

St. David's Episcopal Church

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020 – 10:00 pm

Prelude **Hannah Lohr-Pearson, Cello**

Bach Cello Suite

Introit **St. David's Choir**

Sing We Now of Christmas

Traditional French adapted/arr. John Riggio

Opening Hymn **1982 Hymnal 83**

O Come, All Ye Faithful

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.

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest;
[Refrain]

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
[Refrain]

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

Reader 1: Today we celebrate the gift of the Incarnation, Emmanuel, God with us. We celebrate the birth of Christ who is the Light of the World—a Light no darkness can extinguish. Christ's Light can enter any darkness and as members of the Body of Christ, we live in the Light of Christ.

Reader 2: “And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us, and we saw his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.” (John 1:14) Jesus, the Son of God, chose to be born of Mary, to become human, one of us. He lived among us, experiencing our joys and hopes, our struggles and challenges. He came to bring us out of the darkness to which we had fallen and into God's wonderful, eternal Light.

(Reader lights all the candles on the Advent Wreath and the white candle in the center—the Christ candle.)

Reader 3: Let us pray - Loving God, we thank you for your mystery of the Incarnation – Emmanuel, God with us. Help us receive the Light of Christ in our hearts and share it generously and joyfully in our families and communities. We ask this in the name of the one born in Bethlehem, Jesus our Lord.

All: Amen.

O come, O come, Emanuel (verse 1)

**O come, O come, Emmanuel,
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel.**

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. Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born 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.**

The First Lesson

Tricia Metzger

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.**

Psalm 96

Led by Tricia Metzger

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;
 sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
 proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- 3 Declare God's glory among the nations
 and God's wonders among all peoples.
- 4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
 more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
 but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

- 6 **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your 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 the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.
- 10 **Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved 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 at your coming,
O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- 13 You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading

Kathy Herzog

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.

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

- 1 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.

- 2 Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel sounds
the blessed angels sing.

- 4 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 the whole world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

Deacon

**The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke**

People

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.

Deacon

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

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 Deacon Hank

Deacon: 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.

Deacon: 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.

Deacon: 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.

Deacon: 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 birthplace 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

Offertory Music

Abbi & Brian Clissold

Mary Did You Know?

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. 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.

As we remember the birth of your son in a lonely stable, we cautiously maintain our isolation for our own safety, and out of concern for one another.

We affirm that the power of God is 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 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 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.

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 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 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.**

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

Katy Widmer-Boyer, Soprano
St. David's Choir

O Holy Night

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.

Silent Night Reading

About 200 years ago in a small church in Austria the organist Franz came to Joseph Moore and said, "Father Joseph, the organ is broken and we'll have no music for the Christmas Eve service." Later in the day as Father Joseph made his rounds, he visited a home where a baby had just been born and he thought about the birth of the baby Jesus. He was so inspired that he wrote a poem and went back to the church and found Franz. He said if we can't have the old organ maybe we can have a new song and you can play the guitar. Franz said, "father I only know three chords." "Then make a song with three chords," said Joseph. Well Franz hummed and strummed and soon he composed the most beautiful of all the Christmas carols.

- 1 **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.**

- 2 **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!**

- 3 **Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.**

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 love.

Dismissal

Deacon: 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.

Postlude

Hannah Lohr-Pearson, Cello

Merry Christmas
John Williams