



**ST. DAVID'S ON-THE-HILL
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Christmas Eve Service**

**Liturgy of the Word of God
December 24, 2020**

The Reverend Jennifer Kezirian West, Priest

As we settle our hearts for worship on Christmas Eve, please gather a piece of bread or cracker and a sip of a beverage for the Agape Meal, and a candle to light during the singing of Silent Night.

The Lighting of the Advent Wreath:

The Word was made flesh," alleluia, alleluia.

The word was made flesh, alleluia, alleluia.

And dwelt among us: **Alleluia, allelula.**

Opening Hymn: "O Come all ye Faithful"

Hymn 83

1 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; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

2 God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only-begotten Son of God the Father; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

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

And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

“Angels we have heard on high”

Hymn 96

1 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.

4 See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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.**

First Reading

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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. as formerly, from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel;

and I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. Your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me; your throne shall be established forever.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

“It came upon a midnight clear”

The Gospel: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
Glory to you, Lord Christ

Luke 2: 1-20

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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily: The Rev. Jennifer Kezirian West

Prayers

On this Christmas Eve, as we greet the incarnation, not face-to-face as a parish family, but in our spirits and hearts, we pray for our parish family, for those in need, for those who have died, and for ears to listen for God's direction for us.

May the longing of our hearts to be together with those we love, be filled with memories of the joy of children, and with thanksgiving for God's grace, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

A Prayer from "Words to Love By"

by Mother Teresa

Dear Jesus,

Help us to spread your fragrance everywhere we go. Flood our souls with your spirit and life. Penetrate and possess our whole being so utterly that our lives may be a radiance of yours. Shine through us and be so in us that every soul we come in contact with may feel your presence in our soul. Let them look up and see no longer us but only Jesus. Stay with us and then we shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be light to others. The light, O Jesus, will be all from you. None of it will be ours. It will be you shining on others through us. Let us thus praise you in the way you love best by shining on those around us....**Amen.**

The Agape Meal

A Prayer and Thanksgiving for Bread

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You bring forth bread from the earth; you have fed us with the bread of life in the Body of your Son. Feed us now with your presence among us and your presence in your Word. As grain scattered upon the earth is gathered into one loaf, so gather your Church in every place into the kingdom of your Son. To you be glory and power forever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer for Wine

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Creator of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine; and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Blood of Jesus Christ, crucified yet risen. May the time come quickly when we can share that cup again, even as you are with us now in our very thirst for you. Glory to you forever and ever. **Amen.** *(Please eat and drink together in silence for a few moments.)*

(Should you feel so moved, please light a candle during the singing of Silent Night)

“Silent Night”

Hymn 111

1 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.

2 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!

3 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.

A Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior’s birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
Be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Participating in tonight’s service:

The Rev. Jennifer Kezirian West
Mr. Alan Cotnoir
Mr. Peter Guest
Andrea & Joseph Hutnak
Mr. Roger Stock

Officiant
Music Director
Lector
Musicians
Soloist



Christmas Memorials

Dale E. Greenbacker

Mr. & Mrs. John Doyle, Jr.

William E. Dame

Raymond Dame

Sr. Fracelle Dame, RSM

Milton, Harriet & Lois Irons

Shirley and Earle Davis

Elsie & Thomas Irons

Barbara & Harold Blackinton

Judith Baxter

Dilshad Blackinton

Alfred P. Soscia, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas Falco

Mr. & Mrs. Soscia, Sr.

Mr. & Mrs. Edward Rivers

Annie E. DelSanto

Barbara A. DelSanto

Penny E. Clarke

Mary K. Clarke

Cortlandt Clarke

William J. Gallagher, Sr.

Viola F.P. Clarke

William J. Gallagher, Jr.

Mary B. Gallagher

Mary Ann Crins