

# ST. DAVID'S ON THE HILL EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**The Rt. Reverend W. Nicholas Knisely, Bishop**

## CHRISTMAS EVE

**December 24, 2021**

**5 pm**

*Please observe that there are emergency exits at each corner of the room, including the door behind the chapel altar leading through the sacristy to an outdoor exit.*

**Opening Hymn: “O come, all ye faithful”**

**H 83**

### THE WORD OF GOD

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

***People*** *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

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 - 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

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you

***People:*** *And also with you*

*Celebrant:* Let us pray

**The Collect for Christmas Eve:** Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made **your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

### **The First Lesson: ISAIAH 52:7-10**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord

*People: Thanks be to God*

### **Psalm 98** *(spoken in unison)*

- 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 Second Lesson: HEBREWS 1:1-4**

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.

The Word of the Lord

*People: Thanks be to God*

**Gospel Hymn: “Angels we have heard on high”**

*H 96 vs. 1,2,&3*

*Celebrant:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

## **The Holy Gospel: 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.

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

**Hymn: "Angels we have heard on high"**

**H 96 vs. 4**

**The Sermon - Bishop Nicholas Knisely**

## **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.*

## **Prayers of Intercession**

Let us pray for the church, the earth, and all those in need, in the name of the one who is our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace.

*A brief Silence.*

Let us pray for all who gather tonight around the manger, and for all those who still long for good news of great joy in their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for the dark places of the world—for the Arctic Circle, the deep seas, the underground caverns, and all the wild creatures that call these places home. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for nations where the blood of warriors and civilians is shed daily; for kings and queens; for governors and mayors; for all who are oppressed or afraid. We especially pray for our service members: Jake Knight, Elizabeth Butler and Matthew Paiva and Debbie Cox. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for those without shelter, food, family, or friends tonight; for those who work long hours with little reward; for children who are abused or neglected, and for the sick especially Mary Lou, Anne, Marjorie, Victor, Evelyn, Lynne, Pat, Bob, Michael, Bill, Joseph, David, Betsy, Tom, James, Beth, Michelle, Marsha, Max, Alexandra, Jack, Fred, Steven, Diane, Rebecca, Don, Sue, Vinny, Ronnie, Paul, Brad, Elaine and Suzanne. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us pray for this assembly, that as we go out into the darkness of this night, we might carry with us the light that is Christ. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us give thanks for the lives of the saints who now feast at the heavenly table. Keep us faithful as we await Christ's coming in glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O God, who shines light into darkness, receive these prayers and the prayers of our hearts through the power of the Spirit, in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

## **The Peace**

*Celebrant* :The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

*Then the Minister and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

*(Announcements)*

## Offertory Hymn: “O Holy Night” Sung by Choir Composer: Adolphe Adams

### THE HOLY COMMUNION

*In the Episcopal Church all baptized persons are invited to receive Holy Communion.*

*Persons who do not wish to receive Communion are invited to come forward and receive a blessing..*

*Celebrant:* 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.*

*Celebrant:*

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all and fill them with your blessing; you created them to in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, glorify your Name, as we sing (say),

*The Celebrant continues:*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, into you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own gift for those who believe, to complete his work inworld, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or 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 the wine to be consecrated.*

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his Father, having loved his own who were in the, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he took, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink, do this for the remembrance of me."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Christ's death and his descent among the dead, his resurrection and ascension to your right, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise and we bless you.

*and People*

***We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.***

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into a place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, David and all the saints who have found favor you in ages past. We praise you in union with them give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Spirit, for ever and for ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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.**

## **The Breaking of the Bread**

*The People say or sing*

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

## **Ministration of Communion**

*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.

**Communion Hymn: “Child of the poor/what child is this” Sung by choir**

**Composer: Scott Soper**

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

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

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

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## **A Prayer of Thanksgiving** (*spoken in unison*)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your Son at Christmas. We give you thanks for binding us together in these Holy Mysteries of the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we your people, may become one in heart and soul, live in fidelity and peace, and obtain those eternal joys prepared for all who love You; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **The Lighting of the Candles**

*Silent Night (kneeling)*

*Hymnal 111*

## **The Blessing**

Send, O God, into the darkness of this troubled world, the light of your Son: Let the star of your hope touch the minds of all people with the bright beams of mercy and truth; and so direct our steps that we may always walk in the way revealed to us, as the shepherds of Bethlehem walked with joy to the manger where he dwelt who now and ever reigns in our hearts, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen..**

**Recessional Hymn: “Hark the herald angels sing’**

**Hymnal 87**

## **Dismissal**

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

