



St Andrew's Episcopal Church  
Christmas Eve  
December 24, 2020

Dear Friends,

We are delighted that you have chosen to worship with us on this holiest of nights 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 awakens 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 THE INCARNATION

December 24, 2020

## HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II

### PRELUDE

"Ave Maria"  
Franz Schubert

Anne Herman, organ  
Ed Stanley, oboe

### TOLLING OF THE BELL CALLING US TO WORSHIP

### OPENING HYMN

"O come, all ye faithful"

Wilson College Vespers Choir

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

Refrain:

O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light of light eternal,  
our lowly nature he hath not abhorred;  
born of a woman, here in flesh appearing. [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above:  
"Glory to God, all glory in the highest!" [Refrain]

## THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

*The first, second, third, and fourth candles are lit.*

**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 OPENING ACCLAMATION

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

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. **Amen.**

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.

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

**Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL HYMN**

“Hark! the herald angels sing” Wilson College Vespers Choir

Hark! the herald angels sing  
Glory to the newborn King:  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!"  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with th'angelic hosts proclaim,  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,  
“Glory to the newborn King”

Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of the Virgin's womb:  
veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail th'incarnate Deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Immanuel. [Refrain]  
[Refrain]

## **THE HOLY GOSPEL**

**Luke 2:1-20**

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

**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.

The Gospel of Our Lord

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

Mother Barbara

## **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: 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**

So, come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who come bearing your doubt. Come.

**It is Christ who invites us to meet him here.**

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM**      “Lo, How a Rose E’re Blooming”  
Central PA Episcopal Collaborative Virtual Choir

### **THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them unto 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 sing 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,

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 and for the people God has created into your hands, and then offer your love back to God by stretching your hands out to offer yourself back to God.

**COMMUNION SOLO**

**“O Holy Night”**

Elisabeth Turchi, soprano

## **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.

## **CANDLE LIGHTING HYMN “Silent Night”**

Franz Xaver Greber & Joseph Mohr

Silent night, holy night  
all is calm, all is bright.  
round yon virgin mother and child  
Holy infant so tender and mild  
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,  
shepherds quake at the sight,  
glory streams from heaven above  
heavenly host sing Alleluia,  
Christ our Savior is born, Christ our Savior is born.

Silent night, holy night,  
Son of God, love's pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face  
with the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus Lord at thy birth, Jesus Lord at thy birth.

## **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.**

**CLOSING HYMN** “Joy to the world! The Lord is come” 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.**

**THE POSTLUDE**

“Christmas Melodies”

Marie Hershey  
Organist

## 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 Wadlington  
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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