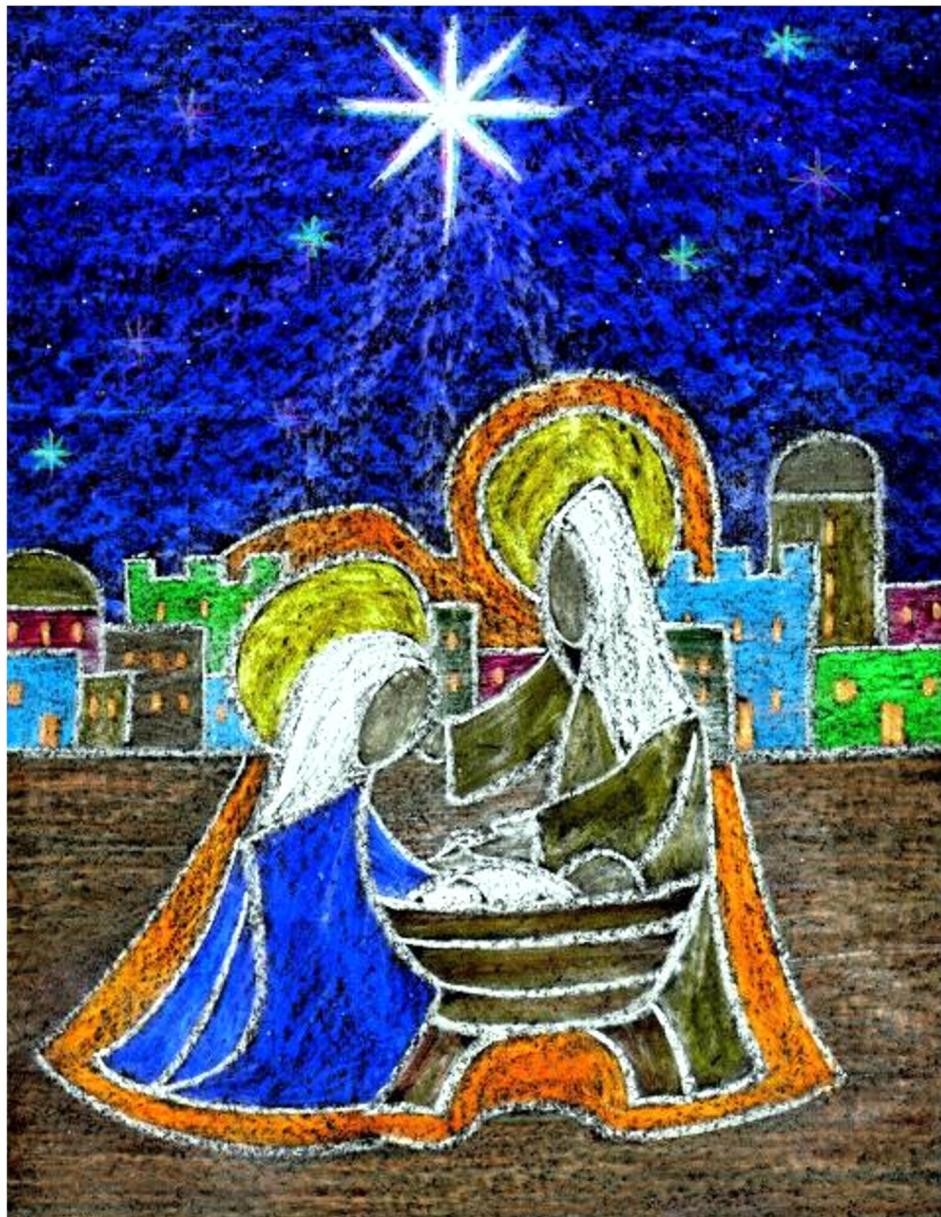


Welcome to Saint Mary's Episcopal Church!



John Stuart, www.stushieart.com

Second Sunday after Christmas January 3, 2021

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

Opening Sentence

Leader Jesus went down with his parents and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and the people.

Opening Carol

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

<Screen share>

Hymnal #87

Christmas Collect

Leader God be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Let us pray together.

People Eternal God, giver of love and peace, you call your children to live together as one family, give us grace to learn your ways and to do your will, that we may bring justice and peace to all people, in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, tender and compassionate, create in us, your family, love so true and deep that in this broken world we may be a sign of unity. Look on your family our God, and teach us to care for one another, for you are child and parent, you alone are love's source and secret. Amen.

Psalm: Carol

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

<Screen share>

Hymnal #89

First Reading

1 John 3:1-2

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, for we shall see him as he is.

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

People Thanks be to God.

Gloria

Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymnal #96

<Screen share>

Gospel

Matthew 2:19-23

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

After Herod died, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel, for those who were trying to take the child's life are dead." So he got up, took the child and his mother and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning in Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Having been warned in a dream, he withdrew to the district of Galilee, and he went and lived in a town called Nazareth. So was fulfilled what was said through the prophets, that he would be called a Nazarene.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Carol

The First Noel

Hymnal #109

<Screen share>

Sermon

The Reverend Lydia Huttar Brown

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 ***The Snow Lay on the Ground*** *Hymnal #110*
<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 second 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

Joy to the World

<Screen share>

Hymnal #100

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 and the Gospel are 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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