

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

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The Celebration of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

December 24, 2022

The Holy Eucharist

Prelude

Silent Night, Holy Night

Gruber/arr. Ray

83 Entrance Hymn

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste Fidelis

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

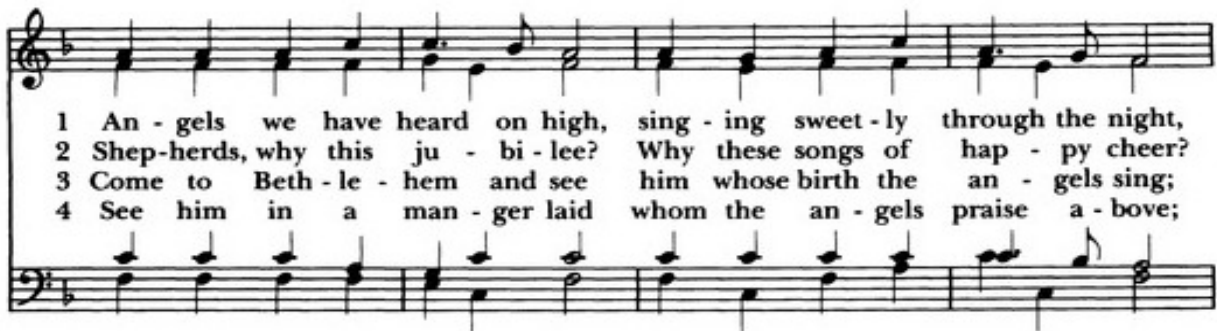
The Celebrant may say

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.***

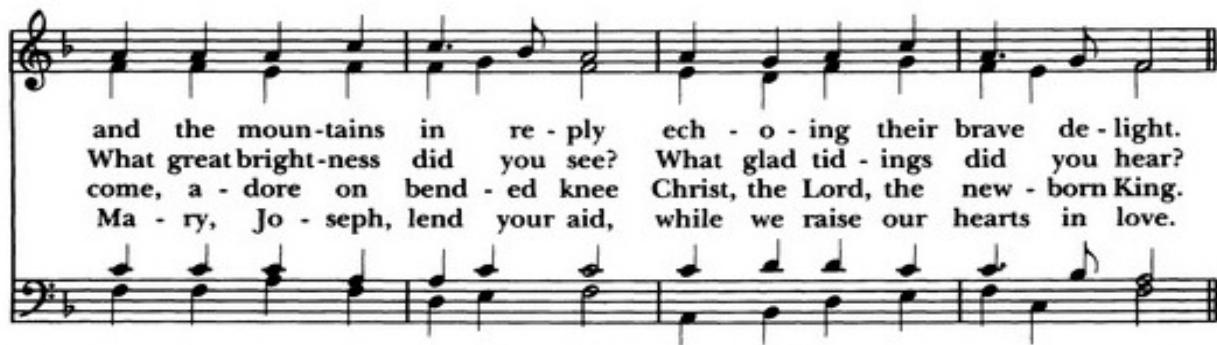
96 Hymn of Praise

Angels we have heard on high

Gloria



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain

Glo - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
 Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

77. 77 with Refrain

The Collect

The Celebrant says to the people **The Lord be with you.**

People **And also with you.**

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.**

The people sit.

The Word of God

The First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God

Psalm 96 (all chant the psalm on the following tone)



- 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 there in.
- 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 Titus 2:11-14

Lector A reading from the letter to Titus.

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.

Lector The word of the Lord.

People ***Thanks be to God***

The Christmas Pageant

Narrator: Cham Trowell

The congregation may be seated for the pageant. Everyone is asked to sing the hymns during the pageant.

102 Once in royal David's city

Scene I - Luke 2:1-5 Mary and Joseph journey to Jerusalem

79 O little town of Bethlehem Vs. 1,2 All sing

Scene II - Luke 2:6-7 Jesus is born in a stable in Bethlehem

101 Away in a manger Vs. 1-2 All Sing

Scene III - Luke 2:8-14 Shepherds are told by the Angels of the Birth

94 While shepherds watched their flocks by night Vs 1 & 3 All sing

Scene IV - Shepherds, angels and animals gather at the manger

Anthem *"Starlight"* sung by the children

100 Joy to the world, the Lord is come Vs 1,2 All sing

Photos may be taken during this hymn

The Homily

The people may stand.

The Nicene Creed

***We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***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.
 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 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

Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially, ***John Tolbert, Rendol Cobb, Julia Credle, Peggy Parker, Rita Hoggard, Daniel Perry,***

Steve Wilson, Betty Hayden, Jim and Nancy Davis, Amber Dunlow, Mimi Silver, Bill Pridgen, Janet Worthington, Adrienne Vester, Raines Simonsen, and others known to us;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence. The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

The Celebrant says to the people: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.*** (Please stay in your pew.)

Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory Anthem

O Holy Night

Adam/Althouse

111 Hymn

Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer C

In this prayer, the lines in italics are spoken by the People.

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned

against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Celebrant and People

**S 125 Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.**

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord. On the night he was betrayed he 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." 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." Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
**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 Breaking of the Bread *The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence
is kept. Then may be sung or said*

W875 Fraction Anthem

Choir: Be known to us Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread

All: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Choir: The bread which we break, alleluia, Is the communion of the body of
Christ.

All: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Choir: One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread.

All: Be known to us, Lord Jesus, in the breaking of the bread.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:

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.

Ministration of Communion

*The bread and the wine will be offered in stations near the chancel steps. After the choir receives
communion, the lectern side will receive first. Everyone should use the lectern side of the aisle going to
communion; use the pulpit side of the aisle going back to your seat. We are using biodegradable cups for
the wine. Please pick up your own cup, step away from the table, and then deposit the cup into the trash
can located in the first pew. Please let an usher know if you prefer to have communion brought to you.*

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, all stand and the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

***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.***

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, may bless the people.

Hymn 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them

*People **Thanks be to God.***

Postlude

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice!

Held

The Ministers of the Liturgy

Celebrant: The Rev. Jim Horton

Organist/choir director: Tom Parker

Lector: Cham Trowell

Ushers: Tim Ivey, Steve Trowell

Acolyte: Lucy Spruill

Altar Guild: all members

Hostesses: Anne Farless, Molly Perry, Kristen Warren

Counters: Rosanna Rhea, Mike Spruill **Eucharistic Minister:** Shirley Cooper

Christmas Flowers and Greenery

In loving memory of Bo Worthington and family, by Janet Worthington

In loving memory of Verna Perry and in honor of Betty Wilson, by Emily, Hosea, Bond, and Hosea Wilson

In thanksgiving of our sons, their wives, and our grandchildren, by Wood and Patti Farless

In loving memory of Don and Janie Everett and Cate Cooper Cale, by Cathy and Taylor Wilson

In loving memory of Brooks Beasley and Claire Hunter Spruill, by Jennifer and CT Spruill

In loving memory of Verna Perry and Jack Cooper, by Dickie and Jane Hall

In loving memory of Linnie Perry, by Tra Perry

In loving memory of Mack and Clara Bell, by The Guess Family

In thanksgiving to Saint Thomas, by Peggy and Cliff Smith

In loving memory of Carolyn Taylor Copeland and Fred Seaton Spencer, by Kristy and Sid Copeland and Family

In loving memory of Marian Perry, Claire Spruill, and Lucy Spruill, by Jaquelin and Norman Perry

In honor of Joe Cherry, by Nancy Joyner

In loving memory of John Tyler, by Marti Tyler and family

In memory of Wayne Attkisson, by Marti Tyler and family

In memory of Lucy Spruill, by Marti Tyler and family

In memory of Claire Spruill, by Marti Tyler and family

In thanksgiving for Mike Spruill, by Marti Tyler

In thanksgiving for Tom Parker, by Marti Tyler

In loving memory of Connie Spruill Boyd, and in honor of his younger sister, Karen Ann Spruill, by Mike Spruill

In honor of our parents, Brown and Walter Miller and Janet Trowell, by Cham and Steve Trowell

In thanksgiving of our children Miller, Wood, and Annie Hayes, by Cham and Steve Trowell

In loving memory of John "JT" Trowell, by Cham and Steve Trowell

In loving memory of our parents, Betty and Woodland "Shot" Ruth, and John and Jean Miller, by Brown and Walter Miller

In honor of our daughter and family, Cham and Steve Trowell, Miller, Wood, and Annie Hayes, by Brown and Walter Miller

Announcements

There will be no Christmas Day Service held at St. Thomas', Windsor, NC.

Karen Renner, our Parish Administrator, will be out of the office from December 20 until January 5. She will return to the office on January 6.

The Opportunity Shop is presently open Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays, 10:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., and the first two Saturdays of each month, 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. ... "IF THE FLAG IS OUT, WE ARE OPEN!"

All announcements to be included in the weekly bulletin may be sent to CB Guess at edenhouse3@gmail.com by Wednesdays at noon.

To add or remove a name from the church's prayer list, please email Karen Renner at stthomaswindsor@gmail.com