



**The Nativity of our Lord
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020
4:00 p.m.**

Holy Trinity Church
446 Hamilton St. Southbridge, Massachusetts 01550
A parish in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts
4:00 p.m. choral service

The Rev. Richard Signore, Celebrant & Preacher
Anne Bouvier-Monroe, Organist
John Grant, Reader

Prelude: *Toccata on "Adeste Fideles"*

Processional Hymn: *"O Come, All Ye Faithful"*

Hymnal #83

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.

God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb; only begotten Son of the Father; O come let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

The Opening Sentences:

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

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

Hymn of Praise: *"Angels we have heard on high,..."*

Hymnal #96

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.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer? What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Collect of the Day (*Said by all*)

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. Amen.

First Reading

Reader: A reading for the Prophet Isaiah

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. *Isaiah 9:2-7*

Reader: The Word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**

Hymn #79 "*O little town of Bethlehem*"

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-14

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ

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!"

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord **People Praise to you Lord Christ**

Sequence Hymn "*What Child is this?*"

Hymnal #115

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds 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? God Christian, 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.

Nativity Story

Cat Reith Lowery

Christmas Greeting

Prayers of the People IV, BCP, p. 388 RESONSE: Hear our prayer.

Prayer for the Parish

O everlasting source of love, in whom our faith resides, guide us surely ever forward on our lifelong journey. Not so fast that we miss the beauty that surrounds us on the way, nor miss your grace so freely given that teaches us how to grow. But with a steady presence felt and a sense of gratitude may we find our place amidst the jungle of life within the kingdom of heaven on earth. Amen

Collect for Peace

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Hymn: #100 "*Joy to the world*"

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.

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP, p. 367

Sanctus (*said by all*)

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 Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

Fraction Anthem: "Be Known to Us"

WLP #875

Cantor: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, breaking of the bread.

Congregation: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Cantor: One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.

Congregation: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Communion Music: "Away in a manger"

Hymnal #101

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus!

Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Prayer (said by those at home without Communion) *My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)*

The Post Communion Prayer (Said by all with Communion at home)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son and 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.

Candle Lighting: "Silent Night"

Hymnal #111

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, glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;

Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Blessing

Recessional Hymn: "Hark! The herald angels sing"

Hymnal #87

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 the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb. Veiled in the flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity. Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Dismissal: Response after dismissal:

Thanks be to God

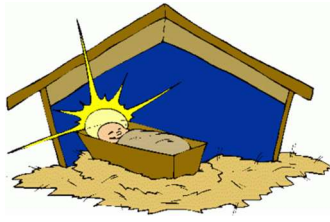
Postlude: "Noel Nouvelet" Wood

WORDS OF THANKS

— To all who made donations for flowers and the vigil light for the holiday season.

— To the clergy, staff, and lay leadership of Holy Trinity Church and their families.

Prayers and best wishes for a joyous and peace filled Christmas are extended to our entire parish family.



(For use with your home Crèche display)

The Blessing of the Christmas Crèche

Priest: Our help is in the + Name of the Lord;
PEOPLE: WHO MADE HEAVEN AND EARTH.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

PEOPLE: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Priest: Let us pray;

Almighty and everlasting God, who on this night
Sent your only Son to be born of the Blessed Virgin

Mary for our salvation;

We pray you to Bless this crib where are displayed
The wonders of the sacred Birth;

May all who look at this crèche adore the mystery
Of God becoming one with the human family,

And be filled with joy in your Love, O God;

Through this same Jesus; our Christ and Lord.

AMEN.



CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND THANKSGIVINGS

For the blessing of Fr. Richard, our spiritual leader, given by Brian Canty.

In loving memory of Mabel & John C. Dirlam and Stella & Elias Peters,
given by Maria and John B. Dirlam.

In thanksgiving for the blessing of Elijah Lucey Kupovykh,
given by Tamsin and Peter Lucey.

In memory of Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Johnson.

In memory of the Yates and Parrettie families.

In memory of Dr. and Mrs. Theodore Story.

In memory of our parents, Mr. & Mrs. Colin Yates and Mr. & Mrs. Albert Maynard,
and in thanksgiving for our loving family, given by Robin & Ken Yates.

**The Vigil light, a symbol of Christ's presence, is given to the Glory of God and
In Loving Memory of Emeline and George Watson.**