



St. James' Episcopal Church
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2020
6:00pm

Welcome

Opening Carols

O Come O Come Emmanuel

O come O come Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here
Until the Son of God appear
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come Thou Wisdom from on high
And order all things far and nigh
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night
And death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel

O come Desire of nations bind
And peoples in one heart and mind
Bid envy strife and quarrels cease
Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice rejoice Emmanuel
Shall come to thee O Israel!

Hallelujah, Light Has Come

Mmmm my Baby heaven sent You to me
All the world's been praying who will save

But who am I that here tonight
I hold the One who'll bring us life

Hallelujah we've been found
A Child is born to save us now Jesus
Hallelujah Light has come
A Savior who will set us free
The promise for those who believe

Do you hear the angels sing for You my Baby
Men and kings have come to bow to You

But here in my arms so close to me
The Son of God now all can sing

Hallelujah we've been found
A Child is born to save us now Jesus
Hallelujah light has come
A Savior set us free

So praise to God on high
He has heard our cry
So praise to God on high
He has heard our cry

Hallelujah we've been found
A Child is born to save us now Jesus
Hallelujah Light has come
A Savior who will set us free
The promise for those who believe

Clergy Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Clergy The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Clergy 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 Lessons

First Reading

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.

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

Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

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."

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.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

Gospel Song

O Holy Night

O holy night the stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'til he appeared and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night O holy night
O night divine

Led by the light of faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here came the wise men from Orient land
The King of Kings lie thus in lowly manger

In all our trials born to be our friend

Fall on your knees
O hear the angel voices
O night divine
O night when Christ was born
O night O holy night
O night divine!

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Clergy 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.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Becky Coerper

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 life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Sisters and Brothers, on this most holy night, when the word of God is made flesh among us, let us pray for ourselves, for those in need of our prayers, and for God's people everywhere. At the close of each petition, you are invited to respond "Hear our Prayer."

Almighty and everliving God, bless your holy Church, the community of believers throughout the world, that it may faithfully proclaim the Good News of salvation to the ends of the earth.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for your creation, especially where it is wounded. Renew the whole earth with your love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of conflict and war may be replaced by the light of your peace and love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of the nations and peoples of the world that they may put aside their own ambitions, and strive for justice, promoting the dignity and freedom of all people.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for those who labor this night on behalf of others: doctors, nurses, and aides; police officers, firefighters, and those in the armed forces; For all those whose work prevents them from sharing this evening with those they love.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

On this most holy night, we commend to your loving care all those in need: the victims of war, violence, injustice and oppression, the poor, refugees, the homeless, the unemployed, the hungry, and those who are alone.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We offer our prayers for those suffering in body, mind, or spirit, for those we now name, either aloud or in our hearts [*pause*] and for those whose needs are known to you alone.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all those whom we love but see no more, commending them to your merciful care, especially those we now name [*pause*]. Grant that we, like them, may come to that place where we may dwell in the glorious light of your eternal Word.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Clergy

God of silence and darkness, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word made flesh, the gift of your Son. Accept, we pray, our words of praise and petition; let us, and all your people be strong echoes of the Christmas word which you have spoken, that all might come to know the peace which you have given us in Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, this night and forever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Clergy

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

Clergy 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 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.**

Announcements

Music for Reflection

Mary Did You Know?

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would one day walk on water
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would save our sons and daughters
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has come to make you new
This Child that you delivered
Will soon deliver you

Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would give sight to the blind man
Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Would calm a storm with His hand
Did you know
That your baby boy
Has walked where angels trod
And when you kiss your little baby
You've kissed the face of God
Oh Mary did you know

The blind will see
The deaf will hear
The dead will live again
The lame will leap
The dumb will speak
The praises of the Lamb

Oh Mary did you know
That your baby boy
Is Lord of all creation
Mary did you know
That your baby boy

Will one day rule the nations
Did you know
That your baby boy
Is heaven's perfect Lamb
And the sleeping Child you're holding
Is the great I Am

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Lift up your hearts.
People **We lift them to the Lord.**
Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

We thank you loving God, for you did not stand far off but came in nearness with the tenderness of love. We praise you for the Word made flesh born of Mary, cradled in her arms, greeted by her song.

The fullness of God dwells in his flesh, a touch of welcome for the outcast, good news of bread for the hungry and poor, a shepherd to find those who are lost.

And so we gladly thank you, joining our voices with saints and angels, we now 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.**

Father, we bring you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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."

Father, we now celebrate the memorial of your Son. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again.

Gather us by this Holy Communion into one body in your Son Jesus Christ. Make us a living sacrifice of praise. 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 as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All

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.

Breaking of the Bread

Priest Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.**

Prayer for Spiritual Communion

Jesus, we believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving as we proclaim your resurrection. We love you above all things, and long for you in our souls.

Since we cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Music during Communion

Piano Meditation on a Christmas Carol

Postcommunion Prayer (All)

God of abundance you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another, and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of the Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Carol & candle lighting

Silent Night

St. James' Worship Band

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!

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light,
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Christmas Blessing

By way of Bethlehem lead us, O Lord, to newness of life;
By the innocence of the Christ Child renew our simple trust;
By the tenderness of Mary deliver us from cruelty and hardness of heart;
By the patience of Joseph save us from all rash judgment and ill-tempered action;
By the shepherds' watch open our eyes to the signs of your coming;
By the shining of a star guide our feet into the way of peace;
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you both now and forever. **Amen.**

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

He rules the world with truth and grace
 And makes the nations prove
 The glories of His righteousness
 And wonders of His love
 And wonders of His love
 And wonders wonders of His love!

Dismissal

Clergy
All

Let us go forth, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

O Come O Come Emmanuel Reprise

Special thanks for the music ministry of:

Elizaebeth Friedel (Violin)
Christopher Notarthomas (Bass)
Dr. Nicholas Kilkenny (Guitar)

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