

**St. David's Episcopal Church**

**Christmas Day**

**Friday, December 25, 2020 – 10:00 am**

**Opening Hymn**

**1982 Hymnal 97**

**Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

**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)**

Priest Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. 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:**

**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, 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 First Lesson

Steve Channon

### 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.

Reader            The Word of the Lord.

People            **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 98

Led by Steve Channon

- 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.**

## Second Reading

Kate O'Connor

### Hebrews 1:1-4,(5-12)

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.

For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels worship him."

Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions." And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands; they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing; like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will never end."

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

Sequence Hymn

1982 Hymnal 79

**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!**

**Priest**

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Priest

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People**

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Father Don**

## A Christmas Creed

**All:** I believe in God whose light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never smother it.

**I believe that on a night in Bethlehem  
there was born a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.**

**I believe in the Word who became incarnate,  
our very flesh and blood, yet full of grace and truth.**

**I believe in the blessed appearing of the salvation of our God,  
that is for the happiness of all people.**

**I believe in his name as Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace;**

**I believe that of the increase of his rule and of his unique peace,  
there will be no end. The zeal of the God of hosts will do this.**

**This I surely believe!**

## The Prayers of the People for Christmas

Led by Kate O'Connor

**Reader:** Jesus Christ, born in a stable, Be with the poor and homeless this  
Christmas time.  
As we pray, live and give; (silent prayer)

**All:** Shine your everlasting light.

**Reader:** Jesus Christ, born of Mary, Be with young mothers across the world  
this Christmas time.  
As we pray, live and give; (silent prayer)

**All:** Shine your everlasting light.

**Reader:** Jesus Christ, visited by Shepherds, Be with all who have to work this  
Christmas, and those who long to work.  
As we pray, live and give; (silent prayer)

**All:** Shine your everlasting light.

Reader: Jesus Christ, who became a refugee, Be with those who fear for their lives, and those who cannot be with their families this Christmas.  
As we pray, live and give;

**All: Shine your everlasting light. Amen.**

### **Confession of Sin for Christmas**

Priest: O God, you search us out and know us, and all that we are is open to you. We confess that we have sinned.

**All: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Priest: When we make no room for Christ, and fail to welcome him into our lives,

**All: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Priest: When we follow shooting stars and squander our gifts in Herod's court,

**All: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Priest: When we seek to cut down those who might rise above us,

**All: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Priest: When we turn your birth place into something quaint and erase from memory the poor and displaced of our own time,

**All: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Priest: When we sing sweet sentiments over Christ's birth, and fail to rejoice over his everyday presence in our lives,

**All: In your mercy, Lord, forgive us and heal us.**

Priest: We turn to you, O Christ, perfect union of Spirit and flesh;

**All: We renounce evil; We claim your love; We choose to be made whole.**

Priest: Church, take heart! You are forgiven, you are loved —  
Our God will not leave us alone in this time—  
We, the Church, are powerful in Love and he who was sent dwells  
among us. Transform us, faithful God, by your Spirit and your Word  
into a faithfulness which never falters. Bring us into Your Peace,  
joining saints and angels of all ages. In the name of the Father, the  
Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. **Amen.**

### **The Peace**

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

**People: And also with you.**

### **The Holy Communion**

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 God thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, to become your children. Eternally the Angels praise your majesty and worship together with exultation. May our voices, join with theirs in humble praise as we acclaim

**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.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest: Holy and gracious Father: In this time of fear and stress, we turn our hearts to you, looking for your help and consolation. We recall this day the quiet of the birth of Jesus, away from the bustle of life, as we cautiously maintain our own isolation for our safety, and out of concern for one another. We affirm that the power of God is always greater than death. We take heart as we remember your love for all creation, and we recall the many times when the people of St. David's gathered in joyful celebration to be fed by your word and sacrament.

We remember, too, that many times in ages past your people were fed through your loving care. We remember the food you provided your People as they journeyed through the wilderness toward the Promised land.

We remember how, in another wilderness place, Jesus fed the multitudes who had come to listen to his preaching. And above all, we recall 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. That night, 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 and with each other. 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 trust that you are present to your people once again.

We have feasted on your word, and now we give thanks that in this time your love reaches into our homes so that in our Christmas feasting we are reminded 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 the abundant grace of your kingdom.

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  
and recall the joy of Christmases we have celebrated in the  
past.  
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.**

*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.*

### **Spiritual Communion Prayer**

**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.**

## Communion Music

### 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.

### 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 100**

**Joy to the World!**

- 1 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.
  
- 2 Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;  
let us our songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.
  
- 4 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

## **Dismissal**

**Priest:** Alleluia! Our God is now here!

Go forth to spread the Good News wherever you go,  
sharing God's love and promise with all whom you meet.  
Go into the world to find the lost,  
heal the broken,  
feed the hungry,  
release the prisoner,  
rebuild the nations,  
bring peace among people,  
and make music in every heart.

**All:** **Thanks be to God.**