

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST



HOLY EUCHARIST
DECEMBER 25, 2025 • 10:00 A.M.

Christ Church
Alexandria, Virginia
www.HistoricChristChurch.org

At any time during this service, parents and children are welcome to use the Infant Caring Room.
Enter the Parish House double doors, turn right to go up through the corner door. Go through the next door and keep right.

Worship begins with the music of the prelude. Please silence all electronic devices

Prelude

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hymn 83

Adeste Fidelis

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;
Refrain

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

Celebrant: Alleluia! Blessed are you, holy and living One.

People: **You have come to your people and set them free. Alleluia!**

Celebrant: 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.**

Hymn 96

Gloria

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.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Refrain

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
Refrain

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

All: **Amen.**

The People are seated.

The First Lesson

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

(The Reader will read the odd-numbered verses. The People will read the even-numbered verses.)

1. Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
2. **With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.**
3. The LORD has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
4. **He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**
5. Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
6. **Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.**
7. With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
8. **Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.**
9. Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.
10. **In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.**

The Second Lesson

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hebrews 1:1-4

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The People stand.

HYMN 93

Regent Square

1. 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.
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. 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.

The Gospel

John 1:1-14

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Gospeller: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Rev. Beth Bingham

The People stand and say.

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 People stand or kneel.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All things have been clothed in grace by the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; all the Earth has been enlightened in his dawning. Trusting in his light grace, let us pray for all people in need, and for all the world, saying, Incarnate Savior, hear our prayer.

Empower your Church to speak truth and to stand boldly against the dark powers of this world, that it might be a refuge and a place for hope. Incarnate Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Embolden your people to hold to account the leaders of the world, that they might pursue policies of peace and international fellowship. Incarnate Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Grant us discerning and generous hearts that your blessings might be made known through our actions to our neighbors near and far. Incarnate Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Equip us and sustain us to prevent environmental catastrophe, and to preserve the glorious abundance of creation for future generations. Incarnate Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Support those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, and make your healing presence known to them. Incarnate Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Accept the dying into your loving arms and greet us also in the hour of our deaths that we might rise again in your new age. Incarnate Savior, **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant God, 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.

People Amen.

The People stand.

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

This year's Christmas offering will support the mission and ministry of Christ Church, allowing us to further our outreach both here and abroad.

To donate via PayPal:



To donate via Shelby:



Offertory Music

As I walked down the road at set of sun,
The lambs were coming homewards, one by one,
I heard a sheep-bell softly calling them
Along the little road to Bethlehem.

Beside an open door, as I drew nigh,
I heard sweet Mary sing a lullaby.

She sang about the lambs at close of day
And rocked her tiny King among the hay.

Across the air the silver sheep-bell rang,
"The lambs are coming home," sweet Mary sang,
"Your Star of gold is shining in the sky,
So sleep, my little King, go lullaby."

Text: Margaret Rose
Music: Michael Head

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God 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. 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 S125

Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The People stand or kneel.

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 Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh. For in these last days...

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All: We remember Christ's death, we proclaim Christ's resurrection, we await Christ's coming in glory.

Celebrant: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all... By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

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

All: 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.

To receive communion, please follow the ushers to the altar. Upon placing your hands forward, you will receive a wafer. If you require a gluten-free wafer, please inform the clergy. You may consume it and then receive the wine from the chalice or hold onto the wafer and the chalice-bearer will intinct it for you. You may also cross your hands over your chest for a blessing to receive neither element or not to receive the wine.

Music at Communion

The other night I saw a light!
I saw a light!
A star as bright as day!
And ever among
A maiden sung:
"By-by, baby, lullay."
This virgin clear
Who had no peer
Unto her son did say,
"I pray thee, son, grant me a boon
To sing by-by, lullay.
Let child or man,
Whoever can
Be merry on this day,
And blessings bring.
So I shall sing
'By-by, baby, lullay.'"

Text: Anonymous, c. 1500

Music: Ned Rorem

The People stand or kneel.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: 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 Blessing

Celebrant: May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. May God, who set his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

All: **Amen.**

Hymn 100

Antioch

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, 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, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, 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, far as the curse is found,
far as, 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, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude Improvisation

M. Jason Abel

CHRISTMAS SPECIAL GIFTS GIVEN

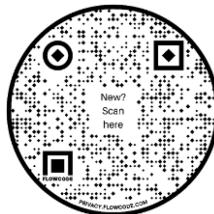
IN HONOR OF

The Christ Church Facilities Assistants
Gerry Stacy
Jason Abel and the Choir
McKinley Jolly
Ashley Jolly

IN MEMORY OF

Charles & Delza Chadbourn
Leon & Margareet Stroud
Elizabeth Stacy
Bruce Denslow
William Brooke Power
Jack & Jo Burns
Robert & Marcia Thomson
Carolyn Burns Mills
Ruth Wilson Salmon
Pauline Wilson Shaver
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*Christ Church embodies God's unbounded love by embracing, liberating, and empowering people,
whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith.*