

Christmas Eve
Festive Choral Eucharist



Friday, December 24, 2021
7:30 p.m.

Christ Episcopal Church
Needham, Massachusetts

Welcome

Thank you for your presence in Christmas worship this evening. Together we join our voices in praise and thanksgiving for the gift of the Christ Child coming among us, who calls us to live a life of gratitude and compassion in service to all people.

Please join us on [FaceBook](#), [Zoom](#) or our [website](#) to watch the service.

The flowers and gifts on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of those on the [Christmas Memorial Flowers list](#).



Christmas Reflections

Jesus of Nazareth

Charles Gounod (1818-1893)

Evelyn Griffin, soprano

What Child is This

Tune: "Greensleeves" Old English Melody
Words by William C. Dix (1837-1898)

Arranged by Ernst Victor Wolff (1886-1961)

Mark Anderson, bass

Carol Variations on "Lo, how a rose"

Gerald Near (b. 1942)

Charles Raines, organist

Gesù Bambino

Words and Music by Pietro Yon (1886-1943)

Lisa Correnti, soprano; Bruce Goody, flute; Charles Raines, organ



Please stand as able.

[Opening Hymn 83](#) (ST 1, 3, 6)

O come, all ye faithful

Tune: *Adeste fideles*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); trad. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880)

Present form of melody att. John Francis Wade

Found in the blue hymnal, The Hymnal 1982.

Please remain standing.

THE WORD OF GOD

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Celebrant 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.

Welcome

[Hymn of Praise 96](#) (ST 1 and 4)

Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Found in the blue hymnal, The Hymnal 1982.

Collect for Christmas Eve

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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. Amen.

Please be seated.

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

Lector 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 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.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-4, 11-12*Psalter for the Christian People*, p. 130

The psalm is read responsively, breaking at the asterisk ().*

Sing to the LORD a new song; *

sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.

Sing to the LORD and bless the LORD'S name; *

proclaim the good news of salvation from day to day.

Declare the glory of the LORD among the nations *

and the wonders of the LORD among all peoples.

For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; *

he is more to be feared than all gods.

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.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD who is coming, *

when is coming to judge the earth.

Second Lesson

Titus 3:4-7

Lector When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People Thanks be to God.

Please stand as able.

Please remain standing as able.

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

The Reverend Nicholas M. Morris-Kliment

A brief moment of silent reflection follows the sermon.

Please stand or kneel as able.

The Prayers of the People

Intercessor Father, on this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human form. Renew your Church as the body of Christ. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor On this holy night Christians the world over are celebrating his birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor On this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn. Use us to protect those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor On this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Use us to bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor On this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give us grace to share the gospel of Christ's redemption. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor On this holy night the angels sang 'Peace to God's people on earth'. Strengthen us to work for peace and justice in all the world. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor On this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor On this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Keep close to you all those who have gone through death in the hope of heaven. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor On this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Blessed Mary and all the saints. Lord in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Celebrant Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. **Amen.**

Please stand as able.

The Peace of Christmas

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people exchange a brief sign of Christ's peace, with one another in the building, and with those participating online.

Please be seated.

Announcements & Invitations

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Please stand as able.

Offering of the Gifts of Bread and Wine

Offertory Anthem Sing Noël! from Noël "Grand Jeu et Duo" by Louis-Claude Daquin (1694-1772)
Arr. Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

Angels singing o'er the earth, Sweetly tell the story. And proclaim the joyous birth, Telling of God's glory. "Peace on earth" the angels sing, "and to all, salvation bring," Noel, Noel, sing glory, Tell the angel's story. Shepherds, hearing of the news, Journeyed to the stable, Leaving flocks of lambs and ewes, Went as they were able. There they saw the holy child, Christ, the Savior, meek and mild, Noel, Noel, sing glory, Tell the shepherd's story. Like the blessed ones that night, We shall bow before Him, And behold the glorious sight, Worship and adore Him. See Him in the manger laid, Christ, the Lord, is born today, Noel, Noel, sing glory, Tell the wondrous story.

Please stand or kneel as able.

The Great Thanksgiving Prayer B

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, 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, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-130

All

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are
full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na
in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

All We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

[Fraction Anthem WLP-877](#)

The disciples knew the Lord Jesus

Mark Sedio (b. 1954)

Found in the green hymnal, Wonder, Love and Praise.

Cantor The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

All The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Cantor The bread which we break, Alleluia, is the communion of the Body of Christ.

All The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

Cantor One body are we, Alleluia, for though many, we share one bread.

All The disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread.

The Invitation

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion

All are invited to receive Communion. We will receive bread only at the center station at the foot of the stairs to the altar. You are invited to come forth to receive bread. To receive the bread, put your hands out and we will place bread in them. You may also come forward simply to receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your hands in front of your chest. If you need communion brought to you, please notify one of the ushers, and Communion will be brought to you. All are invited to the Lord's table.

Music During Communion

Carols for Flute and Organ

Bruce Goody, Flutist and Charles Raines, Organist

Please stand as able.

Post-communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

All God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Post-communion Hymn 87 (ST 1 & 2)

Hark! the herald angels sing

Tune: Mendelssohn

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

Found in the blue hymnal, The Hymnal 1982.

Please be seated.

Christmas Duet

O Holy Night

Adolphe Charles Adam (1803-1856)

Lisa Correnti, soprano and Cameron Dinkens, tenor

The Blessing

Celebrant May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Light of Christ will be shared throughout the church at this time. Candle lighters will take their light from the Christ candle and move down the center aisle, lighting the candles at the end of each row; each person passes the light to their neighbor.

Please stand as able.

Closing Hymn 111

Silent Night

Tune: *Stille Nacht*

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Melody: Franz Xaver Gruber (1781-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

with Bruce Goody, flute descant

After the Closing Hymn, the Choir remains in the chancel. The Celebrant and Crucifer process to the back. Please sit to enjoy the postlude before the dismissal.

Organ Postlude

Chorale Fantasia on “Good Christian Friends, Rejoice” BWV 729

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Dismissal

Celebrant Our Savior has come. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, Alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.



WORSHIPPING † CARING † RESPONDING † GIVING

PARISH STAFF

[The Rev. Nicholas M. Morris-Kliment](#), Rector
[Pamela Goody](#), Director of Music Charles Raines, Organist
[Woody Hughes](#), Facilities Manager Liz Marson, Assisting Sexton
[Maryann Badejo](#), Bookkeeper [Ali Heard](#), Parish Administrator

ELECTED OFFICERS

Dusty Hecker, Warden Brian Mukherjee, Warden Dave Carnahan, Clerk
Assistant Treasurers: Duncan Allen and Janet Haines

MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Class of '22: Annie Russell, Bob Begin, Bob Keener, and Ingrid Melvin
Class of '23: Duncan Allen, Ginny Yerardi, Jim Black, and Joe Sweeney
Class of '24: Alyssa Kence, Cecile Leroy, Christina O'Connell, and John Carr

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Friday 9am–2pm

1132 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02494 • 781-444-1469

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