



St. James' Episcopal Church
Christmas Eve Worship
December 24, 2020
7:30pm

Music Prelude

Rondeau
Sonata for Violin and Organ
Christmas Concerto, mvt. 2

Joseph Mouret
George Frederic Handel
Arcangelo Corelli

Welcome

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful
(vs. 1,2,3,6)

Blue 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;

(Refrain)

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;

(Refrain)

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;

(Refrain)

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father now in flesh appearing;

(Refrain)

Clergy
People

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

Hymn of Praise

Angels We Have Heard on High
(vs. 1 and 3)

Blue 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.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the new born King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

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.

Sequence Hymn

What Child is This?

Blue 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?

(Refrain)

*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?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

(Refrain)

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come, peasant, king to own him?
The King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.

(Refrain)

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Clergy
People

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
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

The Angel Gabriel

Gabriel's Message

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.**

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 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 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:

Sanctus

**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.**

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.

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,

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

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,

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

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
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

O Holy Night/ Silent Night

arr. Sue Wallace

Carol & candle lighting

Silent Night

Blue 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!

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.

Postcommunion Prayer (All)

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 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.**

Hymn

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Blue 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!
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
Born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of righteousness! Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace!
Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Dismissal

Clergy
People

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude

Te Deum

Marc Charpentier

Special thanks for the music ministry:
Alison Feretti (Violin)
Dave Peebles (Trumpet)
Susanne Rynkiewicz (Soprano)
St. James' Choir