

**THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE
TRANSFIGURATION**

CHRISTMAS EVE DECEMBER 24, 2019

4:00 PM AND 8:00 PM



THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION
IS TO BE A CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY;
ACCEPTING AND INVITING ALL PERSONS TO SHARE IN WORSHIP,
WITNESS AND SERVICE; AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST
IN THE WORLD.

Welcome!

What a joy it is that we are worshipping together today. If Episcopal worship is unfamiliar, do not be nervous about what to do during the liturgy – relax – and let the service unfold for you. Together in song and prayer we celebrate our life together in Christ.

You are invited to sign the guest book located on the hutch at the entrance to the building. Please fill out a Visitors & Newcomers card and hand it to the priest or an usher. There are other informational pamphlets located in that area. Please feel free to take whatever is of interest to you.

If you are interested in the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation, or being Received into the Episcopal Church please see the Rev. Lu-Anne Conner.

Before you leave, please pray for us as we carry out the ministry of the love of God and service in our communities.

This congregation is committed to being an open, affirming and welcoming church to all who come here.

**The Church of the Transfiguration is a two-rule church
Love God, Love Each Other!**

Worship at 4 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.

Biblical Texts are from The New Revised Standard Version and The King James Version

Liturgical texts are from The Book of Common Prayer

Hymn selections are from The Hymnal 1982 and other approved sources.

Hymns/songs are printed in the bulletin under

One License #A-720467, RiteSong Online, and St. James Music Press

The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

Gathering Hymn

“O come, all ye faithful (vs. 1-3, 6)”

Hymnal, # 83

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia. To us a child is born

People: ***Come let us adore him, Alleluia.***

Blessing of the Creche

Celebrant: Eternal God, you sent your only-begotten Son to take our human nature upon him, and to be born this night of the Virgin Mary. Bless, we pray, this Creche that it may be a sign of his humble birth; and grant that we who joyfully behold his appearing may be strengthened to greet him when he comes again in glory; through Jesus Christ who is our Lord and Redeemer.

Amen.

Gloria

“Angels we have heard on high”

Hymnal, # 96

The Collect of the Day

BCP, pg. 212

Celebrant 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 may be seated.

A Reading from the Book of 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Psalm 96: 1-4, 11-12

BCP, pg. 725

- 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. ***Refrain***
- 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. ***Refrain***
- 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. ***Refrain***

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to 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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

The people stand.

The Gospel according to Luke

2:1-20 (King James Version)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

People ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:) To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child.

And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

After the Gospel the Celebrant says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People ***Praise to you, Lord Christ.***

The Nicene Creed and Confession are omitted from this service

The Prayers of the People for Christmas Eve, Year A

Leader: 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 men and women 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, Wayne, our Bishop, and Deon, our Bishop-Elect, 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 sisters and brothers; 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 and thanksgivings, either silently or aloud.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Intercessions Year A: Keyed to the Themes of the Revised Common Lectionary © 2011 by GERALYN WOLF.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

*Then the Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord
First greet visitors, then new friends, then old friends!*

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

The Celebrant says an offertory sentence.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offering of bread and wine to the altar.

4:00 p.m.

The Offertory Hymn "Away in a manger" (sung by all, seated) Hymnal #101

8:00 p.m.

Offertory Anthem ***On Christmas Night*** *Sussex Carol*
Arr. Ralph Vaughn Williams

Presentation Hymn "In the bleak midwinter (vs. 1 & 4 only)" Hymnal, #112

The people stand while money offerings are presented and placed on the altar. The following is sung when offerings are presented.

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B BCP, pg. 367

The people remain standing. The Celebrant says.

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 God thanks and praise.***

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus:

Hymnal, #S-125

The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord 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 he 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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,

BCP, pg. 364

Celebrant and People

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

BCP, pg. 364

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Then the following is said

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

All are welcome to receive the bread and wine of the Eucharist.

Communion Anthems at 8:00 p.m.

Gaudete!

Pie Cantiones Manuscript, 1582

O Nata Lux De Lumine

Mariano Garau

Post Communion Prayer

BCP, pg. 365

After Communion, 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 people are seated for the candle lighting.

Candle Lighting

The lights are dimmed as the acolytes light the candles of those sitting nearest the center aisle. Candlelight is then passed from person to person throughout the congregation. Candles remain lit through the hymn and the blessing.

Post Communion Hymn

“Silent Night”

Hymnal, #111

The Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Please carefully extinguish your candles following the blessing.

Closing Hymn

“Joy to the World!”

Hymnal, # 100

The Dismissal

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Lyle Simpson, Trumpet

Christmas Poinsettias are given by:

Lu-Anne Conner and Kate McCormick,
in memory of Malcolm & Joan Conner and John McCormick
Mary Ellen Antonio, in memory of John Antonio
Mary Ruth, in honor of past and present family
Sandy Rafferty, in memory of Frances & George Rafferty
Charlene Amrhein, in memory of Herb and Greg Amrhein
Sandy Taliaferro, in memory of Walt Taliaferro
Karen Owen, in memory of Maggie & Curt Owen,
and in honor of her sons Michael and Charley
Cathy Murphy, in memory of Jan, Bill, Edith, and Frank Murphy and Pete Maijer
Jeanette Hollman, in memory of Mel and Doris Price, parents
Jennie Kelly, in memory of Cara Kelly and Clay & Audrey Stewart
Kathy & Jim Furgason, in memory of Bev Sacks & Margaret O'Connor
Karen & Tom Modde, in memory of Ron Wilson
Ed & Carole Connors, in memory of Connors, Allsop, Hesketh, and Palagi families
Brad & Mary Young, in thanksgiving for new granddaughter, Genevieve Young
Jon & Jodie Sanders, in memory of Brendan Eisenmenger, in honor of Harv & Susan Sanders,
and in honor of Ben & Carol Priess
Chuck & Sandy Laney, in memory of Mildred Marks
Chuck & Sandy Laney and Betty Porter, in memory of Albert M. Secor, Jr.
Ron & Louise Howden, in thanksgiving of family
Don & Bette Hammond, in thanksgiving for family
Carolyn & Bob Daniels, in thanksgiving of friends and family
Roxane & John Jablonski, in memory of Julie
Nancy Dunlap, in memory of Lucille O'Fletcher Fant

**Christmas Eve
December 24, 2019
4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m.
Today's Ministers of Worship**

**Celebrant & Preacher
Music Director**

The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner
Dr. Thomas C. Lee

Ushers

4:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

Jan Munro, Sandy Rafferty
Brad Young, Mary Young

Lectors

4:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

Jon Sanders
Rick MacIvor

Server/Acolyte

4:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

Mary Ellen Antonio

Chalice Bearers

4:00 p.m.
8:00 p.m.

Carole Connors
Deb MacIvor

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

1860 Lake Saint Louis Boulevard
Lake Saint Louis, Missouri 63367

Office Phone (636) 561-8951
Office E-mail: office@transfigurationchurch.org
Office Hours : Tues, Wed, Thurs 9:30-3:30
www.transfigurationchurch.org

Rector : The Rev. Lu-Anne Conner
Email: rector@transfigurationchurch.org

Music Director : Dr. Thomas C. Lee
Email: music@transfigurationchurch.org

Parish Administrator : Sr. Donna Ruth Hawk-Reinhard, n/AF
Email: parishoffice@transfigurationchurch.org

Senior Warden : Mari Moody
Email: seniorwarden@transfigurationchurch.org

Treasurer : Judy Ducar
Email: treasurer@transfigurationchurch.org