



**Emmanuel Church
21 Stratford Street
West Roxbury, MA 02132
Christmas Eve
December 24, 2021**

Welcome The Rev. Joyce Caggiano, Priest in Residence

Hymn and Carol Sing-a-long

#110 The Snow Lay on the Ground

***Christmas Returns*, poem by Howard Thurman, read by Andrew Castiglione**

#78 O Little Town of Bethlehem

Solo Violin: Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas. Violinist Seraiah Belfon

#109 The First Noel Verses 1, 2, 6

Organ Prelude Where are These Happy Shepherds Going? Claude Balbastre

Processional Hymn.

#83 O Come all ye Faithful

The Word of God

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever.
Amen.

The Celebrant

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.*

#96 Angels we have heard on high

The Collect of the Day

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.

People. Amen.

The Lessons

A Reading from 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.
People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

[The psalm is led by the reader, congregation reads even numbered verses]

- 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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn: **#87 Hark the Herald Angels Sing**

Here the people stand for the reading of the Gospel

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!"

The Gospel of the Lord.
People. Praise to you Lord Christ.

Homily

The Rev. Joyce Caggiano

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

All things have been clothed in grace by the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ; all the earth has been enlightened in his dawning. Trusting in the light and grace, let us pray for all people in need and for all the world, saying: Merciful God, hear our prayer.

For the churches, that united in life they may be faithful in witness to your Son come among us, merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For the poor of the earth, the victims of warfare and especially for the people of Kentucky, all refugees, unhoused people, the people suffering from COVID or the fear of COVID, for all hospital workers, physicians, emergency medical teams, counselors and for all children who bear the trauma of violence and sickness, merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For all families that they may be renewed in joy, receive the word of mercy and compassion into their hearts, and become places of hospitality to the stranger, merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For the leaders of the nations, that they may turn from their ways of fear and warfare to the ways of your wisdom and grace, merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For Alan, Gayle and Carol and all bishops, that they may rejoice in your mercy and faithfully teach the greatness of your coming among us, merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For this assembly, for our sick, especially Paul, Mary, Catherine, Brant; Michael, Parker, Sergio, Martha, Gail, Hal IV, Anne, Patricia, and Kafi. and for ourselves, that we may be renewed by the light and grace of your incarnate word, merciful God,
hear our prayer.

[Here other intercessions may be offered.]

Celebrant:

Rejoicing in the company of Mary, mother of our Lord, and of all the witnesses of the incarnation, we commend these prayers and all our life to you, O God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Confession

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.

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. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you. MERRY CHRISTMAS!
People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord. During this time of COVID restrictions we are asked to simply touch one another with our elbows.

For this special day we have a gift for all children and grandchildren. We invite you to gather at the Christmas tree at the entrance to receive your gift.

Offertory O Holy Night. Adolph Adams. Soloist, Ron Williams

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving. Eucharistic Prayer B

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says

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.

Because you did give Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made very Man of the substance of Blessed Mary his mother; 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:

Celebrant and People. The Sanctus will be sung Hymnal # S. 130

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 stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or to 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 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,

Celebrant and People

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

The Celebrant continues

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 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,

As our Savior Christ
has taught us,
we now pray,

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.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia

S164. Agnus Dei. (Sung)

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 minister receives the Sacrament in both kinds, and then stands on the steps to deliver
it to the people.*

All are welcome to receive Communion

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [*Amen.*]
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [*Amen.*]

Communion Hymn #89 It Came upon the midnight clear

AT THIS TIME THE USHERS WILL DIM THE LIGHTS IN THE CHURCH. YOU WILL BE GIVEN A GLOW LIGHT TO HOLD AS A SYMBOL OF THE DAWNING OF THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD – JESUS CHRIST - AS WE SING:

#111 Silent Night

Celebrant **The Blessing**

Recessional Hymn #99 Go Tell it on the Mountain

Organ Postlude. Where are These Happy Shepherds Going? Claude Balbastre

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

THANK YOU FOR JOINING us TODAY and may God grant you a very Blessed Christmas and Happy New Year!

Visit us at our website: emmanuelwr.org for information about upcoming services and events.
The Rev. Joyce Caggiano

**CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE FLOWERS WERE GIVEN IN REMEMBRANCE OF
THE FOLLOWING**

**Anthony Joseph Castiglione
Daniel Castiglione**

Charles and Betty Jean Jackson

Ralph and Jean Scrima

Mildred Scrima

Louis Scrima

Ivor Price

Michael David Halliday

And in Thanksgiving for the children and grandchildren of Andrew Castiglione

And donation from Eunice Carias

We thank all those who have helped to create this celebration tonight. Especially our musicians:

**Brink Bush, Organist
Ron Williams, Voice soloist
Seraiah Belfon, Violinist**

Acolytes and readers:

**Thomas Gooley
Terri Halliday
John Gooley
Andrew Castiglione
Grant and Natalie Thelen**

We also thank the many other hands that behind the scenes have brought us to this brilliant celebration. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

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