

St. David's Episcopal Church
Second Sunday after Christmas
Sunday, January 3, 2021 – 9:00 am

Worship in the Time of Covid-19

Welcome to the St. David's Worship Service as we observe cautions to protect the health of each of us, especially those who are described as most vulnerable (one of whom is Fr. Don). We believe the best advice of medical experts who are still advising us not to gather for in-person worship, and that our observance of these cautions is an act of love for others.

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

The Angel Gabriel

1. **The angel Gabriel from heaven came,
his wings as drifted snow, his eyes as flame;
"All hail," said he, "thou lowly maiden Mary,
most highly favored lady," Gloria!**
3. **Then gentle Mary meekly bowed her head,
"To me be as it pleaseth God," she said,
"my soul shall laud and magnify his holy Name."
Most highly favored lady, Gloria!**
4. **Of her, Emmanuel, the Christ, was born
in Bethlehem, all on a Christmas morn,
and Christian folk throughout the world will ever say--
"Most highly favored lady," Gloria!"**

Priest Blessed be God: most holy, glorious, and undivided Trinity

People And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen.

Priest 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: *(spoken by all)*

**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.**

Collect of the Day

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

Priest In time of anxiety, illness suffering and death, your people turn to you for hope and comfort. O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Thus says the Lord: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel. See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’ For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,” says the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84:1-8

Led by Peter Tobasco

Quam dilecta!

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of
the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

- 2 **The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.**

- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 **Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find
it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 **They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 **Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**

Second Reading

Corinne Peters

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. **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.**

3. **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.**

5. **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!**

Holy Gospel**Matthew 2:13-15,19-23****Deacon****The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Matthew.**

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up,

take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Children's Sermon

**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.**

Sermon

Father Don

The Nicene Creed

**All: 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.**

The Prayers of the People

Led by Beau Sawyer

Reader: Joining our voices with the song of the angels, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Reader: Redeeming God, you gather together your people from the farthest parts of the earth. Protect your church from stumbling. Let it not be overcome by sorrow, division, or despair. Make us radiant with goodness, that we might live always to the praise of your glory. We pray especially for the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin, our Presiding Bishop Michael, our Bishop William, our Priest Don, our Deacon Hank, Brother John, Pastoral Associate Kate, Deacon Postulant Carol and Postulant Allie. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: You bring together heaven and earth. All creation testifies to your splendor. Hold the ecosystems of this earth in delicate balance, from coastlands to farmlands, forests to wetlands, deserts to rainforests. Show us new ways to live in harmony with the world around us. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: You overflow with grace upon grace. Expand the imaginations of those who serve in positions of authority. Open their hearts to the needs of their nations and communities. Protect all those in harm's way and those risking danger for the sake of others. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: You bring consolation to those who weep. Embrace those who feel far-off, excluded, or defeated. Accompany those living with chronic and invisible illness. Sustain the weak and weary. Refresh those who labor under the weight of pain or sickness especially all those on our parish prayer list. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: You come to us in the beauty of darkness and of light. Bring justice and reconciliation to communities divided by oppressions and misuse of power. Guide us to speak holy words of advocacy and truth. Help us to honor your image in one another.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: We especially pray today in remembrance and thanksgiving for the birthdays of Kathy Herzog, Lesline Bailey, and Marguerite Walker also the wedding anniversaries of Ernesto & Bella Somera, and John & Gwen Rebbeck. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: You turn our mourning into joy. We give thanks for those who have died in faith especially those taken by the coronavirus. With all the saints, give us our inheritance in Christ. In the fullness of time, gather us all together in your mercy. We pray to the Lord.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: God of mercy, come quickly to us with grace upon grace as we lift these and all our prayers to you, in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Confession of Sin

Priest Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:29-31)

All: We were sheep who had lost their way, but the shepherd knew our names. We were strangers without a country, but our kingdom came to us. We were children far from home, but God sent his Son to guide us. And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, to proclaim the forgiveness of sins. Amen

The Peace

Priest: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Offertory Blessing

Priest: Gracious and generous Creator, your people come before you this day with the offering of their whole selves, of all that they are, and all that they have. The gifts they have made to support the ministry and mission of St. David's Church are a symbol of their very lives and their commitment to invest a portion of themselves in your on-going work in the world. May those who make this sacrifice of praise and gratitude be so filled with your own generous spirit, that it pours out of each and every one into the world around them. Hear these prayers and accept our humble gifts. Bless them. Make them abound that all people through our work and sacrifice in your name, may know and feel your abundant blessings. All this we ask of you, our Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier. **Amen.**

Liturgy of the Table

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 our thanks and praise.

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. While a pandemic continues to cause illness and death around the world, your people come to you filled with faith and hope. For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Priest and People: Holy, holy, holy 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.
Hosana in the highest.**

Priest: In this time of fear and stress, we turn our hearts to you looking for your help and consolation.

The darkness of winter is gradually yielding to the light, as days get longer, yet we still hear the advice of medical experts who tell us to separate ourselves from each other for our own safety, and out of concern for one another.

Today we celebrate your love for all creation, and we remember the many times when our community of faith has gathered to be fed by your word and sacrament.

We remember the many times in ages past when your people were fed through your loving care.

In this dark season of isolation, we remember the food you provided your People as they journeyed through the wilderness toward the Promised land.

We remember how Jesus fed the multitudes who had come to listen to his preaching in another wilderness place. And above all, we remember the evening when Jesus gathered with a small group of his friends, to link his life to the ancient story of liberation celebrated by the Jewish people in the Passover.

Jesus took the simple food and drink before him and created for all time a means by which those who love him may be joined intimately with him. He created a sacrament for your Church, but in this time of sickness, when our joyful celebrations are curtailed, we cannot gather as we would wish.

So we turn to your words, “Whenever you do this, [whenever you eat and drink,] do it in remembrance of me.”

We have feasted on your word, and now we give thanks that your love reaches to our generation so that having this food before us reminds us of the abundance of your goodness through which we are sustained every day.

With sorrow, we mourn the loss of receiving your blessed Body and Blood.

With gratitude, we take what you have made available to us as a taste of your abundant grace. We thank you, Lord, our God

All: We thank you, Lord our God.

Priest: As one family we now pray as our Savior Christ has taught us,

**All: 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.**

Priest: Loving God, bless all those spiritually gathered here today, as we remember the friendship and fellowship of our church. Place in our hearts the desire to make a difference to our families, to our community, to our country, and to the world. Give us peace in these times of distraction and uncertainty.

Thank you for food in a world where many know only hunger; For our faith in a world where many know fear; For friends in a world where many know only loneliness. Please bless this food we are about to share, bless those through whose labor we receive it. For all of this we give you thanks.

All: We give you thanks

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

Led by Kate O'Connor

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, we desire to offer to you our praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you will 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.**

All eat and drink from the food before us. After all have tasted of the food (the food may be finished after the conclusion of the Service) and the music has ended.

Communion Music

Katy Widmer-Boyer, Mezzo-Soprano

**How Suddenly a Baby Cried
from Keith and Kristyn Getty's
"An Irish Christmas"**

Post Communion Prayer

Priest: Let us pray

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ.
You have fed us with the spiritual food of your Word
and you have given us the means to partake
of the abundance of this world.
Make us mindful now that you have called us
to be your presence in this world,
and grant us strength and courage to love
and serve you and the people you have set before us
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Vestry and Discernment Committee Prayer

All: Lord, we ask you to guide the members of our
Vestry and Discernment Committee so that they may hear
Your voice leading St. David's Church into the future
to which you are calling us.
Give them wisdom and insight into the qualities of
Leadership needed to best serve our precious church.
Inspire also the person You intend to be our spiritual leader
and pastor. Give us all a sense of happy anticipation
as we await the one we know will be the right one
according to Your plan for us.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

Birthday Blessings

Anniversary Blessings

Announcements

Final Blessing

Priest: May the blessing of God the Father, who created all things and set them before us, give you joy in his creation.

All: Amen.

Priest: May the Son of God, Jesus the Christ, who showed us the Way of love fill you with the spirit of love for one another.

All: Amen.

Priest: May the Spirit of God who abides with the Church, lead you to take up your call to live as a citizen of the Kingdom of God.

All: Amen.

Priest: And may Almighty God be with you always and bless you, +
The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

1982 Hymnal 87

Hark the Herald

- 1. 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 hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!**

**Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!**

- 2. 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 Immanuel! (Refrain)**

3. 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! (Refrain)

Dismissal

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord and one another.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Announcements

Because of the recent rise in the infection rate of Covid-19 in the state of New Jersey, the Bishop has counseled churches of the Diocese to suspend in-person worship. For the time, St. David's will revert to the kind of online Zoom service that we had through the spring and summer. A special Christmas Season service bulletin for our Zoom services will be found on the Events page of the website. After Epiphany, the bulletin will be adjusted in accordance with the Epiphany Season. We have every reason to hope that major shut-down across the state will bring a decrease in the infection rate and allow us to resume in-person worship soon. The witness of St. David's is a sign for the Cranbury community beyond just our members that this illness is to be taken seriously, so our sacrifice serves the world around us.

When the church is once again open for worship, registration for the in-person service is primarily online, using the link found on the Events page of the parish website. It will cap attendance at 25 households. We will keep three future services up so that you can pre-register. Right now, it seems that the maximum number of registrants is not being met, so if you have already attended a service and you would want to attend the following week, you may do so.

Moving forward, registration for services will remain open and only close once the maximum capacity limitation of 25 is met.

The altar party (priest, deacon, lay reader, music director) must also register (remember to put your title next to your name.)

Stewardship 2021: Reflection and Renewal

It's not too late to make your pledge to St. David's!

*Please return your pledge card to the office,
90 S. Main Street, Cranbury NJ 08512 or
pledge online - click on the 'Stewardship' tab.*

Save the Date:

**St. David's Annual Meeting via Zoom
Sunday, January 31, 2021.**

Registration and requirements will be forthcoming

**Please submit annual reports to the office by Monday, January 11, 2021.
Thank you.**

The Prayer Station - "Just let God into the situation and hold it there"

Dr. Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury, on intercessory prayer.

Deacon Hank and Pastoral Care Associate Kate are available to pray with you following the dismissal from the Sunday morning service.

The station is open for 30 minutes.

They each have their own Zoom link on the Events page. Join them by clicking on the link with their name.

They look forward to meeting you in prayer.

Something New in Pastoral Care! Telephone Call Ministry

We want to stay connected as a St. David's community, so several of our parishioners are each taking a page from the roster and will call everyone on that page – including YOU - every month or two.

They'll be making a friendly visit with some conversation, and then ask how you are doing. It's something we can do as "way of love" – a way our Presiding Bishop Michael Curry calls us to live and be for one another. Don't be surprised when you hear from us!

Pastoral Associate Kate will continue making her calls, but now you'll also hear from another St. David's parishioner as well. It's all good!

You Are Invited to Contemplative Prayer

St. David's and St. Francis Dunellen, are partnered to offer us multiple opportunities for Contemplative Prayer each month.

St. David's meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month at 7 PM – January 4th and 18th.

<http://www.stdavidscranbury.com/events.html> You can phone into St. David's Zoom by calling 1-646-876-9923, meeting ID 451 815-3355#, and when prompted for participant ID press #.

St. Francis' group meets every Wednesday at 1 PM

<https://www.stfrancisdunellen.org> You can phone into St. Francis Zoom by calling 1-669-900-6833, meeting ID 595-854-4455 #, when prompted for participant ID press #, for password enter 2475689.

No experience with silent prayer or meditation is needed, just the desire to pray “the simplest form of prayer there is” (Cynthia Bourgeault), and at a time such as this, keeping it simple may be exactly what is needed! We provide an introduction to contemplative prayer at the beginning of each session.

If you have any questions or would like to learn about contemplative prayer before joining us, contact Kate at 609-658-7315 or k_oconnor22@verizon.net

Please remember in your Prayers this week: Judy Evans, Tom Evans, Karen Rowden, Michael Koretsky, Don Nancoo, Lourdes Sanchez, Nora, Gabriel, Adrian Sun, Cameron Polanco, Tappen Soper, Barbara, Elke Lindemann, Mary Channon Cushing, Ken Robinson, Lynda Hammel, Beau Sawyer, Meridith Stout, Yvonne Tessier, Theresa Wilson, Ed Merkel, Tracy Rozkowski, Alyssa, Debbie, Susan Harroun, Carol Toth, Omar Holmes, Kathleen Sinclair, Ron Surtz, Sue Dell, Talan, Linda, Rita, Marion, Lisa, Lillian, David Muggeo, Jane Muggeo, Lisa Muggeo, Gary Long, Diane Roby, Arthur Roby, Laura, Mary, Jeff Reed, Paul Szymanski, Bea, Rachel Krimkowitz, Harry Krimkowitz, Nicole Sitko, Thomas Gregory, Rita Lecorchick, Robin Machnik, Joanne Morse, Roger Hammel, Timothy Doyle, Linda Turato, Adam Krimkowitz, Neal Rouse, Loraine, Kathy, Laura, Cliff Shore, Alice Wilberforce, Doug Szalai, Lily Chung, Bill, Piper Sousa, Hilda Delgado, Carl, Kai, Tom Coulter, Joyce, Brian, Carl, Joyce, Nanci B., Stewart Sowter, Kristen Holobowicz, Sarah Nestrock, Ted, Katie Turner, Jennie Herbert, Barbara Ann Stoner, George Grau, Sharon, Barbara M., Leslie Terhune, Diane, Aiden, Keith Franks, Carley Machnik, Gary Kaylor, Baby NcKeana Grace and Family.

(Names remain on the healing list for four weeks. Please contact the parish office to have names added or to extend those already on the list

Pray for those in the Armed Forces and others who are serving at home and abroad: Donald Whitlock, James McDermott, Joseph Matson, Gregory Seymour, James Kelly, Sam Crumbaugh, Ken St. Germain, Trevor Stranko, Grace Stranko, Drew Vigliotti, Shawn Porter, Nathan Pane and John Michael Vavala.