

# HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH



CHRISTMAS EVE  
THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
DECEMBER 24, 2022  
4:30 P.M.

*Welcome to Holy Nativity!*

**Prelude** "See Amid The Winters Snow" (*James Mason, for Trumpet and Organ*)

Organ, Trumpet and Timpani

**Opening Hymn** "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

Hymn # 83

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others  
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

**“Still, Still, Silent Night”** (*Austrian Carols, Arr. by Sally K. Albrecht*)

The Children’s Choir

## The Word of God

*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”

Hymn 96, verse 1

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

*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 CHRISTMAS STORY**

Part I            “Jesus is Born”

### **Congregational Hymn #79**

**“O Little Town of Bethlehem”** (*remain seated*)

Part II           “Angels Appear To The Shepherds”

### **Congregational Hymn #101**

**“Away in a Manger”** (*remain seated*)

Part III          “The Wise Men Visit Jesus”

### **Congregational Hymn #128**

**“We Three Kings Of Orient Are”** (*remain seated*)

### **Congregational Hymn #99**

**“Go Tell It On The Mountain”**

(*Please stand as all children return to their seats.*)

**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 Anthem:** Sharon Carroll and Mia Carroll, vocals with Andrew Tinch on guitar.

## **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”**

**Hymn # S-130**

**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.]

*The congregation is invited to join in singing the music during the administration of communion.*

**“The First Nowell”- Hymn 109, vs. 1,2,6**  
**“It Came Upon the Midnight Clear” - Hymn 89**  
**“What Child is This?” - Hymn 115**  
**“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”- Hymn 87**  
**“Angels We Have Heard On High” - Hymn 96**

## **Post Communion 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"

Hymn # 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.

## **The Dismissal**

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

*People*           **Thanks Be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

## **Postlude**

John Durgan, Organist

### Musicians

John Durgan – Organ  
Tim Heintz - Tympani  
Chris Mills – Trumpet  
Sharon Carroll – Soloist

### Tonight's Ministers

Preacher/Celebrant: The Rev. Steve Bates  
Assisting: The Rev. Tom Weller  
Ushers: Dan and Laura Johnson, Parker and Wes McClellan  
Chalice Bearer: Lisa McLendon and Brian Leebrick  
Acolytes: Bailey and Will Melzer, Brody Fuller, Tyler Shores  
Dir. Of Video Prod: A. J. Jeffery

## **HOLY NATIVITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

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Click the QR Code to go to our website

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

9:15 am Adult Sunday School (Sept. – May)

10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

(Children's Christian Education & nursery is provided)

#### **Wednesdays**

5:30 pm *five-thirty* service followed by dinner and programs (Sept. – May)