



**Emmanuel Episcopal Church
West Roxbury
Online Christmas Eve Liturgy
December 24, 2020**

Welcome to the most unusual Christmas Eve celebration ever!

You are invited to sing along with the Choir's offerings. (Your voice will be muted so sing to your hearts content!) Words to the music are provide online or as a separate emailed document or you can follow along in a hymnal.

All musical offerings were pre-recorded by St. Paul's Cathedral Choir, Boston, Massachusetts.

Hymn #83 O Come All Ye Faithful

The Word of God

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

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.
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.*

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

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.*

Gloria Hymn #96. Angels we have heard on high.

Old Testament

Lector **A reading from the prophet 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

The Psalm is to be led by the Lector, responsively, the people reading the alternate verses

Psalm 96

- 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 Epistle

Lector **A reading from 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.

Lector The word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Hymn #102 Once in Royal David's City (vs. 1 and 2)

The Gospel

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke 2:1-14

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.

Sermon The Rev. Dr. Joyce Caggiano

The Creed or Affirmation of Faith

People say together:

We believe in the God of life, who creates and loves people, who acts in history and who promises to never leave us alone. We believe in Jesus of Nazareth, who is our brother, who wants not to be idolized but to be followed. We believe that we dwell in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Without her we are nothing, filled with her we are able to become creative, loving, and free.

We believe in the Church of Jesus Christ, a community where we find companions and courage for the struggles of life, where we grow in our understanding of faith, through worship, prayer, nurture, and service. We believe that God has a use for us in this time and place, that though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we are called to be instruments of God's peace. We believe in living, hoping, laughing, and enjoying the good of the earth. We believe that people can change, and that God keeps pulling us to life and to a new world of joy and peace. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Lector reads the prayers, the people respond – Lord, hear our prayer.

*Brothers and sisters, on this most holy time of our Lord's birth, that we may find peace, joy and contentment in this holy season, let us pray for ourselves and all those in need of our prayers, saying:
Lord, hear our prayer.*

For the church of Christ, that it may faithfully proclaim the good news of salvation and may care for the needs of God's people in all corners of the world, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of war, injustice and sickness may be replaced by the light of peace and love, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those in need of our prayers: the homeless, the unemployed; the hungry; those who are hospitalized, especially those who have been stricken with COVID 19; those who are imprisoned or isolated in body or soul; and all those for whom this season is one not of joy but of trial and sadness, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the sick, that their illnesses may be turned into health and their sorrow into rejoicing, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those in our parish, faithful in body and spirit, through this time of isolation and sickness recognize the presence of God in our homes and in our work lives, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who labor this night on behalf of others: doctors and nurses, police officers and firefighters, cashiers, bus and taxi drivers, and all those whose work prevents them from sharing this celebration with those they love, we pray to you, O Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered either silently or aloud.

In thanksgiving we remember the lives of those who have gone before us in the faith [especially...] that we, like them, may remain faithful to the end and live forever in the light of your eternal glory, we pray to you, O Lord.

Mighty God mercifully hear the prayers of the people you have chosen as your own. Give us zeal in our ministries and joy in our work, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. *Amen.*

The Priest 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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also, with you.

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Sussex Carol Anthem Sung by St. Paul's Cathedral Choir

The Holy Communion (*from Enriching our Worship*)

The Great Thanksgiving

The priest prepares the table; the bread and the cup of wine are placed upon it.

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. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

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 Blessed Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin and receive power to become your children.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body.

Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we say:

Celebrant and People

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.

The Celebrant continues

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love.

You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image
in one another and in ourselves;
we would not see your goodness in the world around us;

and so we violated your creation,
abused one another, and rejected your love.
Yet you never ceased to care for us,
and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah
you called us into covenant with you.
You delivered us from slavery,
sustained us in the wilderness,
and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation.
Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word,
made mortal flesh in Jesus.
Born into the human family and dwelling among us,
he revealed your glory.
Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil,
opening the way of freedom and life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us,
Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread,
and when he had given thanks to you,
he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat:
This is my Body which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant lifts the cup of wine.

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all 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

Remembering his death and resurrection,
we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine.
By your Holy Spirit may they be for us
the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the
Holy Spirit
and live as Christ's Body in the world.
Bring us into the everlasting heritage
of your daughters and sons,
that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come,
we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

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

Celebrant and people.

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.

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.

Here you are invited to take Communion from previously consecrated hosts. Saying:

The Body of Christ, the bread of Heaven. Amen.

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and people

Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;
that we may proclaim your love to the world
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

May the Wisdom of God the Love of God
and the Grace of God strengthen you

to be Christ's hands and heart in this world,

in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Hymn #111 Silent Night

Everyone is invited to light candles in their homes and sing or hum or simply listen to the music.

Dismissal

Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.

Amen.

Hymn # 99 Go Tell it on the Mountain

Thank you all for joining us. May God grant you a blessed, happy, healthy, and abundant Christmas!