



Faith Episcopal Church – Christmas 2021 at Wheeler Memorial Chapel

Christmas Eve at 4:00 & Christmas Day at 10:00 (as below, omitting the music)

The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld, Bishop; The Rev. Patricia E. Henking, Vicar and The Rev. Michael B. Reinke, Curate
Nancy E. Jamrog-Couret, Music Director & Jane Howard & Therese Wright, Wardens

Please wear a mask whether or not you are vaccinated. Social distancing is recommended.

Also note: This color print signifies music. ***Bold, black Italics signifies "Please say in unison."***

Prelude – *On the Hillsides* (NEJ-C)

Gathering and Announcements; Carol – *O little town of Bethlehem*

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light.
The hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming,
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

Celebrant: Beloved in Christ, be it this Christmastide our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and in heart and mind to go, even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, the Babe lying in a manger. Therefore, let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God: The means of grace and the hope of glory are presented in this Holy Child. Let us make this place glad with our devotion and praise.

People: *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.*

Celebrant: O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lighting of the Christmas Candles as we sing *Light a Christ Child Candle* (NEJ-C)

Light a Christ Child candle for the story told this night: mystery and hope abound in God's gift of love and light.

Light a Christ Child candle for the story told this night.

Light a Christ Child candle for the shepherds and the sheep: Watching, waiting, led by starlight; a story all will keep.

Light a Christ Child candle for the shepherds and the sheep.

Light a Christ Child candle for the Faith the Magi bring: Searching for the One who's sent; "Alleluia," angels sing.

Light a Christ Child candle for the Faith the Magi bring.

Homily – The Patricia E. Henking

Carol – *Away in a manger*

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and take us to heaven to live with you there.

The Prayers of the People (Adapted: *The Bidding Prayer*, Lessons and Carols at King's College, Cambridge)
Beloved in Christ, let us pray for the needs of Christ's whole world; for peace and goodwill over all the earth; for unity and kindness within the Church He came to build. And because this of all things would rejoice His heart, let us at this time remember in His Name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry, and the oppressed; the sick and them that mourn; the lonely and unloved; the aged and the little children; all those who know not the Lord Jesus, or who love Him not, or who by sin have grieved His heart of love. Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. The almighty God bless us with His grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

Memorials, Thanksgivings and Intercessions may be added, noting that the Christmas Poinsettias, candies and gifts are being shared by:

Pete and Barbara Linkroum
Chuck and Lorraine Schuft
Mitch Couret and
Nancy E. Jamrog-Couret
Sue Gaillardetz
Vicar Pat Henking+

In Loving Memory of Bill and Melanie Munroe
In Loving Memory of Susan Morrison and Ursula Begley
In Loving Memory of Miller J. Jamrog, and
In Thanksgiving for Friends and Family
In Loving Memory of Roland Gaillardetz
In Loving Memory of Anne Sinclair, Betty L. and
George A. Henking, friends and loved ones, and
In Thanksgiving for every grain of sand

Then we join together saying this *Prayer attributed to St. Francis*:



Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Celebrant: Walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Light a Christ Child candle for a baby born this night: Jesus lying in a manger, adorned with God's radiant Light.
Light a Christ Child candle for a baby born this night.

Light a Christ Child candle for God's Spirit that is love: Glories of the heav'nly host open realms of love above.
Light a Christ Child candle for God's Spirit that is love

Light a Christ Child candle. Pray for Peace and Harmony. Let it blaze a Path of Love for all humanity. Light a Christ Child candle. Pray for Peace and Harmony.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet 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.

Carol – What child is this

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?

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own Him.

The King of kings salvation brings;
Let loving hearts enthrone Him.

This, this is Christ, the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring Him laud,
The Babe, the Son of Mary!

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.

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

At the Offertory & Preparation of the Altar – *The Peace Carol by Bob Beers*



The garment of life, be it tattered and torn
the cloak of the soldier is weathered and worn
But what child is this that was poverty-born
The peace of Christmas Day

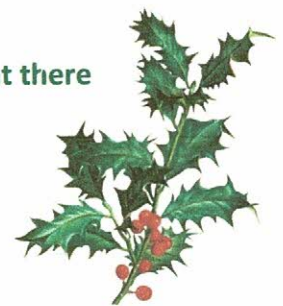
The branch that bears the bright holly
The dove that rests in yonder tree
The light that shines for all to see
The peace of Christmas Day

The hope that has slumbered for 2000 years
A promise that silenced a thousand fears
A faith that can hobble an ocean of tears
The peace of Christmas Day

The branch that bears the bright holly
The dove that rests in yonder tree
The light that shines for all to see
The peace of Christmas Day

Add all the grief that people may bear
Total the strife and the troubles and care
Put them in columns then leave them right there
The peace of Christmas Day

||:The branch that bears the bright holly
The dove that rests in yonder tree
The light that shines for all to see
The peace of Christmas Day :||




Consecration of Bread and Wine – *The Great Thanksgiving*



Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
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 God thanks and praise.***
Celebrant Let us pray together:

We give thanks to God for the work and blessing of Creation – and for sending Christ into the world in Love and Peace. We remember before God our hope in gathering today ...

 ***Santo, santo, santo, mi corazón te adora! Mi corazón te sabe decir: santo eres Señor!
Holy, holy, holy. My heart, my heart adores you! My heart is glad to say, the words: You are holy, Lord!***

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

Recalling Christ's suffering and death, and celebrating his resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Accept, O Lord, our sacrifice of praise, this remembrance of your unfailing love.

Send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts. Let them be for us the Body and Blood of your Son. And grant that we who eat this bread and drink this cup may be filled with your life and goodness.

We pray that all may receive the benefits of Christ's work, and the renewal of the Holy Spirit.

Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

May the Child born this night be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

The Breaking of the Bread, The Lord's Prayer, Holy Communion

Everyone who sincerely wishes to receive is welcome. Please take bread (it is all gluten-free.) from the tin, and then take a small glass of wine, drink from your cup and return it. If you prefer a blessing, let us know by crossing your arms over your chest.

First Carol During Communion – The chorus from *On the Hillsides* (NEJ-C) is repeated reverently – Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Second Carol During Communion – *It came upon the midnight clear*

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Then the Celebrant says: **Let us pray.**

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

This carol is sung by with light shining in the darkness – *Silent night*

Silent night, holy night!
All is calm, and 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!
All is calm, and all is bright
Round yon Virgin, Mother and Child
Holy infant so tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace
Sleep in heavenly peace

**A Choral Response is sung by our curate, The Rev. Michael B. Reinke
The Christmas Blessing is offered by our vicar, The Rev. Patricia E. Henking
The Dismissal is followed by the response, *Thanks be to God. Ukuthula.*
*Postlude***

