THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR SAVIOR JESUS CHRIST

Nativity. Woodcut, ca 1509-1511, Albrecht Dürer (1471-1528)

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ON THE COMMON
AMHERST, MASSACHUSETTS
2021
Music Prelude  
7:30 pm

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<td>Hark, the herald angels sing</td>
<td>Mendelssohn</td>
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<td>Anthem</td>
<td><em>Virgin’s Slumber Song</em></td>
<td>Max Reger (1873-1916)</td>
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<td>Anthem</td>
<td><em>O magnum mysterium</em></td>
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<td>Instrumental Good Christian friends, rejoice</td>
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<td>Anthem</td>
<td><em>Rejoice greatly</em> from Messiah*</td>
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<td>Once in royal David’s city (verses 1, 2, &amp; 6)</td>
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Holy Eucharist of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Prelude

Prelude in G major

J.S. Bach
(1685-1750)

At 11:00 pm:


Processional Hymn 83

1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
   O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
   come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
   O come, let us adore him...

2. God from God, Light from Light eternal,
   lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
   only-begotten Son of the Father;
   O come, let us adore him...

3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
   sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
   glory to God, glory in the highest;
   O come, let us adore him...

4. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
   leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
   we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
   O come, let us adore him...

5. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
   we would embrace thee, with love and awe;
   who would not love thee, loving us so dearly?
   O come, let us adore him....

6. Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
   born this happy morning;
   Jesus, to thee be glory given;
   Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
   O come, let us adore him.

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Bless ed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

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.

Gloria: Hymn 96

1. Angels we have heard on high
   Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
   And the mountains in reply
   Echoing their joyous strains.
   Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
   Why your joyous strains prolong?
   What the gladsome tidings be
   Which inspire your heavenly song? Refrain.

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
   Christ whose birth the angels sing;
   Come, adore on bended knee,
   Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Refrain.

4. See Him in a manger laid,
   Whom the choirs of angels praise;
   Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
   While our hearts in love we raise. Refrain.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray

The Christmas Collect *said by the Celebrant*

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

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 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.

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

(A period of silence follows the reading.)

Psalm 96: 1 - 4, 11 & 12

1. Sing to the Lord a new song;
   sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
2. Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;
   proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
3. Declare his glory among the nations
   and his wonders among all peoples.
4. For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
   he is more to be feared than all gods.
11. 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.
12. Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes;
    when he comes to judge the earth.

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

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.

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

(A period of silence follows the reading.)

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 bands of cloth, 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 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!"

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.


People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Homily

The Rev. Thomas N. Synan

The Nicene Creed (said in unison)

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

Intercessor: I ask your prayers for the Church Universal, founded by the Babe of Bethlehem.
For unto us a child is born.

People: O come, let us adore him.

The Litany continues.

Intercessor: I ask your prayers.
For unto us a child is born.

People: O come, let us adore him.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Greetings

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem (at 8:00 pm) Bring a torch, Jeannete, Isabella
Kristi Spicer, soloist

Traditional French Carol

Offertory Hymn 82 Divinum mysterium

1. Of the Father's love begotten,
er the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega,
he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been,
and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

2. O that birth for ever blessèd,
when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,
bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

3. Let the heights of heaven, adore him;
angel hosts, his praises sing;
powers, dominions, bow before him,
and extol our God and King;
let no tongue on earth be silent,
every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!

4. Christ, to thee with God the Father,
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,
and unwearied praises be;
honor, glory and dominion,
and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!
The Great Thanksgiving

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.

(The Celebrant continues with the Preface of the Incarnation)

Sanctus

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant: We give thanks to you, O God…Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
People: We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving….all honor and glory is yours,
Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All: 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 Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Communion

All who seek God, and are drawn to Christ are welcome at his table. If you do not wish to receive Communion but desire a blessing from the priest, simply cross your arms across your chest to indicate this, and the priest will say a prayer of blessing over you. If you require a gluten-free communion wafer, please go to one of the Communion stations at the front of the church.

Communion Anthem (at 8 pm)

Away in a manger
Kristi Spicer

Traditional Carol

7
At the Lighting of the Candles - Hymn 101

1. Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

2. The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Please remain seated as the church is darkened

Hymn 111

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

2. Silent night, holy night. shepherds quake at the sight, Glories stream from heaven afar; Heavenly hosts sing alleluia; Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Post Communion Prayer

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.

The Christmas Blessing

Recessional Hymn 100

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

2. Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy.

3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Sinfonia in D major
from Cantata 29, Wir danken dir, Gott

J.S. Bach (1685 – 1750)
~ The Christmas Flowers and Candles are in Loving Memory of ~

Mr. & Mrs. K. E. Mammen
Susan Verghese
Eliza Bryan
Mary Williams
Marty Nathan
Dennis Donahue
Harold & Phyllis Page
Philip Page
Sarah & George Mirick
Miriam Gehris Schaeffer & Loved Ones
Jeannette T. Stebbins
Gerry Zobel
Bill Allan
Thomas Chadwick
Joseph Niedbala
Anne & Edward Komm
Our parents
Jim & Mary Willa
Gorham, Amy & Dana Brigham
Otto, Elsie & Donald Faerber
Our beloved kitty, Teddy
Helen & William Lillydahl
Norman T. Budde
Montserrat Ordóñez
George I Treyz
Ruth Allen
Dorothy Ives
Robert Morel
Helen Mottla
Catherine Peterson
H. Alden & Gladys Banks
Helmut und Margarete Wobst
Joseph C. Jacobs
Louise & Arthur Kelsey
Jim & Mary Kelsey
Arthur & Mary Wright
David Kim
Martyn & Queenie Hocken
Gene Piedmonte
Colin Goar
Ann Kearns
Lynne Baker
Healan & Tom Baker

Ruth & Rev. Elmore Young
Janet & Ormsbee Robinson
Martha Leonas
Eleanor & Larry Abbott
Bill & M.F. Moss
Harry Beall
Janet Swem
Kurt Hertzfeld
John Musante
William Holladay
John Moner
John Pemberton
Conrad Wogrin
Ruth Hooke
Pamela Gordon
Lois Dickson
Ingeborg Freitag
Jeffrey Wood
Paul Vasconcellos
Mary McCarthy
Mary Matthews
Mary Clancy
Zina Tillona
Mary Steigner
Dorothy Hertzfeld
Marilyn Munn
David Brown
Carolyn Samonds
Anne Holahan
William Berenson
Bernice Taylor
Shirley Brodigan
Mareile Fenner
Margo McMahon
William Synan
Catherine Synan
Margaret Synan
Thomas Cox
Helen Cox
Patrick Foster
James Foster
Stanley Nadel
David Pagliaroli
~ And In Thanksgiving For ~

Tom and Megan
Charlie Allison
Eliza Clark
The life of Jeannette T. Stebbins
Emily Rose
David, Lauren, Stephen, Jessie, Enrique, Flora, Oliver, & EJ
Jane Pemberton
The Zobel Family
Our children & grandchildren
Thanks to Gordy & Lydia for many years of great wreath making

Friends, family & dogs
Jet Chung
Sebastian Chung
Liam & Zoe Wobst
This Church community
My grandchildren
May, James, Jake and Hadley
Dennis Donahue
The wonderful staff at Grace
Castor and Natalie

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Christmas Collection

It is a tradition with Grace Church and your Outreach Ministries Commission that the offerings from all the Christmas services go outside our walls to provide for our neighbors in need, both local and global. All the offerings collected at services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day will be divided between the following two recipients selected by the Outreach Commission - Craig's Doors and Catholic Charities – Afghan Humanitarian Support. If you choose to make a gift by check, please make it payable to Grace Church and add "Christmas Outreach" on the memo line. Thank you for any Christmas Outreach gift you are able to give.
At the Altar

Christmas Eve: 8 P.M.

Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Thomas N. Synan
Assisting: The Reverend Megan McDermott
Lectors: MJ Fowler, Cara Crandall
Eucharistic Ministers: Janet Teng, Karen DeSantis
Organist: Richard Damon
Ushers: Katherine Glime-LaMotte, Tony Jewell
Bell Ringer: Jeffrey DeSantis