

St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Christmas Day
December 25, 2022
10:30 am



Christmas Day

Welcome to St. Paul's! We are so happy you are with us today. If you are new or visiting, please fill out a welcome card and place it in the offering plate.

Prelude “Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light”
(*Worship & Rejoice #202*)

Welcome

Celebrant Blessed are you, holy and living One.
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

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.**

Gloria (*All say*)

**Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:**

**have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God 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 sit for the readings.

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people
People **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 98

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.

The Epistle

Hebrews 1:1-12

A Reading from the letter to the Hebrews:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my son"? And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him." Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire." But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

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

People **Thanks be to God**

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

Celebrant 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!"

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

The Sermon

All stand

Nicene Creed

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.**

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Lord Jesus, you knew both the love and the challenges of human family; we pray for our own families and our church family, that we may be a havens of love and support. And we remember especially all those among us for whom Christmas is more a time of sadness than of joy. Jesus, Saviour,
People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Lord Jesus, your cradle was a manger and your first home a stable; we pray for all those who do not have a place to call home, and we remember all refugees, especially those who have had to flee their homes in Ukraine. Jesus, Saviour,
People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Lord Jesus, you shared the stable with animals and were bathed in starlight; we give thanks for all creation, and we remember especially the animals who join our families and gladden our lives. Jesus, Saviour,
People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Lord Jesus, you were worshipped by shepherds and kings; we pray for the leaders of the nations and for peace to reign throughout the world, and we remember especially all those who we personally have elected to serve the common good. Jesus, Saviour,
People **hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Lord Jesus our Emmanuel, your name reminds us that you are always near; we pray for those who are sick, those who are struggling, those who are lonely, those who mourn, and anyone for whom this season is one of sadness. And as we all remember those we love but see no longer, reassure us of the heavenly rest they now enjoy. Jesus, Saviour,
People **hear our prayer.**

Celebrant,

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

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

**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 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. 🛎

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.” 🛎️🛎️🛎️

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:

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, and 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 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.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of Silence is kept.

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
People **We who are many are one body.
For we all share in one bread.**

Everyone is invited to Holy Communion. Gluten free bread is available. If you would prefer to come up for a blessing instead of bread and wine, please cross your hands over your chest.

Celebrant and People,

**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.**

The Celebrant blesses the people.

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *Joy to the World* Sandra Eithun (1963-)

Worship Ministers:

*The Rev. Jadon Hartsuff, Celebrant; Sue Hammett, Reader, LEM & Acolyte
Julie Baglien, Organist; Jeff Wilkinson, Choir Director;
Ron & Cathy Kapuga, Ushers*

Dedications

FLOWERS TO WELCOME THE CHRIST CHILD are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my husband David Stewart & and our son David by Marilou Stewart; and in loving memory of my dear husband Rick By Sally Mckinnon.

GREENS AT THE CRECHE are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy Fennell by her son Reginald Fennell.

FLOWERS AT THE CHANCEL STEPS are given to the glory of God by the parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

THE AUMBRY CANDLE BURNS THIS WEEK TO WELCOME THE CHRIST CHILD and is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of the Kobs & Leavitt families & Louisa Beaman by Dorothy Kobs.

Announcements

- There will be one service only at 10:30 am next Sunday, January 1st, when all children of the parish are invited to take part in a Nativity Pageant.
- The church office will be closed next week from Monday December 26 through Monday, January 2nd. There will be no Bible Study or Eucharist on Wednesday, Dec. 28th.
- **Save the dates:** The next Interim Forum with Fr. Jadon is between services on January 15th. The St. Paul's Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, Jan. 22, 2023 after the 10:30am worship service.

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