

St. Philip's Episcopal Church
The Nativity of Our Lord
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2025
4:00 PM, 7:00 PM
10:00 PM – Chapel of the Cross

We, at St. Philip's Church strive to love God and love others in all we do.

*Before the service, speak to the Lord;
During the service, let the Lord speak to you;
After the service, speak to one another.*

The Invitation to silently prepare for worship.

HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

Congregational participation in bold.

Prelude

(Please stand as you are able.)

Processional Hymn – “O Come All Ye Faithful” (Hymnal #83)

Blessing of the Christmas Creche

Celebrant: The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

***People:* And we beheld the glory.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this day holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of this day, and may also rejoice forever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***People:* Amen**

Lighting of Advent Wreath

Celebrant: Behold to us, a child is born.

***People:* Come, Let us Adore Him.**

Opening Acclamation

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

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

The Collect for Purity

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.

People: Amen.

Hymn: “Joy to the World “ (Hymnal #100)

The 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.

People: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word (Please be seated)

A Lesson from the Book of 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.**

Hymn: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Hymnal # 79 v. 1-3)

Psalm 96

Cantate Domino

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

A Lesson from the Book of 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.**

(Please stand as you are able.)

Sequence Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (Hymnal # 87 vs 1,2)

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1-14 (15-20))

***People:* 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.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sequence Hymn: "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" (Hymnal # 87 vs 3)

Sermon

Betty Glover

Hymn "Go Tell it on the Mountain" (Hymnal #99)

The Nicene Creed (Please stand as you are able.)

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 VI

Leader: In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

Leader: For all people in their daily life and work;

***People:* For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

Leader: For this community, the nation, and the world;

***People:* For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

Leader: For the just and proper use of your creation;

***People:* For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

Leader: For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

***People:* For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

Leader: For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

***People:* For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

Leader: For all bishops and other ministers;

***People:* For all who serve God in his Church.**

Leader: For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Leader: Hear us, Lord;

***People:* For your mercy is great.**

Leader: We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. The People may add their own thanksgivings.

Leader: We will exalt you, O God our King;

***People:* And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Leader: We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

Leader: Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

***People:* Who put their trust in you.**

Celebrant: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, “Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you.” Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever.

***People:* Amen**

The Peace

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

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

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory Sentence: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory (#380 v. 3)

(Please stand as you are able and sing the following with the presentation of gifts.)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving – Eucharistic Prayer B

(Please stand 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.**

The people stand or kneel.

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:

Celebrant and People (S129)

**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 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 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;

Celebrant: 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.**

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

**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

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Communion

How to receive Holy Communion:

After you receive the bread you may choose one of three options regarding the wine.

1. DRINK: Immediately consume your bread and step to the chalice bearer farthest from the priest serving the bread. This is the common cup designated for you to take a drink from. Dipping the bread into this cup is NOT permitted.

2. INTINCT: Holding your bread, go to the first chalice bearer who is holding a small glass cup. This cup is designated for intinction (dipping) only. As you stand in front of the chalice bearer, they will offer the words of administration and you may dip your bread into the shallow cup. Please note there is only a small quantity of wine in this chalice to ensure fingers do not touch the wine.

3. NO WINE: Immediately consume your bread and carefully walk past both chalices if you desire to not take part in the wine. Please know that receiving communion in one species only is still considered a full and valid communion.

Post Communion Prayer (Please kneel or stand as you are able)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

Hymn – “Silent Night” (#111)

Celebrant: Christmas Blessing

All respond ‘Amen’ after each of the four parts of the blessing.

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.

People: Amen.

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.

People: Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor.

People: Amen.

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn- “Angels we have Heard on High” (#96)

Deacon: The Dismissal

People: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – “Hallelujah” Handel

Please note, the Parish Office will be closed from Dec. 25 – Jan. 2

4:00 PM

Celebrant and Preacher: Mother Betty

Deacon: Deacon Pam Hayes

Lay Readers: Sue Sinclair, Chris Romig

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Steve Russell, Mary Russell, Jane Mitchell

Ushers: Ross Lively, Mary Kotak, Debbie Evans, Rich Gaglie

7:00 PM

Celebrant and Preacher: Mother Betty

Deacon: Deacon Pam Hayes

Lay Readers :Jim Williams, Barbara Edwards

Lay Eucharistic Ministers :Jim Williams, Aedan Barnes

Ushers :Dennis Courtnage, Cathie Courtnage, Tom Propst

VPOD : Ross Lively

10:00 PM

Celebrant and Preacher: Mother Betty

Deacon: Deacon Pam Hayes

Lay Readers: Jim MacCallum, Judie Ratcliffe

Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Doyle Brinson, Judie Ratcliffe



St. Philip's Contacts

The Rt. Rev. Rob Skirving – Bishop of East Carolina
The Rev. Sarah Fisher – Bishop Elect of East Carolina
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Vestry

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Junior Warden – Paul Bailey – paul1.bailey@outlook.com (2024-2026)

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