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CHRISTMAS EVE, RITE II
DECEMBER 24, 2020 - 10:00 PM

THE REV'D BERTIE PEARSON, RECTOR
THE REV'D MARY ANN HUSTON, ASSOCIATE RECTOR
THE VERY REV'D KEVIN E. MARTIN, ASSOCIATE
THE REV'D ANNE MATTHEWS, ASSOCIATE
THE REV'D SUE ROSS, DEACON
DR. DAVID POLLEY, MUSIC DIRECTOR & ORGANIST

Brass Quintet

Brett Blackstone, euphonium; Jamey VanZandt, trombone;
David Hummel, tuba; Michael Arnold & Mike Piccione, trumpets

Vocal Quartet

Afsonah Esfandiari, soprano; Debra Erck, soprano/alto
Marc Erck, tenor; Bruce Cain baritone

PRELUDE

From Heaven Above

Johann Sebastian Bach

Canzone per sonare No. 3

Giovanni Gabriel

O Holy Night

Afsonah Esfandiari, soprano

Adolphe Adam

OPENING HYMN

O Come, All ye Faithful

Hymnal 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:

Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

2 God of God, Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created: *Refrain*

3 See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps: *Refrain*

4 Child, for us sinners, poor and in the manger,
fain we embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? *Refrain*

5 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;
glory to God, glory in the highest: *Refrain*

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: *Refrain*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP 355

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his 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.**

THE GLORIA

Angels We have Heard on High

Hymnal 96

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

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Refrain: Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
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 angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love. *Refrain*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Let us pray.

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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE 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 Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96

- 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.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 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."
- 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.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

THE SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

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. **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

Hymnal 102

- 1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

- 2 He came down to earth from heaven,
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall;
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.
- 3 We like Mary, rest confounded
that a stable should display heaven's Word,
the world's creator,
cradled there on Christmas Day,
yet this child, our Lord and brother,
brought us love for one another.
- 4 For he is our lifelong pattern,
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.
- 5 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.
- 6 Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
set at God's right hand on high.

THE GOSPEL

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel Proclamation

Luke 2:1-20

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Bertie Pearson

THE NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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 CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP 360

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.**

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

Paduana

Johann Herman Schein

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer D

BCP 372

All stand.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right to glorify you, Father...

... we acclaim you, and glorify your Name as we sing:

The *SANCTUS*

Hymnal S-130

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.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power...

...this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy...
...in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BCP 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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

THE FRACTION ANTHEM: *Agnus Dei*

Hymnal S-164

**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.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION MUSIC

What Child is This?
Debra Erck, flute

arr. Karen Kuehmann

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 365

**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.**

- 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!
- 3 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

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World!

Hymnal 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, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, 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, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, 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, far as the curse is found,
far as, 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, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Christmas Medley

arr. Charles J. Torian, Jr.

Christmas Poinsettias given to the Glory of God by:

*Rev. Mary Ann & Dr. Michael Huston in memory of Jim & Margo McBride,
Ralph & Ruth Huston, Robin McBride, and in thanksgiving for Thomas & Eleanor
Huston, Ann Huston & Landis Ehler, and for the people of Grace.*

*Carolyn & Woody Cherry in memory of Anissa Cherry, William Cherry,
W. O. & Edith Cherry, John & Mabel Price, and Lera Logan.*

*Greg & Linda Austin in memory of their parents, Sam & Rena Hammond
and Lynell Brown & Wallace Austin.*

*Rev. Anne Matthews in memory of Frank, Mary Ellen,
John & Jamie Matthews, and Randy Reynolds.*

Bob & Topsy Woodson in thanksgiving for our many blessings.

Janet Koran in loving memory of the Rev. Cotton Timmons.

Karen Roysdon in thanksgiving for my family and friends.

Jonathan & Holly Decherd in memory of LuAnn Barrow.

Gail & Bob Massad in thanksgiving