



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

Christmas Eve 2023

Sunday, 24 December 2023 • 10:30 PM

Pensacola, Florida • Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The People's responses are in **bold italics**.

Hymns are in the blue *Hymnal 1982*.

Service music (marked "S") is found at the front of the Hymnal.

Other page numbers refer to the red *Book of Common Prayer*.

Welcome to Christ Church! We especially welcome our visitors and newcomers and ask that you fill out a visitor card so that we can thank you for coming.

The Choral Prelude begins at 10:00 PM.

Hymn in Procession

Hymn 83, stz. 1, 2, 3 & 6 — *O come, all ye faithful*

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD — BCP 355

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

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

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.**

At the place of the Gloria:

Hymn 96 — *Angels we have heard on high*

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. **Amen.**

The People may be seated.

The First Lesson — 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

(sung by the Parish Choir)

- 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.

The Second Lesson — 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The People stand for the Hymn and the Gospel.

Hymn 87 — *Hark! The herald angels sing*

The Gospel — Luke 2:1-20

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord. *People* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Michael Hoffman

The Nicene Creed *The People stand.*

BCP 358

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.

Prayers of the People: Form III

BCP 387

Celebrant Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

The People kneel.

Reader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Reader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Reader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; and for all the holy people of God;

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Reader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world; for prisoners and captives and all who care for them; and for this city and the people who live here;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Reader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Reader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Reader We commend to your mercy all who have died. Give to the departed eternal rest.

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Reader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Reader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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.

The Priest stands and says

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 *All stand.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Offertory

Offertory Anthem "Beside thy manger here I stand"

— Johannes Eccard

At the Presentation: Hymn 115, stz. 1 & 3 — *What child is this*

At the presentation of the monetary gifts:

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Eucharistic Prayer A — BCP 361

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.**

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.

Here a Proper Preface is said.

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

Hymnal S 129

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 kneel. Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant 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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

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

Then is sung

The Fraction Anthem: Agnus Dei

Hymnal S 163

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following 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 Communion

Christians of all ages (regardless of where you were baptized) are welcome to receive Holy Communion. • Please come forward to the Altar Rail, being careful of the step just before the rail. • The rail fills from the center, and please don't hesitate to cross to the other side if there is space. • Communion is available in two kinds (Bread and Wine). If you choose not to receive communion in one or both kinds, please cross both arms across your chest and the priest will offer a blessing. • If you choose to receive communion in one kind, know Christ is fully present, and all benefits of the Eucharist are fully received. • If you receive the chalice, please assist the chalice bearer by guiding the base of the cup. Or you may choose to intinct in the chalice. • If you need a gluten-free wafer, please cross one arm across your chest. There is no separate chalice. • If you would like the clergy to bring communion to someone in the pew, please notify the ushers at the door.

CANDLES — As you return to your pews from Communion, please take a candle with you to be lighted before "Silent Night." Please return the extinguished candle and holder to the baskets by the Church doors at the conclusion of the service.

Communion Hymns

Hymn 78 — *O little town of Bethlehem*

Hymn 82 — *Of the Father's love begotten*

Post Communion Prayer

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.

Post Communion Hymn: 111 — *Silent night, holy night*

The Blessing

Hymn in Procession: 100 — *Joy to the world!*

Dismissal Response: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Closing Voluntary

The Perdido Brass

*The Christmas Flowers are given to the glory of God
and in loving memory of ...*

Matthew Adkins
Rosemary & Newt Allebach
James E. Baker, Jr.
Terry Ivan Baker
Murdock McMillan Barrineau, Jr.
Bill Belk
Carolyn & Randall Bell
Bill Bjorensen
Benjamin Thomas Butcher, Sr.
Frederick Coleman Butcher, Sr.
Frederick Coleman Butcher, Jr.
Harriett Eugenia Spivey Butcher
Ella Jeanne Clarke
Ernestine Conners
Dan J. Cox
Alice Cunningham
Sally Currie
Matt Currin
Sandra Guilbert Early
George Douglas Fontaine, Sr.
Kenneth & Faye Fulghum
Constance Baker Godfrey
Jane Graves
Louise & Pat Groner
Ida & Eddie Guilbert
Allen Whitney Harris, Sr.
Genevieve Marie Harris

Harold Leroy Harris
Leon Harris, Jr.
Bill Harrison
Andre & Morey Hart
Duff Hart
Marjorie & Dan Hart
Ashton Hayward, Jr.
Patti & Ray Heindl
Christopher Dean Henry
Mr. & Mrs. John Hinman, Jr.
Bill Hogan
Esther Hogan
Deana Grimm Jones
Jimmy Ellis Jones
Alexander Langolf
Dutch & Callie Lewis
Elena M. Matthews
Frances Bradley Matthews
Margaret Wellborn Matthews
Maximilian Wellborn Matthews
Marilyn & Walter McLeod
Dr. Craig & Kathy Easterday Miller
Hollis Hayden Myers
James Milton Myers, Sr.
Melmoth Young Myers
John V. Myslak
Eulalie Hallmark Oliver

Rosa Lee O'Neal
Hubert E. O'Neal
Ashley DeWitte Pace, Jr.
Ashley DeWitte Pace, III
Jane Noonan Pace
Geoffrey Painter
George Painter
Harriet J. Painter
Helen Painter
Barbara Payne
Dr. W. C. Payne, Jr.
Cheri MacPhail Phillips
Betty & Crawford Rainwater
Anne & Frank Rentz
Rev. Bill Rogers
Margaret Rogers
James Carl Shell
Audrey Nell & Ralph Smith
John Bernard Spivey
Mr. & Mrs. David Taylor
Elise Taylor
Debbie Turner
Alene Wagner
Terry J. Wallace
Ricky Williams
Bidly & Howard Woolf
Thomas Zetelski

*The Christmas Flowers are given to the glory of God
and in thanksgiving for ...*

Captain & Mrs. Robert Blackington
Bouchelle Brewer
Eleanor Brewer
Sarah Brewer
Troupe Brewer
Ellis, Lia, Coley & Lilla Bullock
Cole Carrell
Hailey Carrell
Sandra Chancellor
The Choir & Choristers
of Christ Church Parish
The Christ Church Altar Guild
The Clergy & Staff of Christ Church
Carson Daniel Cox
Shelby Kelin Cox
The Children & Grandchildren
of Eleanor Currin
Gannon Bradley Davis
Brody Carlton Ekelund
Rev. Katie Gillett

Allen Whitney Harris, Jr. & Family
Allyn (Lyn) Eugenia Harris
Ruth Arline Butcher Harris
Betsy & Pat Hart
Mary Scott, Libby & Chris Hart
Traci & Will Hart
Virginia, Wyatt & Sally Hart
Ben Heindl
Sidney Heindl
Tim Heindl
Chapman Wellborn Jehle
Donald Patrick Jehle, III
Ellis Evelyn Jones
Lola Frances Jones
Tara Baker Jones
Phyllis & Bob Kreiner
June Linke
Karen Grimes Mann
Penny & Tim Martin
Sarah & Sean McCarrick

Katherine McCrackin
Paul Miller, Assistant Organist
Katherine & Bill Mitchem
McCull & Lucy Mitchem
Katy, Tim & Grayson Nagel
The People who are Christ Church
Mallie & Daniel Rentz
Webb & Carlisle Rentz
Cora Rogers
Nolan Rogers
Leigh Taylor
The Taylors
Lovelace, Frances & Alice Turner
Cooper Tyner
Bobby Woolf & Anne Bennett
Jennifer Woolf & Jim McCarrick
Ken & Elizabeth Woolf
Susan Woolf & John Carrell
J. O. Zachow

