



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Transforming lives with the love of Jesus Christ



Christmas Day, December 25, 2020

Celebrant: The Rev. Dr. Wayne V. Whitney, Associate Rector

Prelude: *Variations on GLORIA* by Anthony Giamanco (b. 1958)

Opening Hymn: #93 *Angels From the Realms of Glory* (vv. 1 & 4) *(lyrics for meditation only)* *please stand*

1. Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

4. Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Collect for Purity *Book of Common Prayer* p. 355

Celebrant and People: **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: #96 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (v. 1)

(lyrics for meditation only)

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Christmas Collect

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

People: **Amen.**

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson: 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 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 *Book of Common Prayer* p.725

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| 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth. | 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts. |
| 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation
from day to day. | 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him. |
| 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples. | 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! *
he has made the world so firm
that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity." |
| 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. |
| 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens. | 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. |
| 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary! | 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth. |
| 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power. | |

Second Lesson: 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.

The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

please stand

Deacon: 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.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

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

The Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Wayne V. Whitney, Associate Rector

please be seated

The Nicene Creed *Book of Common Prayer* p. 358

please stand

**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.

Prayers of the People

Leader: Brothers and sisters, on this most holy day of our Lord's birth, that we may find peace, joy and contentment in this holy season, let us pray for ourselves and all those in need of our prayers, saying: Glory to God in the highest.

Leader: For the church of Christ, that it may faithfully proclaim the good news of salvation and may care for the needs of God's people in all corners of the world, we pray to you, O Christ.

***People:* Glory to God in the highest.**

Leader: For peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of war and injustice may be replaced by the light of peace and love, we pray to you, O Christ.

***People:* Glory to God in the highest.**

Leader: For all those in need of our prayers: the homeless; the unemployed; the hungry; those who are hospitalized, those who are imprisoned in body or soul; and all those for whom this season is one not of joy but of trial and sadness, we pray to you, O Christ.

***People:* Glory to God in the highest.**

Leader: For the sick that their illnesses may be turned into health and their sorrow into rejoicing, we pray to you, O Christ.

***People:* Glory to God in the highest.**

Leader: For all members of the armed forces, especially those spending this Christmas away from home; that you will defend them day by day with your heavenly grace, strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be, we pray to you, O Christ.

***People:* Glory to God in the highest.**

Leader: For those who are mourning, and for all who have gone before us, that they may live forever in the light of your eternal glory, we pray to you, O Christ.

***People:* Glory to God in the highest.**

Leader: Mighty God, mercifully hear the prayers of the people you have chosen as your own. Give us zeal in our ministries and joy in our work, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People:* Amen.**

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever.

***People:* Amen.**

The Celebrant says a concluding collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People* And also with you.**

Announcements

please be seated

Offertory Music: *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!*
arr. Marilyn Thompson

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B *Book of Common Prayer* p. 367

please stand

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: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

***All:* 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: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant: and 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 to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

People AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer *Book of Common Prayer* p. 364

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

Celebrant 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.**

Communion of the People

All who seek God are welcome to receive the Bread of Christ's Body, standing.

Even if you do not seek God, God seeks you.

For those who would like to receive a gluten-free wafer, please cross your hands palms-down.

If you would prefer a blessing instead of communion, fold your arms across your chest.

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Communion Music

Communion Hymn: #105 *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*

(lyrics for meditation only)

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.

Refrain

O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

2. From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name.

Refrain

3. "Fear not, then," said the angel,
"Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's power and might."

Refrain

4. Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
doth bring redeeming grace.

Refrain

Post Communion Prayer

Book of Common Prayer p. 366

please stand

**All: Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever.
Amen.**

The Christmas Blessing

Recessional Hymn: # 107 *Good Christian Friends, Rejoice* (v. 1)

(lyrics for meditation only)

Good Christian friends, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today!

The Dismissal

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

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

Postlude: *Joy to the World* Medley - arr. Marilyn Thompson

***The Christmas flowers are given to the Glory of God
In Loving Memory of:***



Bob Christopher, By Mina Rafferty

Elanna Davis, By Carol & Lewis Smith

Julia Walski, By Fred Walski

