



CHRIST & GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1545 South Sycamore Street

Petersburg, Virginia 23805

(804)732-7202

www.christandgrace.org

The Nativity of our Lord

December 24, 2021

9:00 P.M. CHRISTMAS EVE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE WORD OF GOD

It is our custom to observe a prayerful silence before the service begins. During the service, please feel free to stand or kneel as you are able.

Welcome to Christ and Grace and thank you for wearing your mask inside the building. Worship leaders may remove their masks when speaking. As a community of faith we are called to love and care for one another. We appreciate your patience with the changes in our protocol as we ensure the safety of all.

Prelude: *Carols by Candlelight*

HYMN 83 *O come all ye faithful (st.1, 2, 3, 6)*

Adeste fideles

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 (st.1)*

Gloria

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.**

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

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

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem: *On Christmas Night*

Sussex carol, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

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 sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Hymn S 125

***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.

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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,

**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.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Fraction Anthem S 164

Schubert

Jesus, Lamb of God:

have mercy on us.

Jesus, bearer of our sins:

have mercy on us.

Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:

give us your peace,

give us your peace.

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Panis Angelicus (Bread of Angels)

César Franck

Interlude on The Coventry Carol

William Lloyd Webber

Prayer of Thanksgiving *standing or kneeling*

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 the acolytes will light candles for the singing of Silent Night. As you share the flame with the person next to you, keep lighted candles upright, turning the candle to be lighted sideways, to prevent wax from dripping.

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

Stille Nacht

The Blessing and Dismissal

You may extinguish your candle after The Blessing

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

Postlude *In dulci jubilo (BWV 729)*

J.S. Bach

Lay Reader: Martha Burton

Music: Parish Choir; Laraine Smith, soprano; Donald Temple, tenor; Collen Potter Thornburn, harp

AV Team: Lee Adams and Bill Miller

Ushers: Marigene Little, Sean Little, Kathy Talmage, Rick Talmage

The Church Office will be closed, Monday, December 27, through Friday, December 31. If you have a pastoral emergency, please call Robin Teasley (338-0698).

WELCOME VISITORS: We extend a warm welcome to our visitors today. If you would like to know more about our church, visit our website where you will also find links to our YouTube channels. You may also email us and we will be in touch. We are glad you are here.

Christ and Grace Episcopal Church
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www.christandgrace.org

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristandGracePetersburg>

Our mission: Offering Hope, Healing and Hospitality

The Very Rev. Robin Teasley, Rector rteasley@christandgrace.org

Timothy L. Hall, Organist and Choirmaster thall@christandgrace.org

Jill Donnelly, Parish Administrator, churchoffice@christandgrace.org

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

Join us on Sunday, December 26 at 10:00 a.m. for Lessons and Carols.



The Christmas floral display is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of:

*William Hunter Banty by Kathy & Rick Talmage
Kathie & Ronnie Elder by their family
Holly Ferrell & Amy Bloomberg by Amy Norris
Joe L. Jones and Jeremy Ross Bowles by Valerie Jones & family
Kathleen and Cyrus Kirkpatrick by Timothy Hall
Oliver Pollard, Jr. by his family
Carolyn B. Ross by Conner, Gene, Troy, Jeff & Beth Ross
Ellsworth Spain by Kay Spain
Doris, Julius and Eric Schwartz by Melanie Smith
Douglass Paul Teschner by his family
Dr. Clyde W. Vick, Jr. with love from Barbara Vick and family
Alice Virginia Wright Flory Wallace by Mary and Dean Hutson
William Norvel Walsh, Jr., Dr. & Mrs. William M. Turner, and
William M. Turner, Jr. by their family*

And in thanksgiving for:

*Bill Miller & Lee Adams by Norval and Althea
The Very Rev. Robin Teasley by a friend
The members of Christ and Grace Episcopal Church by a friend
The Parish Choir by Timothy Hall
Robin and Jill by Timothy Hall*

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 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 GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

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.]