



HOLY NATIVITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Eucharist, Rite Two
Sunday, December 20, 2020
10:30 a.m.

Welcome to Holy Nativity!

Thank You for Joining Us for Worship

In order to create a safe environment during the Covid-19 pandemic, the following policies have been put into effect. Thank you for your cooperation and your consideration for your fellow worshippers.

- Social distancing (6'+) is required (Family groups can sit together)
- Masks should be worn at all times when inside church buildings.
- During the Covid-19 pandemic we are trying to shorten service length to reduce exposure. We are not reading all four Bible lessons, and may we suggest that you read them yourselves during your waiting quiet devotional time before the service starts.

Opening Music “Song of the Shepherd” (*Dale Wood*)

John Durgan, organist

The Word of God

Children’s Time

All children are invited to come up for children’s time. After, they will follow the cross out to participate in children’s church, to return during announcement time. All children should wear their masks.

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People

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

The Celebrant may say

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.

The following song of praise is sung, all standing

Kyrie

Hymn #S-91

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Purify our conscience, Almighty God, by your daily visitation, that your Son Jesus Christ, at his coming, may find in us a mansion prepared for himself; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The people sit.

The Lessons

2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

When the king was settled in his house, and the LORD had given him rest from all his enemies around him, the king said to the prophet Nathan, "See now, I am living

in a house of cedar, but the ark of God stays in a tent." Nathan said to the king, "Go, do all that you have in mind; for the LORD is with you."

But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan: Go and tell my servant David: Thus says the LORD: Are you the one to build me a house to live in? I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent and a tabernacle. Wherever I have moved about among all the people of Israel, did I ever speak a word with any of the tribal leaders of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, "Why have you not built me a house of cedar?" Now therefore thus you shall say to my servant David: Thus says the LORD of hosts: I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep to be prince over my people Israel; and I have been with you wherever you went, and have cut off all your enemies from before you; and I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may live in their own place, and be disturbed no more; and evildoers shall afflict them no more, as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel; and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever. *The Word of the Lord*

People **Thanks be to God.**

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary Magnificat (Luke 1:46-55)

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; *
 for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.
From this day all generations will call me blessed: *
 the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.
He has mercy on those who fear him *
 in every generation.
He has shown the strength of his arm, *
 he has scattered the proud in their conceit.
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, *
 and has lifted up the lowly.
He has filled the hungry with good things, *
 and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, *
 for he has remembered his promise of mercy,
The promise he made to our fathers, *
 to Abraham and his children for ever.

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 Romans 16:25-27

Now to God who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but is now disclosed, and through the prophetic writings is made known to all the Gentiles, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith-- to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen. *The Word of the Lord*

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn "Love came down at Christmas"

Hymn #84

1 Love came down at Christ-mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;
2 Wor-ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;
3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,

love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.
wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where-with for sa - cred sign?
love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt. Music: *Gartan*, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902; harm. David Evans (1874-1948)
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Leader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
(1:26-38)

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

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her. *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Steve Bates

On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing

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.

The Prayers of the People: Form III

People may remain standing, kneel, or sit reverently.

The Leader and People pray responsively

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

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

Remember in Prayer

(Names stay on the list for 3 months. If someone needs to stay on longer, contact Madge Smith at madge@holy-nativity.org or 747-4000. Always get permission from the person before you add them.)

From our congregation: Bruce McLawhorn, Harry Cooper, Audrey Powell, Betty Grammer, Alice Kinney, Carl Harris, Tass and family, Mary Troxell, Nell Barnett, Sarah Mason, Lou Churchill, Malinda Kelly, Hannah Davis, Ursula Hixson, Olivia Clemons, Tim Phillips, Pat Spangler, Inge Churchill, Carol Calton, Mary Elizabeth Moore, Karen Seubert, Florencia Pereira, Jeannette Tremaine, David Burris, Donna Jangula, Bert Churchill, Priscilla Wilson, Liz Robin, Dianne Hawthorne, Dan Johnson.

For our friends: Arthur Reddie, Jonathan, Ruth Geers, John Daniel, The Franklin Family, Austin, Bob and Debbie Snuggs, Margaret Lord Wilde, Oscar Wilde, Cosby Martin, Liz Forman, Jesse Cobb, Jeremy, Tanner Campbell, Allison Davis, Day Ann Logue, Aidan Akst, Cheryl Lynch, The Cross Family, Bob Scaglioni, Rosa Kulik, Louise Boyle, Tracy Hixson, The Ward family, The Rowan Family, Vicki and Crook Stewart, George and Tammy Mallory.

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for The Church of the Nativity in Dothan.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for mission agencies and their ministry throughout the Anglican Communion, including the Mother's Union around the world.

We pray for all active duty in the Armed Forces serving in Bay County and throughout the world: Chris Morgan, Michael Darrah, Stacey Johnson, Christopher Landess, Greg Jenkins, Joseph Railey, Patrick Keenen, Jeremy Hough, Wes Eberhard, Stacey Holliday, Caleb Loveland, Robert Ice, Andrew Frye, Michael Keller, Rex Brown, Jacob McAndrews, Nick Bailey.

We pray for those celebrating birthdays: Dec. 21: Nancy Roupp, Evan Ward, Dec. 23: David Landreth, Kathleen Wicker, Dec. 25: John Clarey, Dec. 26: Dianne Hodges, Jerry Shores.

We pray for those celebrating anniversaries: Dec. 23: Chuck and Barbara Knowles.

Altar Flowers are given today by Victoria Williams in celebration of Ashtyn William's birthday and by Max and Joyce Dannecker in honor of Kathy Dannecker Harris for her birthday.

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. *Silence may be kept.*

Minister 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.**

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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 Celebrant concludes with an absolution or suitable collect.

Greetings and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture

Offertory “The Holly And The Ivy” (*Cecil Sharp*)

John Durgan, organist

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

 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.**

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

A Proper Preface is said by the Celebrant.

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:

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.

The people stand, kneel, or sit reverently.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, then we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus

Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now say,

People and Celebrant

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.
Then may be sung or said* Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

Then may be sung or said

[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body (Blood) of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. [*Amen.*]

or with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

Postcommunion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

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.**

Benediction and Blessing

Closing Music

John Durgan, organist

The Deacon, or a Priest, dismisses the people.

The People respond

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Postlude

John Durgan, organist

Today's Ministers

Preacher/Celebrant

The Rev. Steve Bates

Assisting

The Rev. Tom Weller

Organist/Dir. Of Choirs

John Durgan

Chancel Minister

Kelly Roberson

Acolyte

Stevens and Shelby Roberson

Lector

Mike Harding

Ushers

Charles and Mary Bonham

Video Production Dir.

A.J. Jeffery

Altar Guild

Kaew Sumpton, Joanne MacPhee, Marla Churchill

SAINTS ALIVE

Please check our website at www.holy-nativity.org for the latest information about programs and events. Go to www.diocgc.org to check out everything about the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services

- 4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service with the Children's Christmas Pageant: Join us this year at the Holy Nativity Episcopal School Pavilion.
We will be socially distanced, and everyone should wear their masks.
- 10:30 pm Christmas Eve Service at the church.

Advent Outreach: We have three choices!

- 1. Angel Tree:** All the Angels ornaments have been taken! Thank you so much! Please return your wrapped gift before the deadline of Dec. 20th.
- 2. Outreach Family:** Make a donation to a family in need in our community. Make your check out to HNEC and note in the memo section, "Outreach family".
- 3. Youth "Love Thy Neighbor" ministry:** This ministry assists the homeless and vulnerable youth of Bay County. The list of needed items is listed in your newsletter and the Deadline is Dec. 18th. Place them in the box in the foyer.

The new Altar Flower Chart for 2021 is up on the bulletin board in the foyer.

You can make a donation toward the altar flowers for a certain Sunday. The cost is \$25. Just note on your check it is for Altar flowers. Sign your name on the date, include the reason for the donation and I will include your message in the Sunday bulletin.

Online Giving: This is another option to giving to the church. Go to our website and click the online donation tab. The first time you will need to set up your account information.

Online Offerings:

Sunday 9:15 am Adult Sunday School

Sunday 10:30 am service

Wednesday 5:30 pm service

You can go directly to our Facebook page or go to www.holy-nativity.org/echurch and click on the "view live services" tab. Look for reminder's in your email and on Facebook.

Flower Vases: If you have taken home any altar flower glass vases, please bring them back to the church and place them in the sacristy. We are in short supply. Thank you!

HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

222 North Bonita Ave.,
Panama City, FL 32401
Phone: 850-747-4000
FAX: 850-747-4004
Email: info@holy-nativity.org
Website: www.holy-nativity.org



The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick, Bishop
The Rev. Steve Bates, Rector
The Rev. Tom Weller, Associate

SERVICES

Sundays

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite One
(Nursery provided)
- 9:15 am Adult Sunday School
- 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite Two
(Children's Christian
Education & nursery is
provided)
- 5:30 pm *five-thirty* service
followed by dinner and
programs (Sept. – May)
- 6:00 pm SummerTime: Evening
Prayer followed by dinner
(June –August)