The Church of the Nativity & St. Stephen

December 24, 2019   Christmas Eve Family Service

St. Stephen, Thompsontown   4:00 p.m.

To seek and serve Christ through service to others.
To manage responsibly the financial resources of our parish as loving and caring stewards.
To welcome and involve all persons into our parish family valuing both diversity and unity.
To enable nurture and learning in the Episcopal heritage of Scripture, tradition and reason.
To foster a community of faith for worship, spiritual growth, ministry and mission.

Please remember a reverent silence and respect for those who wish to pray before mass.
Before Mass, we speak to God. During Mass, we listen to God. After Mass, we listen and speak to each other.

The Rev. Rebecca Myers - Rector
Rebecca is available Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Her sabbath days will typically be Monday and Friday. You can reach her via email at nativityrector87@gmail.com or by phone 717-433-1556.

Michele Neibert - Parish Administrator

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity & St. Stephen
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www.nativityandststephen.diocpa.org
You are also invited to join us tonight at The Church of the Nativity, Newport
10:30pm – Hymns and Special Music
11pm - Holy Eucharist

*Please pick up a candle as you enter the church. All children should pick out a piece for the crèche.*

**Organ Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Processional Hymn**
“O come, all ye faithful”  Hymnal 83, V. 1,2 and 3

**THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD OF GOD**

Opening Acclamation and Response  BCP 355

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

**People:** And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

**Collect for Purity**  BCP 355

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.

**Narrator: The Animals at the Creche**

*Animals are brought forward during the hymn.*

**Hymn** – “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

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.

**Narrator: Mary and Joseph Arrive**

*Mary and Joseph are placed in the Creche during the hymn.*

**Hymn** – “Once in Royal David’s City”

Once in royal David’s city stood a lowly cattle shed Where a mother lay her baby in a manger for his bed. Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child. 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.

**Narrator: The Baby is Born**

*Baby Jesus is placed in the manger during the hymn.*

**Hymn** – “Away in a Manger”

Away in a manger, no crib for His bed The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky look 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 for ever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

**Narrator: Shepherds and Angels Celebrate the Birth**

*Shepherds and angels are brought forward during the hymn.*

**Hymn** – “While Shepherds Watched”

While shepherds watched their flocks by night, all seated on the ground the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.

To you in David's town this day, is born of David’s line The Savior who is Christ the Lord and this shall be the sign. The heavenly babe you there shall find, to human view displayed All meanly wrapped in swathing bands and in a manger laid. Thus spake the seraph, and forth-with appeared a shining throng of angels praising God who thus addressed their joyful song:

“All glory be to God on high and on the earth be peace; good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease.”
Narrator: The Wise Men Approach
The three kings are brought forward during the hymn.

Hymn — “We Three Kings of Orient Are”
We three kings of Orient are, bearing gifts we traverse afar
Field and fountain, moor and mountain following yonder star.
O, star of wonder, star of night, star with royal beauty bright.
Westward leading, still proceeding, guide us to thy perfect light.

Narrator: The Story Today
Hymn — “It Came Upon the Midnight Clear”
It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold.
Peace on earth, good will to men, from heaven’s all gracious King.
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.
For lo the days are hastening on by prophets seen of old,
When, with the ever-circling years, shall come the time foretold.
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

The Peace (all stand) BCP 360
Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

THE MINISTRY OF THE SACRAMENT

The Offertory Sentence

Offertory Hymn
“Good Christian friends, rejoice” Hymnal 107

The Doxology
No. 380, V. 3
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below.
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Great Thanksgiving
Eucharistic Prayer B BCP 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.

Celebrant: 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:

Sanctus
“Holy, holy, holy Lord” S 130 See page 5

Prayer of Consecration BCP 368
Celebrant: 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,

**Celebrant and People:**
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory

**Celebrant:** 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 Mary, Joseph, Stephen and 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

**Ministration of Communion**
All who have been baptized by water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, are welcome to receive communion. You may receive bread only or bread and wine. You may receive the wine by common cup or by dipping your wafer into the chalice. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms across your chest.

**Celebrant:** Let us pray.

**Celebrant and People:**
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

**Post Communion Hymn** – “Silent Night, Holy Night” (Please stand. Candles will be lit.)

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 host sing alleluia,
Christ the savior is born, Christ the savior is born.
Silent night, holy night, Son of God, loves 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**

**Hymn** – “Hark! the herald angels sing”
Hark the herald angels sing, glory to the new born 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.
Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn
king.
Mild he lays his glory by, born that we may no more
die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us
second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he
brings.
Hail the Sun of righteousness, hail the heaven-born
Prince of Peace.
Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the newborn
king.

The Dismissal

S 130
Holy, holy, holy Lord  Sanctus  The Holy Eucharist II

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.  Ho-
San na in the high est. Hosanna

in the high est. Blessed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Hosanna

in the high est. Hosanna in the high est.

Setting: From Deutsche Messe, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)
Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God  

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.

Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)
Christmas Flowers are given in loving memory of:

Joseph Amsler, Dorothy and Leslie Clark, Kathleen and John Amsler by the Amsler family
Philip Beamer by the Beamer family
Their parents by the Chappelkas
Edwin and other loved ones by the Days
Loved ones by Lynne Mitchell
In memory of her parents, Robert and Mary Ann Myers by Rebecca
Loved ones by the Prices
Wayne Rice by the Rice Family
David and Charlotte Bamberger and Fredric and Marion Rohm by the Rohms
Loved ones by the Shulls
Loved ones by the Tuzinskis
Elmer and Hazel Yocum, Harry and Margaret Yocum and Irvin and Esther Miller by Jan and Connie Yocum

Vestry
Shannon Burns – Sr. Warden
Bill Day – Jr. Warden
Kay Cramer
Jill Hoover
Todd Saner
Gail Shull
Bill Rohm – Secretary
Wendy Day – Treasurer

On behalf of our clergy and staff of Church of the Nativity & St. Stephen, may you all have a blessed Christmas and a very happy New Year.

The Innkeeper’s Key
Mary and Joseph had come to stay
But each lodging place turned them away.
At the last place they tried, still no room at all
Except for a simple hay-filled stall.
Thanks to one man’s kindness to those needy strangers
Jesus’ life began, safe in a lowly manger.
This innkeeper’s key is a symbol of
How a simple act fills the world with love.
Keep this key, and remember God’s love is the reason
We are filled with blessings each Christmas season.

But wait, is that enough-Just keep the key to remember the reason for the season?
Rather, shouldn’t we keep the key–yes
Keep it where we might always be able to see.
For the sad, the lonely, the ill and bereaved
Have no certain season to show forth their need.
We have a key like the innkeeper did.
Jesus gave each of us one when he said
Love one another as I loved you.

Imagine keys used all over the world
Opening the hearts of all like
Endless waves of clear water hitting against the shore
Till acts of love and service permeate the entire earth.

Why not turn your key and let Him in?
Ione Mortensen * original text by Les Hollowed

Service Participants
Greeters: Bill and Wendy Day
Readers: Lillian Hoover, Amy Murray, Jean Tuzinski
Eucharistic Minister and Acolyte: Bill Rohm
Organist: Sue Beamer