

ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Shawnee, Kansas



The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

A SERVICE OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

CHRISTMAS EVE AT 10 P.M.

December 24, 2020

Prelude

Pastorale in F BWV 540 – J.S. Bach
I Saw Three Ships – Richard Elliot

Lighting of the Christ Candle



Tonight we relight the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love.

Tonight the Advent season ends. We wait no longer. That great event for which we waited has happened. God's promise of a Redeemer is fulfilled. Christ Jesus is born. And so we light the Christ candle with praise to our God who brings joy to the world.

In the Gospel of Matthew we hear: All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." (*Matthew 1:22-23*)

Let us pray: Lord, you came as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life. **Amen.**

Proclamation sung by cantor

The Opening Hymn

Angels we have heard on high
The Hymnal 1982 #96

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing.
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove.

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born king.
Mar - y, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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 Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958). Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-734492. All rights reserved.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And also with you.***
Celebrant 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 Readings

The Old Testament 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.

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

The Response Psalm 96 *Cantante Domino*

Let the heav'ns re - joice and the earth be glad.

Congregation sings the Antiphon as indicated

**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.**

ANTIPHON

**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.**

ANTIPHON

**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.**

ANTIPHON

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. *Amen.*

The Epistle Titus 2 : 11 - 14

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.

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

Gospel Anthem

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear
The Hymnal 1982 #89

1 It came up - on the mid - night clear, that
2 Still through the clov - en skies they come with
3 Yet with the woes of sin and strife the
4 For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by

glo - rious song of old, from an - gels bend - ing
peace - ful wings un - furled, and still their heaven - ly
world has suf - fered long; be - neath the heaven - ly
pro - phets seen of old, when with the ev - er -

near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
mu - sic floats o'er all the wea - ry world;
hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,

"Peace on the earth, good will to men, from
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they
and war - ring hu - man - kind hears not the
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

heaven's all - gra - cious King." The world in sol - emn
 bend on hov - ering wing, and ev - er o'er its
 tid - ings which they bring; O hush the noise and give
 an - cient splen - dors fling, and all the world give

still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 Ba - bel - sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
 cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
 back the song which now the an - gels sing.

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The Gospel Luke 2 : 1 - 20



Priest
People

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

The Sermon The Reverend Jonathan Brice

The Nicene Creed

All stand and say together.

**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 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
December 24, 2020
Christmas Eve**

*My sisters and brothers in the peace of God, all the gifts we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this night. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: **Hear our prayer.***

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

That the rejoicing of this day might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, let us pray to the Lord. **Hear our prayer.**

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your word in our flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever. Amen.

The Confession of Sin

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Priest 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.**

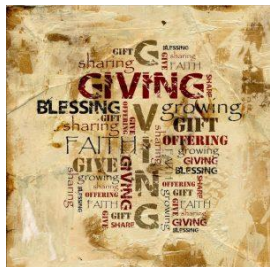
Priest

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Exchange of Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**



The Offertory Sentence

Celebrant

All things come from thee, oh Lord, and of thine own we have given thee.

Offertory Anthem

O Come All Ye Faithful

Bell Choir Anthem

The Presentation of Bread



THE HOLY COMMUNION FOR CHRISTMAS

Eucharistic Prayer B

Standing as you are able.

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.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**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.

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.***

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 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.**

Celebrant

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

The Lord's Prayer

(All together)

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

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

Post Communion Hymn

Away in a Manger

The Hymnal 1982 #101

Christmas

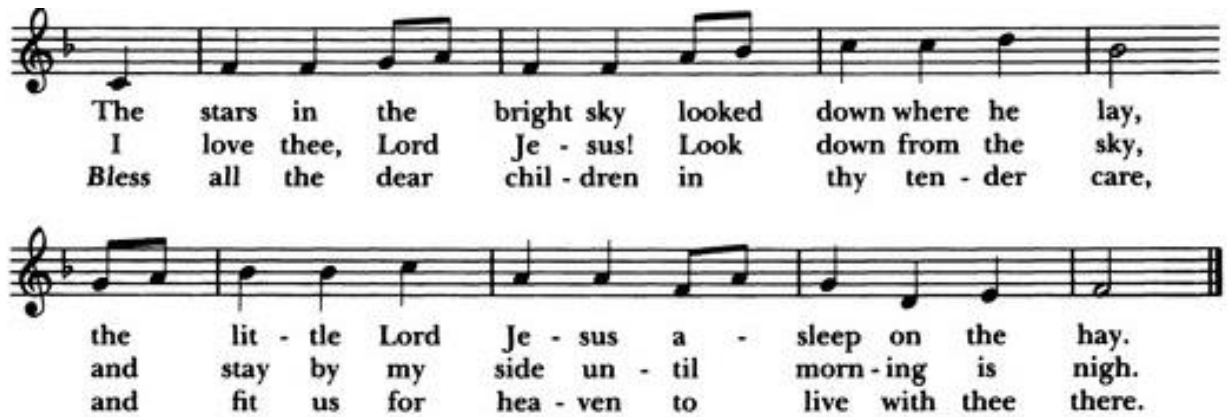
101



1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for his bed,
2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
*3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



A spiritual communion is a devotional action that anyone can pray. It expresses the desire to receive Holy Communion at a moment where circumstances impede them from actually receiving the consecrated bread and wine.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as I proclaim your resurrection. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Feel free to please safely light a candle at home and dim the lights.

Christmas Hymn

Silent Night
The Hymnal 1982 #111

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
3 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.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910) Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-734492. All rights reserved.

The Blessing

Priest

May 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. The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Hymn

Joy to the World
The Hymnal 1982 #100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and



heaven and na - ture sing,
peat the sound - ing joy,
as the curse is found,
won - ders of his love,

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt
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The Dismissal

Priest

Grant, O Lord God, that what we have heard with our ears, and said and sung with our lips, we may believe in our hearts, and practice in our lives; for Jesus Christ's sake.

Amen.

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Go Tell it On the Mountain – Richard Elliot

Merry Christmas

Christmas Flowers provided by

The Pfau Family in memory of loved ones
we've lost

Maxine Jones in loving memory of
Mike Jones

Ruth Knabel
Given in the spirit of Hope

Nat and June Cassingham

Rector: The Rev. Jonathan Brice

Deacon: Karen Wichael

Director of Music Ministry: Jacob Hofeling

Technical Team: Dennis Phillips, Tom
Schrempp, Wayne Fowler

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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