

# The Nativity of Our Lord

## Christmas Eve



December 24, 2020



# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING VOLUNTARY

Carol of the Bells

arr. Douglas Wagner  
*The Handbell Choir*

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN

O come, all ye faithful

Hymnal 83

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion,  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -  
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
 born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
 Word of the Father,  
 now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others  
 Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786); harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

## OPENING ACCLAMATION

*Enriching Our Worship*

*Officiant* Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.  
*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

## COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP 355

*Officiant* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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.  
*People* **Amen.**

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

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

Let us pray.

God of glory, your splendor shines from a manger in Bethlehem, where the Light of the world is humbly born into the darkness of human night. Open our eyes to Christ's presence in the shadows of our world, so that we, like him, may become beacons of your justice, and defenders of all for whom there is no room; through our Savior Jesus Christ, born this night, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

## FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

*Lector* A reading from 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.

The Word of the Lord.

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

- 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 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 mad 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 all the peoples with his truth.

## SECOND READING

Titus 2:11-14

*Lector* A reading from 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.

The Word of the Lord.

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

The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,  
when Christ our Lord was born on Christmas night.

*Venite adoremus Dominum. Venite adoremus Dominum.*

*Venite adoremus Dominum.*

*Venite adoremus Dominum.*

‘Twas Mary, daughter pure of holy Anne,  
that brought into this world the God made man.

She laid him in a stall at Bethlehem;  
the ass and oxen shared the roof with them.

*Venite adoremus Dominum.*

*Venite adoremus Dominum.*

## GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

*Deacon* The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

NICENE CREED

*Officiant* Joining with Christians throughout the centuries and throughout the world this night, let us affirm the faith of the Church, saying the Nicene Creed.

*All* **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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Common Worship*

*Reader* In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Father, on this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh.  
Renew your Church as the Body of Christ.

Holy God, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* On this holy night there was no room for your Son in the inn.

Protect with your love all who are in need of income, food, and shelter.

Holy God, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* On this holy night Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth.

Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress, including *Marie Abdulla, Pat Ald, Sue Barber, Genet Barthwell, Tim Cook, Margie Deeb, David Dieter, Digory, Kate Latham Driscoll, Debbie Faust, Vincent Faust, Grace, Hope Hoffman, Judith, Lauren Keils, Lucinda Keils, JoAnn Kelly, Matthew Klein, Kathryn Lincoln, Arnold Matthews, Jane McFeely, Jonathon Moon, Paul, Kathleen S., Marilyn Shabby, Owen Sprague, Gregg Stewart, Len St. Jean, John T., Bobbie Traxler, Sue Urbanski, Mimi Van Scoter, Megan White, Bob Wright*, and those we now name.  
(*People add names silently or aloud.*)

*Silence*

Holy God, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* On this holy night your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness.

Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world, including those who are mourning the loss of loved ones.

Holy God, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* On this holy night the angels sang, "Peace to God's people on earth."

Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in our communities and in all the world, especially those serving in health care and on the front lines throughout this pandemic.

Holy God, in your mercy

*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* On this holy night shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy.

Let us celebrate the reasons for joy in our lives, including those who have birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially *Tom Nihem, Sonia Olsen, Richard Thomas, Will Basse, Sabine Landsberg, Andy Guffey, Chelsea Wilbert*, and those we now name.  
(*People add names silently or aloud.*)

*Silence*



*People* Holy God, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* On this holy night strangers found the Holy Family, and saw the baby lying in the manger.  
Bless our homes and all whom we love.

*People* Holy God, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* On this holy night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven.  
Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming  
kingdom, especially those in whose memory tonight's flowers and music are given, and those  
we now name. (*People add names silently or aloud.*)

*Silence*

*People* Holy God, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Reader* On this holy night Christians all over the world celebrate Christ's birth.  
Open our hearts that he may be born in us anew.

*People* Holy God, in your mercy  
**Hear our prayer.**

*Officiant* Father, on this holy night angels and shepherds worshipped at the manger throne.  
Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph, and the saints,  
through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ.

*All* **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*Officiant* Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given,  
and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace.

*People* The peace of the Lord be always with you.  
**And also with you.**

*The people share with one another signs of Christ's peace.*

*Officiant* Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

*Please give generously at [christcd.org/online-giving](http://christcd.org/online-giving)  
or by mailing a check to Christ Church Detroit, 960 E. Jefferson Ave., Detroit, 48207.*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl

*Angelus Domini nuntiavit Mariae et concepit de Spiritu sancto.  
Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus, Jesus.  
Maria dixit: Ecce ancilla Domini. Fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum.  
Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus, Jesus.  
Et Verbum caro factum est et habitavit in nobis.  
Ave Maria, gratia plena, Dominus tecum.  
Benedicta tu in mulieribus, et benedictus fructus ventris tui, Jesus, Jesus.  
Sancta Maria, Mater Dei, ora pro nobis peccatoribus,  
Sancta Maria, ora pro nobis, nunc et in hora mortis nostrae.  
Amen. Amen. Amen.*

## PRESENTATION HYMN

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; alleluia, alleluia!  
Praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP 377

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **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 God thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God 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 he 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 in 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 all 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 God, now and forever.

*Celebrant and People*

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

*Celebrant* 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.**

## BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*Common Worship*

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.  
*All* **As the grain once scattered in the fields  
and the grapes once dispersed on the hillside  
are now reunited on this table in bread and wine,  
so, Lord, may your whole Church soon be gathered together  
from the corners of the earth into your kingdom.  
Amen.**

*The priest does not receive, but begins the Prayer for Spiritual Communion.*

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

*Common Worship*

*Celebrant* Faithful God, in the wonder of your wisdom and love,  
you fed your people in the wilderness with the bread of angels,  
and you sent Jesus to be the bread of life.  
*All* **Although we cannot gather in person as a congregation  
and consume these gifts of bread and wine together,  
we thank you that we do receive the sacrament of Christ's presence,  
the forgiveness of sins, and all other benefits of Christ's passion.  
By the power of the Holy Spirit,  
may we embody your desire and be renewed for your service,  
through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## CONCLUDING COLLECT

*Celebrant* Lord Jesus, stay with us. Assure us and revive us in the truth that in you alone, we are  
and always will be one body. Nourish us with solace and strength to be bread for the  
world, and bring us at last to that heavenly banquet, where with the Father and the Holy  
Spirit, you live and reign, one God, for ever and ever.  
**Amen.**

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

## BLESSING

*Celebrant*

May the joy of the angels, the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the magi, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of the God of heaven, the God who creates us, the Son who sets us free, and the Spirit who promises to be with us even to the end of the ages, be with you all evermore.

*All*

**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

Hark! The herald angels sing

Hymnal 87

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King!  
2 Christ, by high-est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;  
3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!  
late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.  
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.  
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an-gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!  
 hail, the Sun of Right-eous - ness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

*Refrain*

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

## DISMISSAL

*Deacon* Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## ABOUT THE ART AND MUSIC

The art on the cover is called *The Birth of Jesus with Shepherds* (1973). It is from the JESUS MAFA collection. JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings. *The Birth of Jesus with Shepherds* is reprinted here with permission under the Creative Commons Attribution Noncommercial License of Vanderbilt University.

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## *Dedications for Christmas Flowers & Music*

The poinsettias and other Christmas flowers and greens in the sanctuary are given by parish members to the glory of God and in loving memory, in thanksgiving, or in honor of loved ones.

### **In loving memory of**

George F. Port – in celebration of his life

Lisa Staif – our beloved sister, aunt, and godmother

Sarah Mashour-Deeb – my beloved mother  
Raymond Deeb – my beloved brother

Betty Locke & Altero Alteri – my parents  
Joan Buelens

Rachel & John Staif  
Kareem & Charles Costandi

Tony, Mary, and Albert Abdullah

John & Ann Warner; Enrick Warner  
Carl Simmons; Luther & Glended Stafford  
Ickford Edwards

Lisa Staif; Kareem & Charles Costandi;  
Barbara Feldkircher; Donald Berlage

Grandma Bernell; Aunt Tuts; Dr. K

Cathy Zuker

William & Stephania Hubbard

Samuel George Watts, Sr.  
Samuel George Watts, Jr.

Mike & Helen George (Howarah)  
Al Keatts

Mary Alice Dietrick; Mary Carolyn Harms  
Nancy vom Steeg; Ralph D. Cushing, Jr.

Katharine & Frank Belcher; Constance Inez Loevy  
David & Emily Crenshaw

Douglas Esse; Loretta Meide; Brigitte Meide  
Helen John

### **Given by**

Harriet and family

Lauren, John, Marisa, Dana, and Erin

Margie Deeb

Beth Ann Tesluk

Miriam Costandi

George & Yvonne Abdullah & family

Betty & Patrick Warner

The Berlage Family

Ruth Boeder & Tom Rich

Eileen & Gary MacDonald

Greg & Mary Ann Williams

Merle Watts

From the family  
Mary Keatts

Barbara Cushing

Denise & Kerry Crenshaw

Rosemary Esse



**In thanksgiving for**

Our loving Sittoo, Miriam Costandi

My grandchildren Nicholas, Ian, Rachel,  
William, Olivia, and Eric  
My devoted children Cathy & Steve, John & Sheila

**Given by**

Nicholas, Ian & Shaila,  
Rachel, William, Olivia, and Eric

Miriam Costandi

The choral and instrumental musical offerings this Christmas Eve are given by parish members to the glory of God and in loving memory, in thanksgiving, or in honor of loved ones.

**In loving memory of**

Helen & Naseef Staif and Arax & George Leney,  
our dear parents

James & Clarice Williams

Ida & George Watts  
Eva & Herman Mitchell

**Given by**

Lauren & John Leney

Greg & Mary Ann Williams

Merle Watts

**In thanksgiving for**

The blessing of family and friends

Gloria & David Robinson,  
my loving sister & brother-in-law

**Given by**

Linda Culpepper

Carlitta Cabell



960 E. Jefferson Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48207  
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