

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE TRANSFIGURATION

CHRISTMAS EVE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2020



THE MISSION OF 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.

Rector's welcome and announcements

Prelude Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007: II. Allemande J S. Bach
Bjorn Ranheim, Cello

The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two

Opening Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* (vs. 1-3, & 6) Hymnal, # 83
text: French carol, Tr. Frederick Oakeley and others
music: Att. John Francis Wade

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant says

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
text: French carol, tr. James Chadwick
music: French carol

The Collect of the Day BCP, pg. 213

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 Prophet 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

Cantate Domino

BCP, pg. 725-6

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

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.

Gospel Hymn

What Child Is This

Hymn # 115

Text: William Chatterton Dix

English Melody

The Gospel

(King James Version)

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

2:1-20

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 Sermon

David J. Malek

The Nicene Creed and Confession are omitted from this service

The Prayers of the People for Christmas Eve, Year B

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, and Deon, our Bishop, 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.

Come and be present with all who are suffering in this time of pandemic; that those who are ill, and those who care for them, may be uplifted and strengthened by the power of your Holy Spirit; for this we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

That we who gather to share the Holy Eucharist, though we cannot partake at this time, 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, either silently or aloud....

The Leader adds a concluding Collect.

Adapted from Intercessions Year B: 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.***

The Holy Communion

The Offertory

The Officiant says an offertory sentence.

Offertory Hymn

Hark the Herald Angels Sing

Hymn # 87

Text: Charles Wesley

Music: Felix Mendelssohn

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord

People ***And of thine own have we given thee.***

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.

Celebrant and People

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.***

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

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.**

Carols to Welcome the Christ Child

Away in a Manger

text: Traditional carol,
music: William James Kirkpatrick
arranged and performed by Drew Lawless

Silent Night

Hymn # 111
text: Joseph Mohr
music: Franz Gruber

A Prayer of Thanksgiving *(said by all)*

Lord of the Feast, we thank you for gathering us as your people. We call to remembrance the many times we have been fed at your table and we lament our distance now. Be present Lord Jesus as you were present with your disciples, be known to us in the breaking of the bread, and may your Holy Spirit sustain us and all your Church until we can gather together again. We ask this for the sake of your love. Amen.

The Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Joy to the World

Hymn # 100

text: Isaac Watts

music: George Friderick Handel

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!***

Postlude

Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major, BWV 1007: III. Courante

J. S. Bach

Bjorn Ranheim, Cello

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Liturgical texts are from The Book of Common Prayer

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