



Christmas Eve

Episcopal Church *of the Ascension*

December 24, 2021 ✦ 6:00 pm

Welcome to Ascension!

We are delighted that you have joined us for worship.

This bulletin will help you to participate in our worship.

Join us in praying aloud the texts that are bold and singing with us throughout this service.



Music for Christmas Eve begins at 5:30 pm.

Gesù Bambino Pietro A. Yon

My Dancing Day William Witherup

O Sancticissima arr. Daniel Burton

This Endris Night arr. Daniel Burton

Emmanuel Words & Music by Mark Blankenship

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming arr. Jay Rouse

How Far Is It to Bethlehem Arr. Alice Parker & Robert Shaw

THE WORD OF GOD

Please stand.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 83 Blue Hymnal *O come, all ye faithful* *Adeste Fideles*

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
Come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Celebrant: Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

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

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

HYMN 93: Blue Hymnal *Angels from the realms of glory* *Regent Square*

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Ye, who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with you is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:
Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the newborn King.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Please be seated.

A READING

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, a 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, 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.

Thanks be to God.

The psalm will be read in unison.

PSALM 96

- 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.**

Please stand.

HYMN 102: Blue Hymnal

Once in royal David's city

Irby

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew,
He was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round, we shall see him;
But in heaven, where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

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

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.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Teresa F. Terry

Please stand.

HYMN 96: Blue Hymnal

Angels we have heard on high

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Remain standing.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Celebrant: *As we gather throughout this Christmas season, all the gifts we shall give and receive are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.*

Leader: That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherd's field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That the rejoicing of this day might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might comfort all who suffer from disease and illness and those in need. I invite you to name either aloud, or in the silence of your heart your prayers of intercession for yourself and for others, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Leader: That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, let us pray to the Lord.

All: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: *God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your word in our flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever.*

All: **Amen.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Offertory is a time for us to offer ourselves, souls and bodies, and gifts of money, bread, wine, music and meditation to the Lord. Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings to the clergy. The people stand while the offerings are presented.

THE OFFERTORY

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

ANTHEM

Angels' Carol

John Rutter

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B

BCP p. 367

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

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

Because you sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death, and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

HYMN: *Sanctus*

Holy, holy, holy Lord

Franz Peter Schubert

**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 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,

**All: 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.

All: Amen.

Celebrant: 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.**

After the bread is broken, the Celebrant and People sing together:

HYMN: *Fraction Anthem*

Jesus, Lamb of God

arr. Richard Proulx

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer, redeemer of the world:
Give us your peace, give us your peace.**

Celebrant: 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.

(The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life. Amen.)

As you prepare to receive the sacrament, extending both hands indicates you'd like to receive the intincted (dipped into the wine) host (bread). If you prefer to receive the host alone, simply point at the clergy person as they stand before you. Our tradition teaches that if you receive either (bread or wine) you have received in full. If you are attending worship from home, you can find a Prayer for Spiritual Communion on our website under Worship at Home, or use this link: <https://www.ascensiondallas.org/worship-at-ascension>.

ANTHEM

Some Children See Him

arr. Joseph Martin

Aden Black, soloist

HYMN 104: Blue Hymnal

A stable lamp is lighted

Andujar

A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices,
And every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry.
And straw like gold shall shine; A barn shall harbor heaven,
A stall become a shrine.

This child through David's city shall ride in triumph by;
The palm shall strew its branches,
And every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry.
Though heavy, dull, and dumb, And lie within the roadway
To pave his kingdom come.

Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die;
The sky shall groan and darken,
And every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry.
For stony hearts of men: God's blood upon the spearhead,
God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending, the low is lifted high;
The stars shall bend their voices,
And every stone shall cry. And every stone shall cry.
In praises of the Child by whose descent among us
The worlds are reconciled.

Please kneel.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

BLESSING

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

*As the ushers bring lighted candles to each pew, please tip your unlit candle into the flame.
The people continue to kneel while the ushers light the candles.*

THE ADORATION OF THE CHRIST CHILD

The lights will be dimmed.

HYMN 111: Blue Hymnal

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the savior is born.

Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

Celebrant:

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 for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please stand to sing.

HYMN 100: Blue Hymnal

Joy to the world!

Antioch

Verses 1, 2 & 4

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and Heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the world! The savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
The glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia Alleluia!

*At the conclusion of the service, please extinguish your candles, carry them to the doors
outside the Nave and place them in the baskets; being mindful of the wax that could spill.*

VOLUNTARY

Noel suisse --Grand Jeu et Duo

Louis-Claude Daquin

*Our guest musician this evening is
Alison Read, Harp*

*The Ascension Choir
Mark Unkenholz, Choirmaster and Organist*



*A heartfelt thank you to all at Ascension for their part in persevering in our
common life and ministry during the pandemic.
Your generosity and support have allowed us to continue to offer
worship and outreach services to our community all year long.
May the unifying power of the Holy Spirit continue to guide us in the year ahead.*



The Ascension office will be closed on December 27-28, and January 3, 2022.



***Christmas Contributions
are given to the Glory of God and.....***

Given in Thanksgiving for the beautiful Christmas Music:

By Polly Hix

By Janet and Bruce Calhoun

To The Flower Guild:

By Janet and Bruce Calhoun

To The Flower Guild given in Memory of:

Ted and Lois Waller by Julie Waller

Other Christmas Donations given in Thanksgiving for:

The blessing of the births of our two Great-Grandsons by Janet and Bruce Calhoun

Thankful for Life's blessings by Sally Kittles and Doug Podd

In Memory of:

Family and Friends by Sally Kittles and Doug Podd