

**THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD**  
**DECEMBER 25, 2021**  
**10:00 AM**

\* Indicates please stand

*Due to COVID, please sing all hymns silently in your heart rather than out loud.*

**Prelude**      Joy to the World      David Cherwin (b. 1957)

**\*Processional**      Hark! The herald angels sing (*Mendelssohn*)      **Hymnal # 87**

**\*Opening Sentence**

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
*And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen*

**\*Collect for Purity**

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**      Angels we have heard on high (*Gloria*)      **Hymn # 96 vs. 1 & 3**

**\*The Collect for Christmas**

The Lord be with you.  
***And also with you.***

Let us pray.

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 Old Testament Lesson**

**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.

The Word of the Lord.

***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.

**The Epistle Reading**

**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.

The Word of the Lord.

***Thanks be to God.***

**\*The Gospel Reading**

**Luke 2:1-20**

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

*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.

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

## The Sermon

The Rev. Megan Castellan

### \*The 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.

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.

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.

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 of the People**

The Word has been made flesh, the light of God’s love has broken through our darkness, the Daystar from on high now shines in our hearts. Filled with the joy of Jesus’ birth, let us pray together in the power of his Spirit, responding, “Lord, hear our prayer.”

+ That the Prince of Peace may guide the leaders of the nations, and all people everywhere, into the ways of freedom and truth; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

+ For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, Presiding Bishop of our Church, and DeDe, our Bishop, that they may guide us in our journey to Bethlehem, uniting the whole Church as we live into our spiritual kinship with one another; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

+ For those for whom the darkness has suffocated hope: the lonely, the fearful, the hungry, and those who bear a private grief; that they may see the dawn of God’s love, and revive the eternal hope that never fades away; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

+ For our families and friends, and for all our absent loved ones; for those who are sick, and for those who have died and who now feast at the heavenly banquet of God’s grace; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

+ That we may be released from the captivity of our sins, the places of interior blindness that cause us to choose darkness over light; that we may be forgiven by the power of the Holy Spirit; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

+ That we who gather to share the Holy Eucharist, and those throughout the world who come to receive this sacrament of Holy Presence, may bear witness to Christ born in our hearts; let us pray.

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

In the wonder of this night, let us continue to offer our petitions.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, and especially for:

Dave	Wes	Joan	Heather	Stanley
Amelia	Jean	Cathey	Judy	Carol
Mary	Vivian	Laurie	Lorraine	Sara
Tom	Sarah	Theodore	Tina	James
Giovanni	Felice	Margaret	Carl	Jon
Cindy	Edith	Elaine	Jennifer	
Dan	Elaine	Pat	Ovie	

**\*The Peace**

*Please remain in your pen. Wave!*

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

**Announcements & Welcome**

**Offertory Sentence**

**Organ Offertory** Once in Royal David’s City

David Cherwin (b. 1957)

**\*Presentation** Once in royal David’s city (*Irby*)

**Hymnal # 102 vs. 1 & 2**

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

Expanded Language Prayer A

**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 our thanks and praise.

**Celebrant:** *continuing:* 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:

**Holy, holy, holy** (Sanctus)

**Hymnal # S-114**

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and became subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, Sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior 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, Jesus 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, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died**

**Christ is risen**

**Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day, bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Communion of the People

*All people are invited to the Lord's Table.*

*Eucharist will be distributed in the form of the bread with wine available for intincture. Please come forward in a single line in the center aisle to receive. Wait to remove your mask until you return to your seat, and then replace it after consuming the Sacrament*

## **Post Communion Prayer**

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

## **\*A Christmas Blessing**

**Recessional** Good Christian friends, rejoice (*In dulci jubilo*)

**Hymnal 107**

## **\*Dismissal**

*Response: **Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude** Christians, Awake, Salute the Happy Morn

Charles Callahan (b. 1951)

**Liturgical Ministers:** Cynthia Gration, Matthew Sanaker

**Virtual Vergers:** Michael Roman, Matthew Sanaker

*Choral music sung by the St. John's Cyber Choir.*



**St. John's Church**

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"Like" us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church

**Office Hours** Monday thru Thursday 10–3

**The Rev. Megan Castellan, Rector**

Matthew Sanaker, Sr. Warden

Parish Administrator

Karen A. Hindenlang, Director of Music/Organist

Lynne Walton, Intern

Cora Yao, Jr. Warden

Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

Crawford R. Thoburn, Assisting Conductor

George E. Damp, Guest Organist

**St. John's extends a warm welcome to our visitors! We are happy to have you joining our parish family around the Lord's table. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate.**

The clergy and staff would like to thank the parish for the many cards and greetings given them this season. Also, a big thank you for all of you who helped decorate the church and make St. John's celebration of this Holy Season so meaningful.

Your Christmas gifts are important. We thank all the acolytes, greeters, lectors, Eucharistic ministers, altar guild, musicians, and you for your many expressions of generosity.

**The Christmas Flowers 2021 are given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of**

Rev. W. Aubrey Arlin

Edith N. Arlin

Daniel R. Bartholomew

Virginia Bowen

Griffin Bowen

Ron Clayton

Floyd Freeman

Laura Freeman

Elizabeth Freeman

Margaret N. Godlove

Mary Harcourt

John B. Harcourt

Peter Hedrick

Judith Holliday

Marian James

John James

Zachary Taylor Carmin-Kluger

Eleanor E. LaRocque

Mary N. Nungesser

Kathleen O'Neill

Loved Ones

Robert Pirro

Sara Richtmyer

Ruth Ann Schultz

Ruth Sipos

Franklyn Sipos

Nancy Sobel

Ted Sobel

Audrey Vault

Alice Walters

Fenton Wicker

Louise Wicker

Julian Wicker

Mary Wilson

**HYMNS**  
**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**25 December 2021**

**Hark! The herald angels sing (Mendelssohn)**

**Hymnal # 87**

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)



**Once in royal David's city (*Irby*)**

**Hymnal # 102 vs. 1 & 2**

1. Once in royal David's city  
stood a lowly cattle shed,  
where a mother laid her baby  
in a manger for his bed:  
Mary was that mother mild,  
Jesus Christ her little child.

2. He came down to earth from heaven,  
who is God and Lord of all,  
and his shelter was a stable,  
and his cradle was a stall;  
with the poor, the scorned, the lowly  
lived on earth our Savior holy.

**Good Christian friends, rejoice (*In dulci jubilo*)**

**Hymnal # 107**

1. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
give ye heed to what we say:  
Jesus Christ is born today;  
ox and ass before him bow,  
and he is in the manger now.  
Christ is born today!  
Christ is born today!

2. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye hear of endless bliss;  
Jesus Christ was born for this!  
He hath opened heaven's door,  
and we are blest for evermore.  
Christ was born for this!  
Christ was born for this!

3. Good Christian friends, rejoice  
with heart and soul and voice;  
now ye need not fear the grave:  
Jesus Christ was born to save!  
Calls you one and calls you all  
to gain his everlasting hall.  
Christ was born to save!  
Christ was born to save!