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let the heavens be glad,
and let the earth rejoice
PSALM 96:11

The Nativity of Our Lord

December 24, 2021

Evening Prayer

Gathering Music

"O Come, All Ye Faithful" Hymn #83 (vss. 1-3, 4)

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, (3×)
Christ the Lord.

God of God, light of light,
Lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, begotten, not created:
O come, let us adore Him, (3×)
Christ the Lord.

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, (3×)
Christ the Lord.

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, (3×)
Christ the Lord.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant O God, make speed to save us.
People O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.**

O Gracious Light

Phos hilaron

O gracious light, pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven, O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!

Now as we come to the setting of the sun, and our eyes behold the vesper light, we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices, O Son of God, O Giver of Life, and to be glorified through all the worlds.

Psalm 96

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 **Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 **Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**

- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 **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."**
- 11 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.
- 12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.**
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with his truth.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

A Reading from 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.**

Song of Praise

"What Would You Say To Me?"

Lyrics and music by Barney Hartley, 2019, 2020.

Sung by: Debbie Gaines, Jimi Flaherty, Galen Morris, Christina James, Nancy Bess, and Barney Hartley. <https://youtu.be/Rgf1bX7wUQ8>

A Reading from Titus (2:11-14)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Reader*The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

The Song of Simeon *Nunc Dimittis*

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

Officiant and People

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: **as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Christmas Pageant

This year, our Pageant is presented by Jack, Addison, and Parker Haynes using our traditional script with music from our 2018 live performance (Maria McKanzie, piano; Lowell Anderson, trumpet).

Reader 1:

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke and St. Matthew.

Reader 2:

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. And all went to pay the tax, everyone into his own city.

Enter Mary and Joseph

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

(Hymn 79, vss. 1 & 5)

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.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us we pray;
Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

Reader 3:

And Joseph also went up to Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea unto the city of David which is called Bethlehem.

He went to be taxed with Mary, his wife, who was great with child. Due to the busy tax season, the city was full of people. Mary and Joseph looked for a place to stay.

Joseph:

Do you have any room for us to stay?

Innkeeper:

No. The inn is full.

Joseph:

Please! My wife is going to have a baby soon!

Innkeeper:

Well, I do have fresh hay in the barn. Come, I will lead you there.

Innkeeper leads Mary and Joseph to the stable

Reader 3:

The innkeeper led them to a stable that was warm and dry. There Mary and Joseph settled down for the night. And so it was that while they were there, a child was born.

Mary takes the baby into her arms

Reader 1:

And she brought forth her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger.

Mary:

I shall name him Jesus!

AWAY IN A MANGER (Hymn 101, vss. 1 & 2)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the 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 thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Reader 1:

And there in the same country, were shepherds in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

Enter shepherds

THE FIRST NOWELL (Hymn 109, vss. 1 & 2)

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

Refrain:

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell

Born is the King of Israel.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. *Refrain*

Reader 2:

The angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them.

Enter angels

ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

(Hymn 96, vs. 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

Reader 2:

And the angel of the Lord said unto them,

Head Angel:

Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you born this day is Christ the Lord.

Reader 3:

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying...

Everyone together:

Glory to God in the Highest, and peace on earth; good will towards all!

Lead King:

Shepherds were not the only worshippers at the cradle in Bethlehem. Great and wise kings also came bearing fine gifts!

Enter wise men

WE THREE KINGS (Hymn 128, vss. 1 & 5)

We three kings of Orient are,
bearing gifts we traverse afar,
field and fountain, moor and mountain,
following yonder star.

Refrain:

O star of wonder, star of night,
star with royal beauty bright;
Westward leading, still proceeding,
guide us to the perfect light!

Glorious now behold him arise,
King and God and Sacrifice;
Heaven sings alleluia:
alleluia the earth replies. *Refrain*

Reader:

As we approach this joyful and holy season where all will be calm and bright, take time to be a shepherd, a wise man, or an angel to someone in your life. Celebrate with others the birth of Jesus Christ our King. We hope that our pageant has helped you remember once again the true meaning of Christmas. Please join us in singing "O Come All Ye Faithful" as our pageant concludes.

Pageant Exits

O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL (Hymn 83, vs. 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;

Refrain:

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

The Sermon

Fr. Haynes

Silence for reflection

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People together

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

**Our father in heaven
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace
and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins
and offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the
whole world,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,
and not be condemned before the great judgment
seat of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit
in the communion of Blessed Joseph, the Ever
Blessed Virgin Mary, and all your saints,
entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

Officiant

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 forever. *Amen.*

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all
right judgements, and all just works: Give to us,
your servants, that peace which the world cannot
give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of
your will, and that we, being delivered from the
fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness;
through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

O God, you manifest in your servants the signs of
your presence: Send forth upon us the spirit of
love, that in companionship with one another your
abounding grace may increase among us; through
Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,
**we your unworthy servants give you humble
thanks for all your goodness and loving-
kindness to us and to all whom you have made.
We bless you for our creation, preservation,
and all the blessings of this life; but above all
for your immeasurable love in the redemption
of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the
means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And,
we pray, give us such an awareness of your
mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may
show forth your praise, not only with our lips,
but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your
service, and by walking before you in holiness
and righteousness all our days; through Jesus
Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy
Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages.
Amen.**

Candle Song

“Silent Night”

Hymn #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 dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth

The Blessing

May Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and Holy Spirit be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

St. Matthew Mission Statement

To be a church that passionately embraces and values all people, growing in the love of Christ through word and action.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.

Amen. *Ephesians 3:20,21*

Sending Song

"Joy to the World" Hymn #100
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 earth, the Savior reigns!
Let men their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.

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.