

St. John's Episcopal Church
Eve of the Feast of Our Lord's Nativity
December 24, 2020
10:00p.m. Holy Eucharist



*I Bring You Good News
of great joy*

Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Organ Prelude

Processional Hymn *(All Stand)*

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Hymnal 107

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!

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!

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!

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Selected Family Prays:

Let the just rejoice,
for their Justifier is born.
Let the sick and infirm rejoice,
For their Savior is born.
Let the captives rejoice,
For their Redeemer is born.
Let slaves rejoice,
for their Master is born.
Let free men rejoice,
For their Liberator is born.
Let All Christians rejoice,
For Jesus Christ is born.

Light the 4 colored Advent candles, then light the center white candle

Congregation Prays in Unison:

God of love, Father of all, the darkness that covered the earth has given way to the bright dawn of your Word made flesh. Make us a people of this light. Make us faithful to your Word that we may bring your life to the waiting world. Grant this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Word of God

Priest: The glory of the Lord has been revealed.

People: And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.

Priest: O God our Creator, to restore our fallen race you spoke the effectual word, and the Eternal Word became flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that as he humbled himself to be clothed with our humanity, so we may be found worthy, in him, to be clothed with his divinity; who lies and reigns for ever and ever.

People: Amen.

The Gloria

"Gloria in excelsis"

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest: 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.

People: Amen.

(Please be seated for the readings)

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

Layreader: A reading from the Book of Isaiah

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.

Layreader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96 *(read responsively by whole verse)*

- 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.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

Layreader: A reading from the book of Titus.

For 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.

Layreader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn *(Stand)*

Angels From the Realms of Glory

Hymnal 93

Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye, who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Allen D. Rutherford

The Nicene Creed *(Stand)*

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 Prayers of the People

Form III

(The Leader and People pray responsively)

Layreader: Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People: That we all may be one.

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

People: That your Name may be glorified by all people.

Layreader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

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

People: That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

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

People: That our works may find favor in your sight.

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

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Layreader: Give to the departed eternal rest;

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

People: May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

The priest adds the concluding collect

Priest: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

The Peace

Priest: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn

Priest: All things come of thee O Lord.

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

Priest: The Lord be with you. And also with you.

People: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Priest: 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"

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.

(The people kneel if they are able.)

Priest: 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;**

The Priest continues:

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 St. John 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 forever. **AMEN!**

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

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

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.

Priest: 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.

Administration of the Holy Sacrament

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants

Communion Hymn

Adeste fideles

Catie Claire Bell

Post-Communion Prayer

Priest: Let us pray.

Priest 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.

The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Antioch

Hymnal 100

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains,
repeat the sounding joy.

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.

He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,
and wonders of his love.

While the recessional hymn is being played, the small, personal candles will be lit and the church lights will be dimmed. The hymn, "Silent Night" will take the place of a said dismissal at the conclusion of this service.

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

Hymnal 111

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Welcome

We warmly welcome all of you who are visiting us as a guest this day. We hope you enjoyed the service and will visit us again in the future.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who pitched in and helped make this evening a blessed celebration.

Flowers

Thank You to everyone who ordered Poinsettias to help beautify our sanctuary for this blessed occasion and this Christmas Season and to those who helped to green the church.

Music

A special thank you to Mrs. Sheila Lacey for playing organ accompaniment for this evening's service.

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Poinsettias Donated to St. John's Episcopal Church

Donated by:

Rev. Allen & Lydia Rutherford

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Webster

Mr. Barry Cox

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Maurer

Mrs. Joetta Beebe

Mr. & Mrs. Ron Stover

In Memory of:

Kuhn Family & Rutherford Family

**Ted & Jean Calvert,
Malien, Ona & Jack Webster,
Maxine Webster & Greg Stark**

Charles W. Cox & Helen A. Cox

In Memory of Our Loved Ones

Larry Beebe

Bishop Family & Stover Family

Service Duty Schedule

| | Today | December 27th | January 3rd |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Layreader | Bob Webster | Beth Dingman | Diane Stover |
| Audit | Sue Webster | Bruce Dingman | Tammy Weatherford |
| Acolyte | C. Bell | None | H. Weatherford |
| Music | Gail Robb | Gail Robb | Gail Robb |
| Musician | Melanie Edling | Sheila Lacey | Sheila Lacey |
| Nursery | None | None | None |
| December Altar Guild: | Lydia Rutherford and Kim Steele | | |
| January Altar Guild: | Diane Stover and Gracie Bell | | |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

December Food Pantry Donation Item: Baking items

Birthdays: 12/25—Wayne Harlow and Shawn Price

Upcoming Events:

Today (Thursday, Dec. 24th): Holy Eucharist at 10:00P.M.

Christmas Day (Friday, Dec. 25th): Pre-recorded Morning Prayer service at 8:30 A.M. on Facebook.

New Year's Day (Friday, Jan. 1st): *The Holy Name Of Our Lord Jesus Christ* –Pre-recorded Morning Prayer service at 8:30 A.M. on Facebook.

Wednesday, January 6th: Day of Epiphany, Holy Eucharist at 7:00A.M.

Sunday, January 31st: Parish annual meeting with pitch-in lunch.

PLEDGE CARDS NEED TO BE RETURNED ASAP IN ORDER FOR THE 2021 BUDGET TO BE PREPARED. PLEASE!

St. John's
Episcopal
Church
Mount Vernon
Indiana



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