

December 24, 2024 Festival Service 8:00 P.M.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

A Faith Community rooted in Scripture, Sacraments, and the Holy Spirit

A Sacred Concert for Christmas Eve



Welcome to Christ Church on this eve of the celebration of Christ's Nativity! We are delighted that you have chosen to join us in our worship of the newborn King! This evening's celebration begins with the musicians of Christ Church presenting a 30-minute sacred concert to prepare us for worship. Almighty God is the audience: the music is offered to the glory of God alone. Please do not applaud, but rather allow the silent gaps to help prepare your heart by praying and meditating on each musical message. Please turn off or mute any electronic device that would detract from the beauty of the occasion. At the conclusion of the preludial music, the liturgy of the festival service will commence with the lighting of the Advent Wreath and the singing of O come, all ye faithful. If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to seek out an usher.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad! (Psalm 96:11)

Choir & Orchestra Praise ye the Lord of Hosts (Christmas Oratorio, Opus 12) Camille Saint-Saens



And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them... (Luke 2:9)

Organ

Pastorella (movement 2-BWV 590)

J.S. Bach



And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God...

Choir & Orchestra Shout the glad tidings! Adapted from a melody by Charles Avison



Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; praise Him with strings and pipe. (Psalm 150:4a, 5b)

Organ & Brass

Christmas Fantasy

Joel Ramey



And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. (Luke 2:51)

Air Mary, did you know Mark Lowry/Buddy Greene



He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. (John 1: 11)

Choir & Orchestra

A stable lamp is lighted

David Hurd



For while the gentle silence enveloped all things, and night in its swift course was now half gone, Your all-powerful Word leaped from heaven, from the royal throne... (Introit for the First Sunday after Christmas)

Choir & Orchestra

Gesù Bambino

Pietro Yon



Lighting of the Advent Wreath Hunter & Stephanie Van Wagenen

Processional (sung by all, standing)



words: J. F. Wade; trans. F. Oakeley and others; music: Adeste fideles, melody att. to Wade

Acclamation

All standing, the Celebrant says

For unto us a child is born.

People Unto us a son is given.

Collect of Purity (said by all)

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.

The Summary of the Law

Jesus said: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets. (Matthew 22:37-40)

Kyrie eleison

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

People Christ, have mercy upon us.

Celebrant Lord, have mercy upon us.

Song of Praise

1. Angels we have heard on high, Singing sweetly through the night, And the mountains in reply Echoing their brave delight

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo.

- **3.** Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing; come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. (Refrain)
- 4. See him in a manger laid
 Whom the angels praise above;
 Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
 While we raise our hearts in love. (Refrain)

words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt. By permission of Fleming H. Revell Co. music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

Celebrant 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. *Amen*.

First Reading

Isaiah 9:1-7

1. But there will be no gloom for her who was in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he has made glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

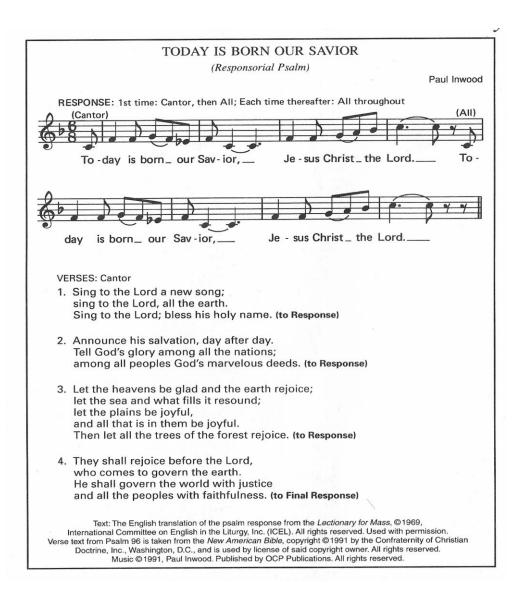
- 2. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone.
- 3. You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.
- 4. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.
- **5.** For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire.
- 6. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called

 Wonderful Counseler Mighty Cod
- Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
- 7. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end,
- on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it
- with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore.

The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this. (ESV)

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

Psalm 96



Epistle Titus 2:11-14

11. For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, 12. training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, 13. waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14. who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. (ESV)

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn



ds: Chas. Wesley, alt. T. Whitefield, M.Madan, & others; music: Mendelssohn, F. Mendelssohn, adapt. W. H. Cummings, arr. D. Willcocks

Holy Gospel Luke 2:1-20

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

1. In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. 4. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, 5. to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. 6. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. 7. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. 8. And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. 10. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. 11. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. 12. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **13.** And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, 14. "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" 15. When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." 16. And they went

with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger. 17. And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. 18. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. 19. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. 20. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. (ESV)

After the Gospel is read, the people respond as follows:

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sequence Hymn continues

Sermon Fr. Keith Allen

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, visible and invisible. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only begotten 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, was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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*.

Prayers of the People

Following each petition:

Litanist Lord, in your mercy,

People hear our prayer.

Concluding Prayer

Celebrant

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

Confession and Absolution

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God. (Silence)

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.

The Celebrant pronounces the Absolution over the People

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

Comfortable Words

Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with your spirit.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Let the earth resound with praise! Joseph M. Martin

At the Presentation of Gifts

- 1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping.

 This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing, haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.
- 2. Why lies He in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding? Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.

 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross born for me, for you: Hail, hail, the Word made flesh the Babe, the son of Mary.
- 3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh, come peasant, king, to own Him; the King of kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him.
 Raise, raise the song on high, the Virgin sings her lullaby:
 Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the Babe the son of Mary.

words: W. C. Dix; music: Greensleeves, 16th century English melody

Celebrant All things come from you, O Lord,

People And of your own have we given you.

Great Thanksgiving (Remain standing)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with your spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

It is right, our duty and our joy, 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 Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary his mother, was made truly man, yet without the stain of sin, that we might be cleansed from sin and given the right to become your children.

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:

Celebrant and People sing

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of power and might, (repeat) 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.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet.

As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

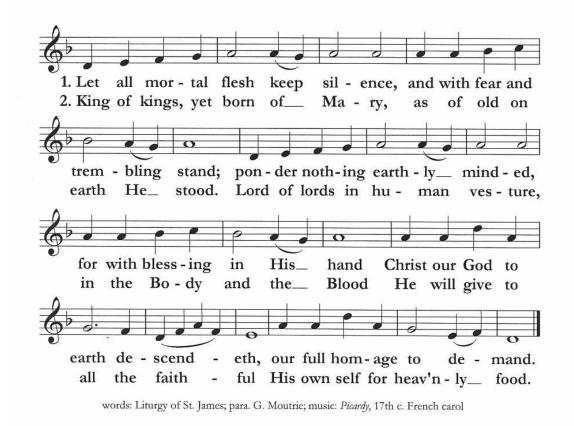
Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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. *Amen*.

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

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 Fraction



The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our

souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Agnus Dei

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world: Give us your peace, give us your peace.

Setting: From Deutsche Messe; Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b.1937). Adaptation © 1985, G.I.A Publications; Reprinted with permission under OneLicense A-715568. All rights Reserved.

The Ministration of Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

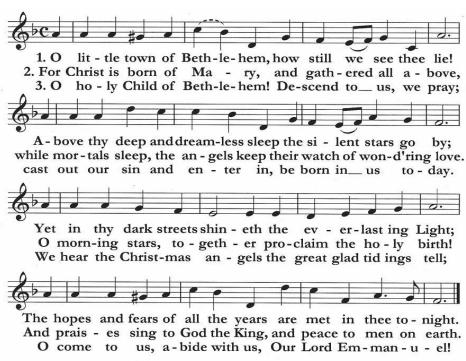
Air

Cantique de Noël

Adolphe Adam

Communion Music

1.



words: Phillip Brooks; music St. Louis, L. H. Redner



3.

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain.

Over the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain. That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching O'er silent watch by night Behold thru out the heavens. There shone a holy light. (Refrain)

The shepherds feared and trembled when lo! above the earth rang out the angel chorus that hailed our Savior's birth. (Refrain)

Down in a lowly manger The humble Christ was born, And brought us God's salvation. That blessed Christmas morn. (Refrain)

> words: Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; adapt. John W. Work (b. 1901) music: Go Tell It on th Mountain, Afro-American spiritual, 19th cent.; arr. Horace Clarence Boyer (b. 1935); © 1984, Horace Clarence Boyer

The Post-Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, We thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Carol of Adoration

- 1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright round you virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild, 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!

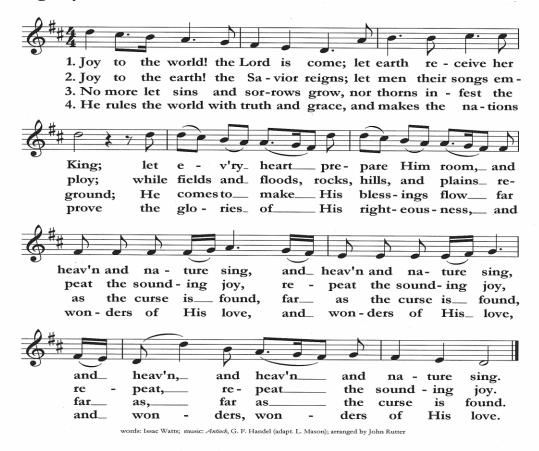
3. Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885) music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen*.

Closing Hymn



Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

People Thanks be to God.

Carol We wish you a Merry Christmas!

English

Worship Team

Ushers: Jim Reamy, Matt Gordon, Ed Jeffreys, Tim Longden

Lector: Eleanor Dixon

EMs: John Campani, Mary Margaret Hatch

Organist: Brady Johnson

Choir: Eleanor Dixon (section leader), Doreen Falcetta (guest), Charles

Hansen, Jennifer Oseroff (guest), Rudolf Radocy, Wanda Lathom-

Radocy, Paul Skaggs, Harriet Yemm

Orchestra: Flute: Sierra Corby

Oboe: Sarah Ward Clarinet: James Briggs

Percussion: Samuel Moss, Jett McCalla Trumpet: David Ewing, Gary Wagner Trombone: Alan Moss, David Scarborough

Tuba: David Weinstein

Violin: Carlos Cardero, Sarita Thosteson

Viola: Ian Woodrich Cello: Jack Reisinger

Bass: Makayla McDonough

Audio - Visual: John Allen, Earle Boyter, Len Howard, Noah Howard,

Noah Woodrow

Christ Church Music Ministry gratefully acknowledges and wishes to thank Storm Grove Middle School and its Band Director, Israel Martinez, for the loan of percussion instruments used in this evening's service.



 $667~20^{\rm th}$ Street, Vero Beach, Florida32960~|~(772)~562-8670~| Christ
Church Vero.org Office hours M-TH weekdays, $8:30\mathrm{am}$ to
 $5:00\mathrm{pm}.$ Church offices are CLOSED on Fridays