

St Benedict's Episcopal Church

December 24, 2022 ~ Christmas Eve 8pm

Christmas Carols

Hymn 79 **O Little Town of Bethlehem** *verses 1-3,5*

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heaven.
No ear may hear His coming; but in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Hymn 87 **Hark! The Herald Angels Sing**

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 th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest Heav'n adored; Christ the everlasting Lord;
Late in time, behold Him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail th'incarnate Deity,
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.

Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die.
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Ris'n with healing in His wings. Light and life to all He brings.
Hail the Sun of Righteousness! Hail the heav'nly Prince of Peace!
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hymn 109 The First Noel *verses 1-4*

The first Noel the angel did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep, on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

They lookèd up and saw a star shining in the east beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light, and so it continued both day and night.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

And by the light of that same star, three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent, and to follow the star wherever it went.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

This star drew nigh to the northwest, o'er Bethlehem it took its rest;
and there it did both stop and stay, right over the place where Jesus lay.
Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel. Born is the King of Israel.

Hymn 89 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear *verses 1-2*

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth, to touch their harps of gold;
"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from Heaven's all gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay, to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats o'er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains, they bend on hovering wing,
And ever over its Babel sounds the blessèd angels sing.



Prelude

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: *And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

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*

♪ Hymn #93

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar:
seek the great Desire of nations; ye have seen his natal star:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending in his temple shall appear:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

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

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.

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.

For he is our lifelong pattern, daily when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God’s right hand on high.

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 peace in Ukraine. 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

You are invited to make a thank offering, but if you do not contribute financially today please give thanks for God's blessing as the plate is passed. You can contribute at our website www.stbenslososos.org at any time.

♪ Hymn #112

“In the Bleak Midwinter”

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate,
Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
cherubim and seraphim throngèd the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give Him – give my heart.

Doxology: *(Please Stand)*

[sung] **♪ 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 Eucharist

EDW, 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

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.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The first system of music corresponds to the lyrics 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the'. The second system corresponds to 'high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.' The music features a mix of chords and moving lines, with some notes beamed together.

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.*

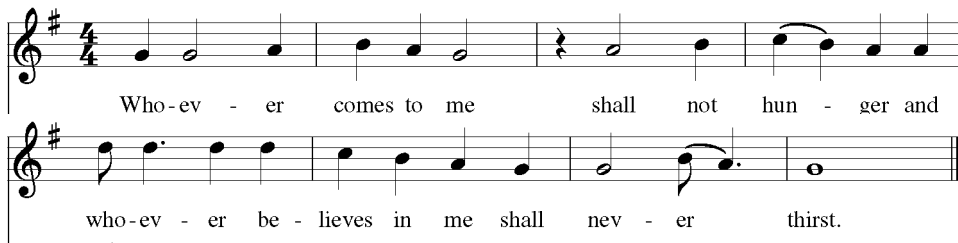
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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



Who - ev - er comes to me shall not hun - ger and
who - ev - er be - lies in me shall nev - er thirst.

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.

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

Silent night, Holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon Virgin Mother and Child.
Holy Infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, Holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

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. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

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

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world, the Savior reigns! let us our songs employ;
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

~ Postlude ~

Tonight's Eucharist Liturgy is from "Enriching Our Worship" Supplemental Liturgical Materials
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St Benedict's Episcopal Church
P.O. Box 6877, 2220 Snowy Egret Lane,
Los Osos, CA 93412 (805)528-0654
office@stbenslososos.org; www.stbenslososos.org
The Rev. Dr. Caroline J. A. Hall, Rector

Poinsettias have been donated by

Elaine Beckham ... in memory of her parents, Ivy and Cyril Kilgannon

Elaine Beckham ... in thanksgiving for good friends

Elaine Beckham... in memory of her husband, Paul Beckham

David & Sarah Chesebro ... in thanksgiving for Family

Caro Hall and Jill Denton ... in thanksgiving for all companion animals, especially

BuBuLinda,, Lizzie and Kili

Caro Hall and Jill Denton ... With gratitude for thirty plus years worshipping at

St Benedict's

Lisa Gonzalez ... in memory of Elizabeth & Michael Gonzalez,

Vickie Gonzalez, and Jim McShane

Marianne Higdon ... in thanksgiving for Children, Grandchildren, and

Great-grandchildren

Liz and Don Maruska ...in memory of Roddey, Caroline & Debbie Reid; I

Liz and Don Maruska...in memory of John, Evelyn, and John Jr. Maruska

Bryson McKelvey in memory of Georgia McKelvey and thanksgiving for

Kristin McKelvey Birdsall

Bryson McKelvey in memory, honor and gratitude for Stef Shuman

Helen Schnieders and Maureen Titus... in memory of Stef Shuman

Helen Schnieders ... in memory of Debi Brooks

Helen Schnieders ... in thanksgiving for Caro+

Helen Schnieders ... in thanksgiving for the St Ben's family

Bobbie Shields ...in loving memory of Don Shields

Brian Spolarich and Alan Kiste

Laura Thompson...in memory of Grandma Eunice

Laura Thompson...in memory of Karen Atteridge, a dear friend

Maureen Titus ...in memory of Wil and Rolberta Tufford,

Maureen Titus ...in memory of Bill Gough

JW with thanks for the church family

