



CHRIST & GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1545 South Sycamore Street
Petersburg, Virginia 23805
(804)732-7202
www.christandgrace.org

The Nativity of our Lord December 24, 2020

8:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

Before the service begins, we invite you to gather together a candle for each person in your household, a match or lighter, and your reserved sacrament that you received earlier.

Prelude: *Variations pastorales sur un vieux Noël*

Marcel Samuel-Rousseau

HYMN 83 *O come all ye faithful*

Adeste fideles

*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;*

Refrain:

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

Opening Acclamation

Book of Common Prayer p. 355

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.

Hymn 96 *Angels we have heard on high*

Gloria

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

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Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

First Reading: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 79 *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

St. Louis

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

Gospel:

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

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

Luke 2:1-20

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

Robin Teasley

Prayers of the People

(p. 387)

Intercessor Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ child: draw your Church, and all people to you.

All **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your presence: fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives.

All **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As Gentiles streamed to the light of Christ and kings to the brightness of his rising: draw all nations, and all in authority, to your brightness.

All **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As angels sang proclaiming peace on earth and goodwill among all peoples: bring us your peace, and bring an end to terror and strife.

All **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room in the inn: be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their heads, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry.

All **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem, and traveled together to far off lands: bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel.

All **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Intercessor As your Son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of life eternal: give to the departed eternal rest and let light perpetual shine upon them.

All **Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Presider O Lord our God, may the light and hope of this night, and of your Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus the Christ we pray. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Greeting and Announcements

Offertory Sentence

Please remember while we are closed for in person services, you may mail your offering to the church office, or give online through our website.

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem: *O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam, arranged by John Rutter

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

(p. 367)

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 him thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere 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 say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**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.

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,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

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. **Amen.**

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

(p. 364)

**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.**

We pray together with those who are unable to receive communion.

Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love, you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life. Though not everyone can consume these gifts of bread and wine with us today, we thank you that we have received Christ's presence, the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion and resurrection. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we embody your love, be renewed for your service, and be reflections of the awakened and risen Lord. Amen.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Solo: *Ava Maria*

Franz Schubert

Hymn 101: *Away in a manger*

Cradle Song

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.

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.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me forever and love me I pray.

Bless all the dear children in thy tender care; and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

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Prayer of Thanksgiving *standing or kneeling*

(p. 365)

Let us pray.

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.

At this time we invite those of you at home to light a candle and dim your lights for the singing of Silent Night.

Hymn 111 *Silent Night* *please kneel as you are able*

Stille Nacht, Descant Gerre Hancock

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.*

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!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light

radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

The Blessing and Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the birth of our Savior.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn 87 *Hark! the herald angels sing*

Mendelssohn

*Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!*

Lay Reader: Bill Miller

Soloist: Laraine Smith, Soprano

Harpist: Colleen Potter Thorburn

Organist - Choirmaster: William Owen

Assistant Organist: Matthew Little

Director: Tim Richardson and The Christ and Grace Bell Choir

AV Team: Lee Adams and Bill Miller

Rector: Robin Teasley

Sunday, December 27: As a gift to the Diocese, the Diocesan Office staff, in conjunction with diocesan liturgists, will be offering a service of Lessons and Carols with Eucharist available from 8 am onward on Sunday, December 27. The worship service will be offered virtually to the entire diocese and will be accessed via the diocesan website <http://www.diosova.org/website>, YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/user/TheDioSoVa>, and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/diosova?ref=sgm>. It will also be an opportunity for the diocese to worship together during one of the most joyful times of the year. The service recording will be available for on-demand viewing after Dec. 27. O Come Let Us Adore Him!

Sunday, January 3, Holy Eucharist at 10 am on our YouTube channel at Christ and Grace Episcopal Church https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgveCGQgn0okeiNXLcmZI_w

The Church Office will be closed, Thursday, December 24, through Friday, January 1. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Robin Teasley (338-0698).

May you have a beautiful Christmas and a New Year filled with God's blessings.