



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION
CHRIST AND GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Petersburg, Virginia

December 16, 2018

Prelude Music 5:15 p.m.

Service 5:30 p.m.

Welcome to this evening service. In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering the church. At the end of the service, please remain seated in silence until the conclusion of the Postlude, when the bell will be rung. We are glad you are here.

Prelude Music

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Picardy

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

13th Century Plainsong

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

15th Century Plainsong

In the Bleak Midwinter

Cranham

Opening Acclamation *Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

Leader: Welcome to this ancient place,

All: **House of prayer for many nations; home to all who come.**

Leader: Welcome to this gathering place,

All: **Friend and stranger, saint and sinner, in all who gather here.**

Leader: Come with hope or hesitation; come with joy or yearning; all who hunger, all who thirst for life in all its fullness,

All: **Generous God and generous Savior, touch us through your spirit.**

Prayer for Light

Leader: Come to us this night, O God,

All: **Come to us with light.**

Leader: Speak to us this night, O God,

All: **Speak to us your truth.**

Leader: Dwell with us this night, O God,

All: **Dwell with us in love.**

Gather Hymn 323 *Come, O long expected Jesus*



1. Come, O long ex - spect - ed Je - sus,
2. Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion,
3. Born your peo - ple to de - liv - er;
4. By your own e - ter - nal Spir - it



Born to set your peo - ple free; From our fears and
You, the hope of all the earth, Dear de - sire of
Born a child and yet a king! Born to reign in
Rule in all our hearts a - lone; By your all suf -



sins re - lease us; Free us from cap - tiv - i - ty.
ev - 'ry na - tion, Come, and save us by your birth.
us for ev - er, Now your grac - ious king - dom bring.
fi - cient mer - it Raise us to your glo - rious throne.

Text: Haggai 2:7; Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt. Tune: STUTTGART, 8 7 8 7; Christian F. Witt, 1660-1716; adapt. By Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805-1876. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723555.

The Reading Luke 3:7-18 *Please be seated.*

Reader: O God, as these words are read,
All: **In our hearts may we feel your presence.**

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

And the crowds asked him, "What then should we do?" In reply he said to them, "Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise." Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He said to them, "Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you." Soldiers also asked him, "And we, what should we do?" He said to them, "Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire." So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people

Silence is observed after the reading.

Reflection Robin Teasley

A moment of silence will follow.

Music for Meditation

Of the Father's Love Begotten

13th Century Plainsong

Prayers of the People *Please stand.*

Leader: Let us pray for ourselves and for others. In the pauses between the petitions, I invite you to voice your own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader: We bring to God,

All: **Someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray.**
(pause)

Leader: We bring to God,

All: **Someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer.** (pause)

Leader: We bring to God,

All: **A troubled situation in our world tonight.** (pause)

Leader: We bring to God,

All: **Someone whom we find hard to forgive or trust.** (pause)

Leader: We bring ourselves to God,

All: **That we might grow in generosity of spirit, clarity of mind, and warmth of affection.**
(pause)

Leader: O Trinity of Love, you have been with us at the world's beginning,

All: **Be with us till the world's end.** (pause)

Leader: You have been with us at our life's shaping,

All: **Be with us at our life's end.** (pause)

Leader: You have been with us at the sun's rising,

All: **Be with us till the day's end.** (pause)

Leader: O Christ, kindle in our hearts within a flame of love to our neighbor, to our foes, to our friends, to our kindred all.

All: **O Christ of the poor and the yearning, from the humblest thing that lives, to the name that is highest of all, kindle in our hearts within a flame of love. Amen.**

Individual Prayers *Please be seated.*

During the instrumental music, you are welcome to come forward to light a votive candle as a symbol of your prayers.

Music for Meditation

The Wexford Carol

12th Century Irish Carol

The Bethlehem Carol

Traditional Irish Carol

Hymn 65 *Prepare the way, O Zion*

Bereden väg för Herron



1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.

Refrain



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

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The Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you.

All now exchange a sign of peace; then please be seated.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Alms basins are not passed through the congregation at this service.
You may place your offering in the alms basin at the door as you leave.*

At the Offertory

The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came

Basque Folk Melody

The Eucharistic Prayer *Please stand.*

Leader: The Lord be with you,

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Lift up your hearts,

All: **We lift them up to God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to God,

All: **It is right to give both thanks and praise.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O God,

All: **For you have brought forth bread from the earth.**

Leader: Blessed are you, O God,

All: **For you have created the fruit of the vine.**

Leader: In the beginning you watered the earth,

All: **That man and woman might have food and drink.**

Leader: You gave to your servant Sarah,

All: **Bread to strengthen her family on their journey, and wine to make them glad.**

Leader: You called Moses and his people out of bondage,

All: **And refreshed them with food in the wilderness.**

Leader: You gave Mary and Jesus their daily bread to share,

All: **And here at your table, you offer us bread and wine for the journey to nourish us as sons and daughters.**

Leader: And so with all our sisters and brothers, before us and beside us,

All: **We praise you from our hearts for your unending greatness.**

Leader: Blessed is our brother Jesus, who walks with us the road of our world's suffering, and who is known to us in the breaking of bread. On the night of his arrest Jesus took bread and having blessed it he broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'This is my body, given to you.'

In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it he poured it out and gave the cup to his disciples, saying, 'This cup is the new relationship with God, sealed with my blood. Take this and share it. I shall drink wine with you next in the coming Kingdom of God.'

All: Loving God, through your goodness we have this bread and wine to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. May we know your presence in the sharing of this bread, so that we may know your touch in all bread, all matter.

We celebrate the life that Jesus has shared among his community through the centuries, and shares with us now. Made one in Christ and one with each other, we offer these gifts and with them ourselves, a single, holy, living sacrifice. AMEN.

All: Our father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us in the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread *A period of silence is kept.*

Leader: The table of bread and wine is now ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come. It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

You are welcome to be seated until you come forward to receive. A larger chalice for drinking or a smaller chalice for dipping are available to either side of the bread.

Music during Communion

Watchman, Tell Us of the Night

Aberystwyth

Celebrant Let us pray. *Please stand.*

All: **O God of the high heavens, O Christ of the deep earth, O Spirit of the flowing waters, O Trinity of love, you have offered your love to us, and here we pledge our love to you. Strengthen us in our desire, and breathe into our bodies the passion of your love. We pray this in the name of Jesus, to whom we commit ourselves. Amen.**

Blessing

Leader: May the everlasting God shield you, east and west and wherever you go. And the blessing of God be upon you,

All: **The blessing of the God of life.**

Leader: The blessing of Christ be upon you,

All: **The blessing of the Christ of love.**

Leader: The blessing of the Spirit be upon you,

All: **The blessing of the spirit of grace.**

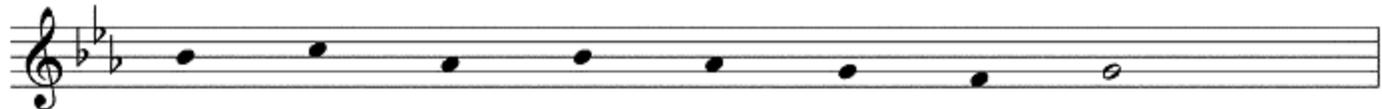
Leader: The blessing of the Trinity be upon you. Now and for evermore.

All: **Amen.**

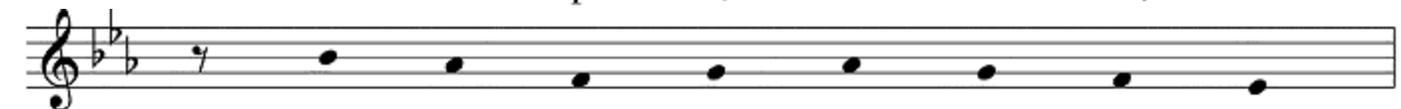
Gather Hymn 337 *Creator of the stars of night*



1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
 2. In sor - row that the an - cient curse
 3. When this old world drew on toward night,
 4. At your great Name, O Je - sus, now
 5. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,
 6. To God Cre - a - tor, God the Son,



Your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
 Should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
You came; but not in splen - dor bright,
 All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
 Re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;
 And God the Spir - it, Three in One,



O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
 You came, O Sav - ior, to set free
Not as a mon - arch, but the child
 All things on earth with one ac - cord,
 De - fend us while we dwell be - low
 Praise, hon - or, might and glo - ry be



We pray you hear us when we call.
 Your own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.
Of Mar - y, blame - less moth - er mild.
 Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.
 From all as - saults of our dread foe.
 From age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Conditore alme siderum, Latin 9th. C.; tr. *The Hymnal* 1982, ©1985. The Church Pension Fund. Tune: CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM, LM; Mode IV; acc. by Gerard Farrell, OSB, b. 1919. © 1986, GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-723555.

The Dismissal

Leader: As you have been fed at this table, go to feed the hungry. As you have been set free, go to set free the imprisoned. As you have received, give. As you have heard, proclaim. And the blessing which you have received from Creator, Son, and Spirit go with you.

Please remain seated in silence until the conclusion of the Postlude when the bell will be rung. Then join us for food and fellowship in Lackey Hall. Exit the church through the door beside the baptism font – Lackey Hall is at the far end of the hallway.

Postlude

How Far is it to Bethlehem?

Traditional English Carol

Participants in the Service

Leader & Reflection The Reverend Robin Teasley
Cantor Matt Little *Lay Reader* Jeff Geisz
Chalice Bearers Jim Hunter, Bee Betts, Nancy Rawlings
Audio Melanie Williamson *Musician* Melissa Adams

Special thanks to Liz Richardson
for planning and hosting the reception after the service.

The texts in this liturgy are © The Iona Community from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, published by Wild Goose Publications, Iona Community, Fourth Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall St, Glasgow G2 3DH, UK.

Announcements

Our next Celtic Evensong and Communion service will be on January 20, with Louise Daniels. We hope you will join us and bring your friends. Pre-service music begins at 5:15 p.m.



CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Sunday, December 23 at 10:30 a.m.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Monday, December 24

8:30 p.m. A Prelude of Music for Christmas

9:00 p.m. Festival Holy Eucharist

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Tuesday, December 25

10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist with Carols

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

December 30

8:00 a.m. Morning Prayer

10:30 a.m. Christmas Lessons and Carols

(No Sunday School)

