

St Benedict's Episcopal Church

December 24, 2021 ~ Christmas Eve 8pm

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

St Benedict's is an inclusive faith community for those seeking God below the surface of contemporary life. For more than thirty years we have provided Los Osos with a place to seek and find God in an open, supportive and creative atmosphere.

Our worship services are based on a tradition of prayer used by Christians for hundreds of years and language rich in metaphor and meaning. We deepen our understanding of God by approaching Scripture through the Anglican method which uses both the insights of tradition and our God-given reason. It is a method that leads to rich conversation and exciting insights.

We hope that you will enjoy this evening's service.

Christmas Carols

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

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

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. ***Amen***

♪ Hymn #93

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

carol sheet

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: ***Good and gracious God, on this holy night you gave us your Son, the Lord of the universe, wrapped in swaddling clothes, the Savior of all, lying in a manger. On this holy night, draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. Give us a place among the shepherds, that we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God for ever and ever. Amen***

First reading: 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.

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."

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 when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

Second 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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: *Thanks be to God*

♪ Hymn #102

"Once in Royal David's City" verses 1,2, 4,6

carol sheet

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Gospeller: The Holy Gospel of Our Savior 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.

Gospeller: The Gospel of Christ.

People: *Praise to You, Lord Christ.*

The Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Caroline J. Hall

[We pause for a few moments' reflection before affirming our faith.]

Affirmation of Faith

Source: Common Worship, Church of England.

Let us stand and declare our faith in God.

All: *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.*

Prayers of the People

[Source: "Traces of Glory" by David Adam, Morehouse Pub., 1999]

Let us pray to Our Lord, saying: Lord Jesus, born of Mary, be born in us today.

Praise be to God in his great love for us. He has entered our darkness with his great light. He comes as our God and yet as a child. Lord help us and your whole church to walk as children of the light. Teach us to see your presence in each other: to be aware that what we do to each other we do to you. We give thanks for the word spoken by the prophets, but above all for the Word made flesh dwelling among us. May your whole church proclaim this Good News with joy. Lord Jesus, born of Mary, ***be born in us today.***

Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace. We pray for lasting peace in the Middle East and for Bethlehem today. Lord, give peace in the hearts of all, peace in our land, peace among the nations: peace in our homes and peace in all our dealings; peace through him who is the Prince of Peace. Lord Jesus, born of Mary, ***be born in us today.***

Lord Jesus, born of Mary, you are part of the human family: you share our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and our fears. Bless our homes with your loving presence, let us know that you are with us, our families and our friends. Lord Jesus, born of Mary, ***be born in us today.***

Lord Jesus Christ, you came down to lift us up. You descended that we might ascend. You became human that we could share in the divine. We pray for all who are down at this time: we remember outcasts and refugees; those who are stateless and those without homes. We pray for the lonely and those who are unloved, for all who will find this a sad day or a hard day. We pray especially for friends and loved ones who are ill or in need of our prayers...

[Prayers are read from the bidding book;
the people may offer additional prayers, either silently or aloud.]

Lord Jesus, born of Mary, ***be born in us today.***

We give thanks that you have opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. We pray for loved ones departed from us, that they may be one with you in your kingdom.

Lord Jesus, born of Mary, ***be born in us today.***

Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God, for his love revealed in the Word made flesh; Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God, coming among us and sharing our humanity; Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God, filling Mary with the life of the Divine. Blessing and honor and glory and power be to our God, for our salvation, for bringing joy and peace into our world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: May the peace of Christ 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 your contributions in the plate by the usher's station before the service, or at the Peace, or contribute at our website any time. Thank you!

♪ Hymn #112

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

carol sheet

Doxology: *(Please stand)*

♪ *Praise God from Whom all blessings flow*

Praise God all creatures here below, Alleluia, Alleluia

Praise God the Source of all our gifts

Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts

Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

The Holy Eucharist

EQW, Prayer 2

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People ***We raise our hearts to God.***

Celebrant Let us thank the giver of life.

People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing :

Sanctus

WLP 858

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and
might, heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

All:

*Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your
grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might
conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.*

He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

The Celebrant continues

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends.

He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.

Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,

and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come,

we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.

Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation,

the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Blessed Benedict,

and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation,

to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

All *Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise,
for ever and ever.
AMEN.*

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 Celebrant breaks the Bread

♪ **Fraction Anthem** [sung twice]

WLP 878

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of two systems. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line contains the lyrics: "Who - ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and". The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords in the right hand. The second system continues the vocal line with the lyrics: "who - ev - er be - lieves in me shall nev - er thirst." and concludes with a double bar line. The piano accompaniment also concludes with a double bar line.

Celebrant:

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.

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: *“Cantique de Noël - O Holy Night”*

Placide Cappeau (1808-1877) Adolphe Adam (1803-1856) Public Domain

Alan Kiste, Tenor

♪ **Hymn #111**

“ Silent Night”

carol sheet

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: ***Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

The Blessing

♪ **Final Hymn #100**

"Joy to the World" verses 1-2, 4

carol sheet

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