

TRINITY CHURCH

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CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24, 2014 - 7:30 p.m.

*A very merry Christmas to all who have gathered here tonight to worship the Christ Child.
Our liturgy this evening is the special Eucharist from which comes the word Christmas.
It is the Christ Mass, the incarnation of our Lord and Saviour: in a manger in Bethlehem,
in the word of proclamation, in the sacrament of Holy Communion,
and in our hearts as we take him into the world.*

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people;
for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.
(Luke 2:10-11)

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Leader: Unto us a Child is born. Unto us a Son is given; and the government shall be on his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Mighty Counsellor, the Prince of Peace. O sing unto the Lord a new song; for he has done marvelous things. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. **Amen.**

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 118 – “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

GREETING

Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People: And also with you.

OPENING RESPONSE

Leader: Come, and sing a new song to God!

People: For God has done wonderful things!

Leader: God brings justice and salvation,

People: God's faithful love is for everyone.

Leader: Tell everyone to sing songs of joy in praise of God!

People: Make music and celebrate!

Leader: For to us a child is born:

People: Jesus, the light of the world.

All: Almighty God, as we prepare with joy to celebrate the wondrous gift of Jesus Christ, born long ago and still today, child of the universe present among us. May we, in the things we do and say, continue to give birth to the presence of the living Christ in our world today and always. Amen.

CANDLELIGHTING: The Christ Candle

Leader: Hope, peace, joy, and love. Four candles, four promises continually offered to us by God, and all of them manifest in this one we light tonight: the Christ candle. In Christ we find the hope of transformation, the peace that follows justice, the joy of self-fulfillment in community, and the love that encompasses us in all our diversity, empowering us to make our own unique contribution to this world. In Christ we find light and life, and the courage to be like him, answering his call and following in his footsteps. *(All candles are lit.)*

Song: “A Candle is Burning” *(Tune: “Away in a Manger”)*

A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright;
A candle of **Hope** in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heav'n's starry sky
Our hearts we prepare now, for Jesus is nigh.

A candle is burning, a candle of **Peace**;
A candle to signal that conflict must cease.
For Jesus is coming to show us the way;
A message of Peace humbly laid in the hay.

A candle is burning, a candle of **Joy**;
A candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder and eyes light and glow
As Joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.

A candle is burning, a candle of **Love**;
A candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth;
For Jesus is bringing God's Love to our earth.

We honour Messiah with the **Christ-Candle's flame**;
Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim.
O come, all ye faithful, rejoice on this night
As God comes among us, the Christian's true Light.

All: We rejoice in God's steadfast presence in our lives, and in God's unique presence in the life of Jesus of Nazareth—born of Mary, growing through childhood into an adult ministry, in all his life manifesting the peace, love, and justice of God; his voice undimmed by the centuries his call and his promise as clear to us as it was to his disciples so long ago. Come to us, Lord Jesus, be born in us this night, in our hearts, our minds, our lives. May the light of your life be kindled in us, and lead us to the shining truth, of God with us, God for us, God in us. Amen.

COLLECT

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANTHEM: **"All My Heart This Night Rejoices"**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader: A READING FROM THE BOOK OF 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 Counsellor, 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 (*paraphrased and sung to the tune of "Church Triumphant"*)

'Words (c) David Schütz'

Come, sing a new song to the Lord,
come, sing a new song, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, and bless his name,
that all may know his saving grace.

Let heav'n be glad, let earth rejoice;
let sea and all its creatures roar.
Let field exult, and all in it;
let trees and forests sing for joy.

Rejoice before the coming Lord,
for he shall come to judge the earth,
to judge the earth with righteousness -
he judges nations with his truth

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

Reader: A READING FROM THE LETTER OF PAUL 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 Saviour, 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.

GRADUAL HYMN: 148 – “See Amid the Winter’s Snow”

(vs 1,2,3 before Gospel reading, vs 4,5 after Gospel reading)

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

Reader: THE LORD BE WITH YOU.

People: AND ALSO WITH YOU.

Reader: THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST ACCORDING TO LUKE.

People: GLORY TO YOU, LORD JESUS 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 Saviour, 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 favours!” 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.

Leader: THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST. **People: PRAISE TO YOU, LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

HOMILY: The Very Rev’d Nelson Small

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Leader: We believe that we may join an angel song of hope, as love radiates out from the life of God. We believe that the birth of Christ is the sign of a vivid promise which never ends.

People: Christ is Born! We believe in the wonder of Christmas.

Leader: We believe in new beginnings born of faith. Love is always waiting to bring the Word to us again, and to transform the earth into a place where doors are held open to the coming of the Christ.

People: Christ is Born! We believe in the wonder of Christmas.

Leader: We believe that, whether we are a child or of older years, delight and joy will stir within us, as we dare to look at the sign of God's trust in humankind lying within the manger as the infant Christ.

People: Christ is Born! We believe in the wonder of Christmas.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Most gracious and loving God, you have brought us again to the glad season when we celebrate the birth of the beloved Child, Jesus the Christ. Grant that Christ may be born anew in our hearts. Open our ears that we may hear again the angelic chorus of old. Open our lips that we too may sing with joy the angels' song. Lord of new birth,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of mercy, by the birth of your holy Child Jesus, you give a great light to dawn on our darkness. We confess to you the darkness of our lives, the times when we have refused the gift of your love forgive us. Bestow upon us the gift of your peace that the likeness of your Son may be formed in us. Lord of new birth,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: God of comfort, we thank you that we have a warm place to gather, and friends and family to care for us. We pray for all who are sick..., lonely, in trouble, or afraid, that they may be healed and comforted. Lord of new birth,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: O God of love, by the mystery of the word made flesh, you draw near and dwell among us. Open our hearts that we may receive the gift of your presence in the birth of Jesus. Fill our lives with your love that we might care for the earth's children with the love you have for us all. Lord of new birth,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: O God of peace, send the love of Jesus the peace maker into our hurting and troubled world. Strengthen those who work for peace, give courage to those who seek justice, and touch us all with the hope of your reign. Direct our steps that we may walk in the glory revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Lord of new birth,

All: hear our prayer.

Leader: In the name of the Christ Child we pray. **Amen.**

WE EXPRESS OUR PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Leader: We celebrate you and praise you, God of new beginnings and surprising opportunities

People: because you never cease to make yourself available to us.

Leader: We appreciate you and thank you, God of unquenchable life and irrepressible grace

People: because you continue to offer us the resources of your Spirit.

Leader: We love you and embrace you, God of unfailing compassion and constant companionship

People: because you walk beside us and transform us into agents of love.

Leader: Forgive us, O Lord,

People: when we seek to keep you to ourselves and shut others from your influence

Leader: Forgive us, O Spirit,

People: when we deny your friendship and withhold your compassion from others.

(Pause for Reflection)

All: Heal us, restore and empower us, O God, we pray for the sake of your kingdom which has broken into our world. Amen.

ANTHEM: **“What Child Is This”** (duet by Janet & Margaret Kamerman)

THE PEACE

All stand.

Leader: God is with us! May the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

All may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN: **122 - “In the Bleak Midwinter”**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and forever. Amen.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER (3): P. 198 [preface P. 219]

THE LORD’S PRAYER: P. 211

BREAKING OF THE BREAD (6): P. 213

THE COMMUNION

All are invited to share in the Blessed Sacrament. After receiving Communion, please go to the back of the church to pick up a lighted candle.

COMMUNION HYMNS: **125 – “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”**

146 – “Twas in the Moon of Wintertime”

ANTHEM: **“Good Christians All, Rejoice”**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DOXOLOGY

Glory to God, **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, forever and ever. Amen.**

The lights in the nave and chancel are dimmed.

LESSON OF LIGHT: St. John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of the Father's only Son, full of grace and truth.

HYMN: 119 – “Silent Night!”

PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray. Almighty God and Creator of light, a Child is born for us and a Son is given to us. Your eternal Word leaped down from heaven in the silent watches of the night, and now your Church is filled with wonder and light at the nearness of our God. Open our hearts to receive his life and increase our vision with the rising of the dawn that our lives may be filled with his glory and his peace; who lives and reigns forever and ever. **Amen.**

**Go now in peace, never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know he will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

*All praise and thanks to you,
God of Christmas glory!
We join our hearts and voices
with all peoples, all nations,
and all of creation in
welcoming
your gift to us of new life in
Jesus Christ.*

BLESSING

After the blessing the lights are turned on.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: 154 – “Joy to the World”

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, and live in the joy of Christmas.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please leave your candle at the back of the church.



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



MEMORIAL

*The flowers that decorate our church this Christmas season
are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of:*

Alex & The Rettie Family
Jamie Hume

Sidney, Elizabeth, Alfred & Dorothy Jukes
Herbert & Lillian Cook, Florence Richmond
Allan & Mary Moore, Jim Hurd, Tyler Tyson
Vaughan Trim, Bernie DeSantis
Cecil & Edith Eagar, R. A. Eagar
Audrey Watthey & William Watthey
Loves Ones of the Wilkinson Family
Ken Brown, Peggy & Earl Brown
Aileen & Frank Peachey

Stanley Scarr

The Feller & Droessler Families
David Marwood

Donald, Michael & Lauren Cameron
Alice & Ernest Cameron and Family
Romeo & Minerva Bellehumer
William Gilchrist

Camille Poole, Jean Allen

David & Mary Ann and Angela Poole
Rita & Ray Barks

Gloria & Alan Virgo

Jack & Gladys Anderson, Becky Brown
Hilda & James Brickett

Kasie Brickett & Oliver Wurm
Thelma & Kenneth Hurd

Peter Honsinger

Eleanor McClure

Addie & Mark Taylor and Family
Ed Fisher

Paul & Kevin Bushey, Ted Thurston
Gladys & Lawrence Hartwell

Harvey Borneman

Harold Truelove

Maureen Smith



Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.