

St. Benedict's Episcopal Church
December 24, 2021 ~ Christmas Eve
—4:30 Service—

Whoever you are and wherever you are in your faith journey,
there is a warm welcome for you here at St. Benedict's!

Prelude: “*Christ Is Born This Holy Night*”

Tunes: PICARDY; STILL, STILL, STILL; W ZLOBIE LEZY Arr: Lloyd Larson 2020 Lorenz Publishing Co.

♪ **Hymn # 83**

“O Come All Ye Faithful”

Blue Hymnal

With procession to the crèche

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

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

All: ***Holy and Life-Giving Spirit, You know our innermost thoughts even before they break through into consciousness; You teach us how to pray. Breathe your breath into our hearts and minds today. Prepare us for worship, that our thoughts may turn to you and our hearts bow down in grateful praise of God - Creator, Word and Holy Spirit, Amen,***

♪ **Hymn # 79**

“O Little Town of Bethlehem”

Blue Hymnal

Verses 1-3

Reading: Luke 2:1-14

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke.

People: ***Glory to You, Lord Christ.***

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel. There were shepherds camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, “Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide: A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger.” At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights,

Peace to all men and women on earth who please him.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: ***Praise to You, Lord Christ.***

♪ Hymn # 87

“Hark the Herald Angels”

Blue Hymnal

Reflection

The Rev. Dr. Caroline J. Hall

Affirmation of Our Membership in the Christian Church

*We believe in God the Creator,
from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Redeemer,
who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with God’s love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us with power from on high.
We believe in One God: Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

Source: Common Worship, Church of England.

Prayers of the People

We offer our prayers to God, saying:

“Holy One, we ask your blessing.”

The Peace

Celebrant: Sisters and brothers, we are the body of Christ
People: *By one spirit we were baptized into one body.*
Celebrant: Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.
People: *Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.*
Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: *And also with you.*

To maintain safe social distancing, please simply greet others verbally or with a bow or nod.

The Offertory

Collection plates are not passed, but you may put an offering in the plate by the usher’s station before the service, or at the Peace, or contribute at our website any time. Thank you!

♪ Offertory Hymn # 112

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

Blue Hymnal

WE MAKE EUCHARIST

HE III

Celebrant May God 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 always right and a great joy to thank and praise you, Creator God. For you have created the sky and the earth, the oceans and rivers. You created all living beings—people, dinosaurs, bears and fish. All we are and all we have we owe to you and so now we join with the angels who are always praising you as we sing:

Sanctus

WLP 785

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
 heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

Celebrant

We give thanks to you, because although we keep thinking we can do everything better on our own without your help, you never give up on us, but keep calling us back to walk in love and fellowship with you. We thank you that you sent your Son, Jesus, to be born as a tiny baby just like us and that through him the world is transformed, every day being brought closer toward the dream that you dream for humanity and the planet Earth.

We thank you that as his earthly life drew to a close, on the night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends and said,

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Then, after supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

By doing this, Jesus invited us into a closer and deeper relationship with you. Creator God, we now celebrate the memorial of your Son. By means of this holy bread and cup, we show forth the sacrifice of his death, and proclaim his resurrection, until he comes again. Send your Holy Spirit upon this bread and this wine that it may be for us the body and blood of your Son, binding us all together into one body, one people. Send the Holy Spirit to bless us as well so that we may be your hands and feet in our families and the world.

All: ***Gather us by this Holy Communion
 into one body in your Son Jesus Christ.
 Make us a living sacrifice of praise.***

*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 say,

All: *Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.*

WE BREAK THE BREAD

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

WE SHARE THE GIFTS OF GOD

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.
This is God's table, and all are welcome here.

As your group is called forward, please spread out to widen the circle and increase safe social distancing.

The consecrated bread will be distributed to you individually, that you may consume it.
The cup of consecrated wine will be held before you, that you may receive it with your eyes.

Communion Music: *“The Snow Lay on the Ground”*

Tune: VENITE ADOREMUS Traditional English carol 2020 Lorenz Publishing Co.

♪ **Hymn # 111**

“ Silent Night , Holy Night ”

Blue Hymnal

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: *We praise and thank you, creator God,
for you have not left us alone.
You have come among us as Emmanuel, the promised of ages,
and come to us still in word and Spirit, in bread and cup.
Make us holy, and live in our hearts
So that your Christ may be seen in us
And your love bring joy to the world
Through us. Amen*

The Blessing

♪ Hymn # 100

“Joy to the World”

Verses 1-2, 4

Blue Hymnal

Dismissal

Postlude: *“Joy to the World”* with *“Angels We Have Heard on High”*

Tune: ANTIOCH attr. G.F. Handel, 1685-1759

Tune: GLORIA Traditional French carol 2020 Lorenz Publishing Co.

Today's Eucharist Liturgy is from the outline on page 401 of the Book of Common Prayer
using prayers written by the Rector.

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Poinsettias have been donated by

Bobbi Shields ... in memory of Don Shields

*Marianne Higdon ... in thanksgiving for Children, Grandchildren,
and Great-grandchildren*

*Maureen Titus ... in memory of Wil and Rolberta Tufford,
Blanche Campbell, and Pam Hughes*

Alan Kiste and Brian Spolarich ... in honor of our mothers

Stef Shuman ... in memory of Fr. Bob Kincaid

Ms Alice Welchert ... in memory of Larry Swafford and Precious

Sarah Chesebro ... in thanksgiving for Children, Grandchildren, and Godchildren

*Lisa Gonzalez ... in memory of Elizabeth & Michael Gonzalez,
Vickie Gonzalez, and Jim McShane*

*Elaine Beckham ... in memory of Paul Beckham, Ivy Kilgannon, Cyril Kilgannon,
Sandra and Peter Celements, and Sonia Kilgannon*

Caro Hall ... in thanksgiving for Jay Matthew

Caro Hall and Jill Denton ... in honor of the ministry of Stef Shuman