



**St. George's**  
Episcopal Church

# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

DECEMBER 24, 2020  
8:30 PM

The Rev. Merrill Wade, *Interim Priest*

Melissa Brackin, *Senior Warden*

Ms. Mi-Young Kim, *Music Director*

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The mission of St. George's Episcopal Church is to worship God and share our faith through word, action, and service.

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WE WELCOME YOU to join the story that is ongoing and of which we are all still a part. Today is CHRISTMAS EVE, when Advent comes to its fulfillment, and we greet with



joy the birth of the Christ Child. Christmas is not one but twelve days of celebration and rejoicing, which we begin tonight. May you have a joyous Christmas season!

WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE WITH US. In this difficult and uncertain time, our commitment to one another as the Body of Christ is more important than ever. We are blessed to be able to join together in prayer, even as we are unable to be together in person as we would wish.

### GUIDE TO ABBREVIATIONS

**H** – 1982 Hymnal

**LEVAS** – Lift Every Voice and Sing

**BCP** – Book of Common Prayer

## WELCOME

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

## OPENING HYMN

### O Come, All Ye Faithful

H 83

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,  
6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heav'n a - bove;  
leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;  
Je - sus to thee be glo - ry giv'n;

come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
we too would thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?  
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,  
O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

Words: John Francis Wade. Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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

**Officiant** 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.

**People** **Amen.**

**SONG OF PRAISE**

**H 96**

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,  
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?  
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;  
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.  
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?  
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born king.  
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Glo - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Glo - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes.

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**BCP 212**

**Officiant** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Officiant** Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting.

**People** **Amen.**

**FIRST READING**

**ISAIAH 9:2-7**

**Reader** A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

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**

**CANTATE DOMINO**

- 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.**

**SECOND READING**

**TITUS 2:11-14**

*Reader* A reading from the letter of Titus.

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.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN**

***Hark! the Herald Angels Sing***

**H 87**



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing — glo - ry to the new - born King!  
2 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored; — Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — born that we no more may die,



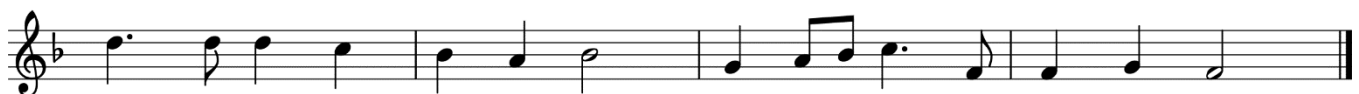
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, — God and sin - ners re - con - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, — off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, — born to give us sec - ond birth.



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — join the tri - umph of the skies; —  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; — hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty. —  
Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings, — light and life to all he brings, —



with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heav'n - born Prince of Peace!



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley, alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn; adapt. William H. Cummings.

*Officiant*        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.

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

## THE SERMON

THE REV. MERRILL WADE

## NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM III

BCP 387

- Intercessor* Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
*People* **That we all may be one.**
- Intercessor* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
*People* **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**
- Intercessor* We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
*People* **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**
- Intercessor* We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
*People* **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**
- Intercessor* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
*People* **That our works may find favor in your sight.**
- Intercessor* Have compassion on all those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
*People* **That they may be delivered from their distress.**
- Intercessor* Give to the departed eternal rest;  
*People* **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**
- Intercessor* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
*People* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**
- Intercessor* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.  
 (Silence)

Officiant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,  
People **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.**

Officiant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the  
prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
People **Amen.**

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,  
and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name.  
Amen.**

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
People **Amen.**

#### **THE PEACE**

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People **And also with you.**

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**THE OFFERTORY** *Recognition and thanksgiving for gifts of time, talent, pledges and other donations*  
Offerings can be given online at [www.sgchurch.org/stewardship](http://www.sgchurch.org/stewardship) (click DONATE).

**OFFERTORY MUSIC**

**O, Holy Night** (Adolphe Adam, arr. Ad Herman)

**MI-YOUNG KIM, ORGAN**  
**WEI LIN, VIOLIN**



*Once in Royal David's City (verses 1,2,6)*

H 102

1 Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,  
 2 He came down to earth from hea - ven, who is God and Lord of all,  
 6 Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing round,  
 where a mo - ther laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:  
 and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;  
 we shall see him; but in hea - ven, where his saints his throne sur - round:  
 Ma - ry was that mo - ther mild, — Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child. —  
 with the poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.  
 Christ, re - vealed to faith - ful eye, — set at God's right hand on high. —

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt.  
 Music: Irby, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harm. Henry Mason (1850-1929).

*O, Little Town of Bethlehem (verses 1,5)*

H 79

1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 5 O ho - ly child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us we pray;  
 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.  
 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad ti - dings tell;  
 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 O come to us, a - bide with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893). Music: St. Louis, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908).

*Away in a Manger* (verses 1,3)

LEVAS 27

1 A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed,  
 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay  
 the lit - tle Lord Je - sus lays down his sweet head.  
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.  
 The stars in the bright sky look down where he lay,  
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,  
 the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.  
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Words: traditional carol. Music: Mueller, James R. Murray, (1841-1905).

*Silent Night*

H 111

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm, all is bright,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake at the sight,  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light,  
 round you vir - gin mo - ther and child. Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild,  
 glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far, heav'n - ly host\_\_ sing a - le - lu - ia;  
 ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,  
 sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.\_\_\_\_ Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 Christ the Sa - vior is born!\_\_\_\_ Christ the Sa - vior is born!  
 Je - sus, Lord at thy birth.\_\_\_\_ Je - sus, Lord at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr; tr. John Freeman Young. Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber; harm. Carl H. Reinecke.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

H 100



1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re -  
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our  
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -  
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the



ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him  
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and  
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings  
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -



room, and heav'n and na - ture sing, and heav'n and na - ture  
 plains, re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing  
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is  
 ness, and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his



sing, and heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.  
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.  
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.  
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Words: Isaac Watts, alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel; adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason.

DISMISSAL

Officiant Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Wachet auf, ruft uns die stimme (Sleepers, Awake), BWV 645  
Johann Sebastian Bach

MI-YOUNG KIM

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## THE POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY

**Josh Beckham,**

in loving memory of  
Anne Garcia and Mike Simms.

**Fred and Michele Blood,**

in loving memory of  
Georgia, Zee, and Joel Higdon,  
and Laura, Harold, and Stephen Blood,  
and in thanksgiving  
for Ainsley, Carson, Pierce, Spencer Piper,  
Michael, Hayden, Tyree, Cody, Tory, and Tim.

**Raul V. and Nancy Carrera,**

in loving memory of  
Lazaro and Amalia Carrera,  
and Kelley and Shirley Meyer,  
and in thanksgiving for  
Chloe, Ashley, Joe, and Ben.

**Mark Casstevens,**

in thanksgiving for  
my favorite nephew Dylan.

**Dale Curry,**

in loving memory of  
Lous Curry and Gerald Gafford.

**Herb Dickson and Sandra Villalaz,**

in loving memory of  
our sister Yolanda Maloney  
and our uncle Orvil Morrison,  
and in thanksgiving for  
the Zoom Church Crew for keeping us linked  
to service, music, and our community.

**Elaine Hosage,**

in loving memory of  
Byron and Frances Hoon.

**Mikail McIntosh-Doty,**

in loving memory of  
Don and Norene McIntosh,  
and in thanksgiving  
for Anna Doty.

**Carolyn and Walter Moreau,**

in thanksgiving for  
Adam and Gabriel Moreau.

**The Pewitt family,**

in thanksgiving for  
our St George's family.

**Jan Phillips,**

in loving memory of  
Don Phillips, Jr.

**Suzette Puckett,**

in loving memory of  
Rich Harney,  
and in thanksgiving for  
Cadence, Adelaide, and Ainsley.

**Frances and John Rickard,**

in loving memory of  
Marjorie Bell Rickard  
and John Ware Jacobson,  
and in thanksgiving for our family.

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*The altar candles are given by the McGhee Family, in thanksgiving for Katie and Lexie on their 19<sup>th</sup> birthday.*

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## COLLECT FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

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.

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## THOSE WHO SERVE

*Officiant/Preacher* – The Rev. Merrill Wade  
*Organist/Pianist* – Mi-Young Kim  
*Media Coordinator* – Brad Dieringer  
*Singers* – Elaine Hosage, Stephanie Craven  
*Reader/Intercessor* – Brad Dieringer

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## ST. GEORGE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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