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THE LONGEST NIGHT: DECEMBER 18, 2020 – 7:00 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

If I say, 'Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light around me become night', even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Psalm 139:11-12

PRELUDE

Instrumental

PROCESSION ANTHEM

Walking with Grief

Celtic Daily Prayer

Do not hurry as you walk with grief;
it does not help the journey.

Walk slowly, pausing often.
Do not hurry as you walk with grief.

Be not disturbed by memories that come unbidden.
Swiftly forgive; walk slowly,
and let Christ speak for you unspoken words.
Unfinished conversation will be resolved in Him.
Be not disturbed.

Be gentle with the one who walks with grief.

If it is you, be gentle with yourself.
Swiftly forgive,
walk slowly, pausing often.

Take time,
be gentle as you walk with grief.

THE COLLECT OF THE INCARNATION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF PROPHET ISAIAH

(61:1-3)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion—
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 139

- 1 Lord, you have searched me out and known me; *
you know my sitting down and my rising up;
you discern my thoughts from afar.**
- 2 You trace my journeys and my resting-places *
and are acquainted with all my ways.**
- 3 Indeed, there is not a word on my lips, *
but you, O Lord, know it altogether.**
- 4 You press upon me behind and before *
and lay your hand upon me.**
- 5 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; *
it is so high that I cannot attain to it.**
- 6 Where can I go then from your Spirit? *
where can I flee from your presence?**

- 7 If I climb up to heaven, you are there; *
if I make the grave my bed, you are there also.
- 8 If I take the wings of the morning *
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,
- 9 Even there your hand will lead me *
and your right hand hold me fast.
- 10 If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, *
and the light around me turn to night,"
- 11 Darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; *
darkness and light to you are both alike.
- 12 For you yourself created my inmost parts; *
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
- 13 I will thank you because I am marvelously made; *
your works are wonderful, and I know it well.
- 14 My body was not hidden from you, *
while I was being made in secret and woven in the depths of the earth.
- 15 Your eyes beheld my limbs, yet unfinished in the womb;
all of them were written in your book; *
they were fashioned day by day, when as yet there was none of them.
- 16 How deep I find your thoughts, O God! *
how great is the sum of them!
- 17 If I were to count them, they would be more in number than the sand; *
to count them all, my life span would need to be like yours.

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Gospel Proclamation

Matthew 5:1-16

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

'Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

'Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

'Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

'Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

'Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

'Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you
and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven,
for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored?
It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Mary Ann Huston

PRAYERS WITH CANDLE LIGHTING, AND CONTEMPLATIVE MUSIC

As Mother Mary Ann lights candles in remembrance of those in our Parish who have died this year, you are invited to light your own candle at home, as you remember your loved ones who have gone before.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Loving God, the comfort of all who sorrow, the strength of all who suffer, the consolation of all who mourn: accept our prayers we offer before you for ourselves, for our loved ones, and for the stranger. Teach us to trust that you are at work in the world around us, through our leaders, through the church, and in surprising ways we may not understand. Bring healing and wholeness, and guide the lost into your loving embrace. Receive our prayers this night we have offered before you, and receive the prayers of our hearts we do not yet know how to offer, through the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

Instrumental

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

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, and a good and joyful thing ...

...who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

THE *SANCTUS*

**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...

...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...

...all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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*

**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.**

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Instrumental

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**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.**

THE BLESSING

THE DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Instrumental