

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Prayer**

**Processional** - Hymnal #128

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*

1. We three kings of Orient are,  
bearing gifts we traverse afar,  
field and fountain, moor and mountain,  
following yonder star.

3. Frankincense to offer have I:  
incense owns a Deity nigh;  
prayer and praising, gladly raising,  
worship him, God Most High. *(Refrain)*

*Refrain:*

*O star of wonder, star of night,  
star with royal beauty bright;  
westward leading, still proceeding,  
guide us to thy perfect light!*

4. Myrrh is mine; its bitter perfume  
breathes a life of gathering gloom;  
sorrowing, sighing, bleeding, dying,  
sealed in the stone-cold tomb. *(Refrain)*

2. Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,  
gold I bring to crown him again,  
King for ever, ceasing never  
over us all to reign. *(Refrain)*

5. Glorious now behold him arise,  
King and God and Sacrifice;  
heaven sings alleluia:  
alleluia the earth replies. *(Refrain)*

**Opening Acclamation**

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

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

**Collect for Purity**

*Celebrant and People*

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 of Praise** - Hymnal #96

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

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

What great brightness did you see?  
What glad tidings did you hear? *Refrain*

*Refrain:*

*Gloria in excelsis Deo,  
gloria in excelsis Deo.*

3. Come to Bethlehem and see  
him whose birth the angels sing.  
Come, adore on bended knee  
Christ the Lord, the newborn King. *Refrain*

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why these songs of happy cheer?

4. See him in a manger laid  
whom the angels praise above.  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,  
while we raise our hearts in love. *Refrain*

## **The Collect of the Day**

Celebrant        The Lord be with you.  
People            *And also with you.*  
Celebrant        Let us pray.

### *Celebrant*

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## **First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

### *After the reading*

Reader            The word of the Lord.  
People            *Thanks be to God.*

## **Psalm 72:1-7,10-14**

### ***Deus, iudicium***

1. Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
*and your righteousness to the King's Son;*
2. That he may rule your people righteously \*  
*and the poor with justice;*
3. That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
*and the little hills bring righteousness.*
4. He shall defend the needy among the people; \*  
*he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.*
5. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \*  
*from one generation to another.*
6. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \*  
*like showers that water the earth.*
7. In his time shall the righteous flourish; \*  
*there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.*
10. The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall pay tribute, \*  
*and the kings of Arabia and Saba offer gifts.*
11. All kings shall bow down before him, \*  
*and all the nations do him service.*
12. For he shall deliver the poor who cries out in distress, \*  
*and the oppressed who has no helper.*

13. He shall have pity on the lowly and poor; \*  
*he shall preserve the lives of the needy.*

14. He shall redeem their lives from oppression and violence, \*  
*and dear shall their blood be in his sight.*

### **Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12**

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles-- for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

*After the reading*

Reader            The word of the Lord.

People            *Thanks be to God.*

### **Sequence Hymn - Hymnal #82**

*Of the Father's Love Begotten*

1. Of the Father's love begotten,  
ere the worlds began to be,  
he is Alpha and Omega,  
he the source, the ending he,  
of the things that are, that have been,  
and that future years shall see,  
evermore and evermore!

3. Let the heights of heaven adore him;  
angel hosts, his praises sing;  
powers, dominions, bow before him,  
and extol our God and King;  
let no tongue on earth be silent,  
every voice in concert ring,  
evermore and evermore!

2. O that birth for ever blessed,  
when the Virgin, full of grace,  
by the Holy Ghost conceiving,  
bore the Savior of our race;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
first revealed his sacred face,  
evermore and evermore!

4. Christ, to thee with God the Father,  
and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,  
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving,  
and unwearied praises be;  
honor, glory and dominion,  
and eternal victory,  
evermore and evermore!

### **The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12**

*Before the Gospel reading*

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

People            *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

*'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*After the Gospel reading*

Celebrant        The Gospel of the Lord.

People            *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

## **The Sermon**

**The Rev. Ann B. Barker**

## **The Nicene Creed**

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.

## **Prayers of the People - Form III**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

*That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

*That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

*That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

*That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

*That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

*That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest.

*Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

*May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

### **Concluding Collect**

Celebrant

### **Confession**

Celebrant

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Celebrant and People*

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.

*Celebrant*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

### **The Peace**

### **Offertory Sentence**

Celebrant

**Doxology** (*After the elements are prepared.*)

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. Amen.

### **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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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** – S125

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are 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.

*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 [ \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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

*Celebrant and People*

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.

*A period of silence is kept.*

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

#### **Fraction Anthem**

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

### **Prayer for Spiritual Communion**

*Celebrant and People*

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar. I love you above all things and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787).

*The Celebrant invites the people to Communion*

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

## Post Communion Prayer

*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.

## Blessing

**Recessional** - *Hymnal #107*

*Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!
2. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss;  
Jesus Christ was born for this!

He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!

**Dismissal**     *The congregation responds: Thanks be to God.*

## Postlude

## **Announcements**

### **Vestry Request**

We are still in need of one person willing to serve on the vestry. It is important that we have a full complement of vestry members as we work on planning for the mission and ministry of St. Joseph's now and into the future. We need your help, so please consider this opportunity. If you are willing to serve, please contact senior warden Tim LaCerra, junior warden Sue Stanfield or Rev. Ann.

### **January Alms**

January alms will go to Helping In His Name Ministries, Inc, also known as The Food Pantry. This non-profit organization has been providing temporary, emergency help to those in need since 1990. No one with a legitimate need is refused help.

A big way to support The Food Pantry is by bringing in donations of food and/or personal hygiene items during the month of January. Since we only have one service, we can't really hold our annual Souper Bowl competition. However, we do have a challenge! We have set the goal for our congregation to work together to donate **2021 lbs** of goods to The Food Pantry! This is a lofty goal, but we can do it.

Donations can be placed in the bins outside the church doors, anytime. If you would like someone to pick up your donations, please contact the church and arrangements will be made. The Food Pantry needs us more than ever this year!

### **Annual Meeting**

St. Joseph's annual meeting will be held Sunday, January 10 at 11:00 am on zoom. We will have an online service only that day. You will receive an email with instructions about connecting to zoom and voting. A link will be sent a couple of

days prior to the meeting. When the time comes, just click on it and follow the directions.

### **Service Request**

Recording for the service continues until after the postlude is finished. If you are gathering your belongings during this time, please stay quiet until Friedemann is finished playing so that voices do not record.

### **Regathering**

Be sure to register for our services online. You can do it on the website or Facebook or from the email you received earlier this week. If you cannot work the technology, call a member of our regathering team to register (Marcie Hale, 404-314-5120; Elizabeth Hayes, 404-509-4831; Sheryl Parsons, 770-957-3204; Art Richard, 706-372-6782). There is no restriction on how often you can come.

### **Visitation**

Rev. Ann is available for outside visits at home or at church. If you would like to make an appointment, please call her at 703-622-2373. If she doesn't answer, leave a message and she will call you back.

### **Prayers of the People**

We would like to offer up your petitions to God during our worship service. If you have a prayer request, please submit it on the website ([stjosephsmcdonough.org/prayer](http://stjosephsmcdonough.org/prayer)). We will pull a list on Thursday at 10am, and the reader will read them on Sunday during the Prayers of the People. If you want someone mentioned for longer than one Sunday, please submit another request the following week.

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