

HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE
THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
JESUS CHRIST
DECEMBER 24, 2020
4:30 P.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.

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church
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Prelude “Away In A Manger” (*Arr. by Tedd Mith*)

John Durgan, organist

The Word of God

Opening Hymn “O Come, All Ye Faithful” Leigh Gladden and Sharon Carroll, soloists

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People ***And blessed be God’s 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.

Song of Praise “Angels We Have Heard On High”

Leigh Gladden and Sharon Carroll, soloists

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Celebrant Let us pray.

Collect for The Nativity of Our Lord

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE NATIVITY STORY

Opening

The Prophecy (*Stephanie Skiba*)

“You Be An Angel” (*Linda Cable Shute & Richard Leach*)

Part I - “Jesus is Born” Luke 2:1-7

Part II - “Angels Appear To The Shepherds” Luke 2:8-16

Part III - “The Wise Men Visit Jesus” Matthew 2:1-11

Closing

“Go Tell It On The Mountain”

The Sermon

The Rev. Steve Bates

Prayers of the People (*Written by Fr. Rick Morley, Rector of St. Mark’s Episcopal Church, Basking Ridge, NJ*)

Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus: Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you – that we might be the Church and the People you call us to be.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Gentiles streamed to Jesus’ Light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; Draw our nation, our President, and all in authority, to His brightness.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As angels sang ‘glorias’ to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace, and bring an end to terror and strife.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; Draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; Be especially present with those who have no where to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem, and traveled together to far off lands; Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of Life Eternal; Give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

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

For those who are sick. *(Silence)*

For those who are serving in our armed forces. *(Silence)*

Celebrant: O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this night, and of your Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth we pray. **Amen.**

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Greetings and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture

Offertory - "Breath of Heaven" (Chris Eaton and Amy Grant) Sharon Carroll, soloist

The Great Thanksgiving *Eucharistic Prayer B*

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.

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:

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

**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.
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.**

The people stand, kneel, or sit reverently.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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 Celebrant 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary 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.**

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

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*

[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 or similar words

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

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

Communion Music

“Away in a Manger” (*Jerome Wright*)
Christmas Carols

Leigh Gladden, soloist

Postcommunion Prayer

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 & Blessing

Closing Hymn: “Silent Night” (*Hymnal 111*)

Leigh Gladden and Sharon Carroll, soloists

The Dismissal

Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the birth of the Savior.

Thanks Be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

John Durgan, organist

Musicians

John Durgan – Piano

Sharon Carroll – Soprano

Leigh Gladden – Soprano

Stephanie Skiba – Piano (Children’s Pageant)

Tonight’s Ministers

Preacher/Celebrant – The Rev. Steve Bates

Assisting – The Rev. Tom Weller

Chancel Minister – Brian Leebrick

Acolytes – Brody Fuller, Shelby and Stevens Roberson, Tyler Shores

Ushers – Lori Bates, Parker McClellan, Charles and Mary Bonham