



St Andrew's Episcopal Church
Christmas Day
December 25, 2020

Dear Friends,

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us on this holiest of days when we celebrate with great joy the birth of Jesus, who is the Messiah, our Redeemer. Your presence, even virtually, makes the love of Christ more real to each one of us as we share the gladness of angels and shepherds who first worshipped our infant Savior.

This service includes the celebration of Holy Eucharist. If you have received consecrated communion wafers, you will be invited to consume them as you hear the familiar words of “The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven”. If you have not received consecrated communion wafers, we provide the opportunity for you to engage in *Spiritual Communion*, inviting and sensing the presence of Christ’s everlasting love for you. We will all then pray together the Prayer for Spiritual Communion. As we settle into worship, let us hold these words in our hearts~

*Now the child lives in her arms,
Radiant, silent, sleeping.
She holds her son against her breast,
Feels his warmth against her heart.
Closing her eyes, she dreams.*

*Softly touched by the carpenter’s hand,
She wakens to kneeling shepherds.
Her heart sings,
And the heavens.*

*Come to the stable on wings of the heart
And kneel.
Christmas is the gift of eternal tomorrows.
Christmas is the gift of the Child.*

*From Christmas: The Time of the Child
Author, Alvin Reiss*

With Christ’s love,
Mother Barbara

THE FEAST OF CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25, 2020

OPENING MUSICAL OFFERING

“Ave Maria”
Franz Schubert

Anne Herman, organ
Ed Stanley, oboe

THE TOLLING OF THE BELL

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Light of the world, in grace and beauty, mirror of God’s eternal face, transparent flame of love’s free duty, You bring salvation to our human race.

Rejoice, people of God. The Light has come into the world. Sacred Mystery, we now light the candle of your nativity.

The Christ candle is lit.

With the company of heaven and with sounds of great joy, you come to us. Now is the time of celebration and joy.

Blessed Jesus, our Life and Light, thank you for coming this night to us. Fill us with joy at your coming, and make us instruments of your love. Help us to love those you loved, the least, the last, and the lost. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever.

Amen.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH

Isaiah 52:7-10

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 98 (*Prayed responsively by whole verse.*)

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.**

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 1:1-4

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

“What Child is This?”

Wilson College Vespers Choir

What child is this, who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherd's watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste! Haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christians, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste! Haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing
Haste! Haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, according to John.

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.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE HOMILY

Mother Barbara

A time for silent reflection.

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

Come, let us adore Christ the Lord. Let us pray, "*Glorious Lord, grant us your peace.*"

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: make joyful our heart. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil.

Silence

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple or the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation.

Silence

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you. *I invite you to add your thanksgivings.*

Silence

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence.

Silence

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely. *I invite you to add your petitions of those on your heart in need of healing prayer.*

Silence

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Christ the Lord, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection.

Silence

Glorious Lord,
Grant us your peace.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

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 PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE OFFERTORY

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (*Eucharistic Prayer B*)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 say this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory**

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 St. Andrew 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.**

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 BREAD

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia

THE INVITATION

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.

THE RECEIVING OF CONSECRATED WAFERS

If you have consecrated wafers with you, please receive them as you hear these familiar words,

The Body of Christ.
The Bread of Heaven.

If you do not have consecrated wafers, I invite you to cup your hands as though you were going to receive communion and place them over your heart for a moment. Breathe in God's goodness and love. Imagine placing all of your love for God, and for the world God created into your hands, and then offer your love back to God by stretching your hands out to offer yourself to God.

PRAYER FOR POST-SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Our Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim your resurrection. We love you above all things, and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, the worship of the wisemen, and the peace of the Christ child be ours and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE CLOSING HYMN “Joy to the World”

Wilson College Vespers Choir

Joy to the world! the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King!
let ev'ry heart prepare him room
and heav'n and nature sing
and heav'n and nature sing
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns
let all their 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,
for 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 of his love.

THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia. **Thanks be to God.** Alleluia. Alleluia.

POSTLUDE

“Christmas Melodies”

Marie Hershey, organ

Worship Ministers

The Rev. Barbara Hutchinson	Celebrant
The Rev. Wanda Kloza	Deacon
Kevin Gorman	Church Musician
Lisa Turchi	Soloist
Kathy Varner	Liturgical Artist
James Williams	Acolyte
Thomas Williams	Acolyte
Frank Mazzacua	Lector

Musicians

Kevin Gorman	Piano
Anne Herman	Organ
Marie Hershey	Organ
Ed Stanley	Oboe
Ingrid Winckler	Organ

Central PA Collaborative Virtual Choir

Lisa Turchi, Conductor, St. Andrew's
Kevin Gorman, Church Musician, St. Andrew's
Patrick Ishler, Choir Director, St. Edward's
Bill Hutchinson, Production Engineer

Vocalists

Jamie Alton
Carol Cotnoir
Michelle DiBona Trefren
Kevin Gorman
Anne Herman
Kathy Smith
Libby Sternberg
Christopher Streeter
Patrick Ishler
Peter Weber
Jay Williams
Mary Beth Williams

Wilson College Virtual Vesper Choir

August Watlington
Derek Wadlington
Kim Wadlington
James Williams
Jay Williams
Mary Beth Williams
Thomas Williams

Leadership

Diocesan Bishop The Rt. Rev. Audrey Scanlan

Rector The Rev. Barbara Hutchinson

Parish Secretary Melanie Varner

Sexton Brett Erickson

Church Musician Brian Helman

Interim Church Musician Kevin Gorman

Head Verger Mike Stitt, FVGEC

Verger Mike Rhodes, FVGEC

Verger Jane Offner, Susan Sanders

Vestry Members

Christina Luo, Senior Warden	Larry Shillock
Jane Offner, Junior Warden	Steve Smith
Jean Shepherd, Treasurer	Lisa Turchi
Brett Erickson	Susan Tyler
Ken Dotson	Laurel White
Mary Beth Williams	

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