

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ASPEN

Christmas Services

*A child has been born for us,
a son given to us...
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor,
Mighty God,
Prince of Peace.*

ISAIAH
9:6





THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

DECEMBER 24, 2020

A Blessed and Joyful Christmas to You!

May the Lord fill you with joy in this holy season. We are glad you have joined us for this celebration of Christmas Eve. Our regular Sunday services have been moved to LIVE Stream online only at 10:00AM. You can find this service and more information on our website www.christchurchaspen.org

Prelude

Greensleeves, Arr. Matt Riley

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From the entrance the Presider says:

Alleluia. Unto us a Child is born.

People: **O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.**

Presider: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People: **They lived in a land of shadows, but now light shines upon them.**

The Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory.

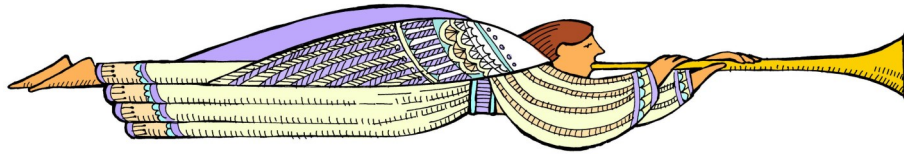
The glory of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Gloria In Excelsis

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.



Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: 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.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Lesson, *Isaiah 9: 2-4, 6-7*

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 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: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 96: 1-4, 11-12

The Psalm will be recited responsively by whole verse. The congregation will read the portion in bold type.

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

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.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes,
when he comes to judge the earth.**

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

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

Second Lesson, *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: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Priest reads the Gospel, first saying:

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

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

The Gospel, *Luke 2:1-20*

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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Nicene Creed

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 *Form IV*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Presider: Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Absolution

The Presider says: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

Welcome and Announcements

Offertory

Carol of the Bells/ God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen, Arr. Matt Riley

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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.

Candlelight

Silent Night, Arr. Dan Forrest

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Please dim your lights, light your candles, sing along at home to the music.

**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.**



The Blessing

Presider: May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Presider: Rejoicing in Emmanuel, God-with-us, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

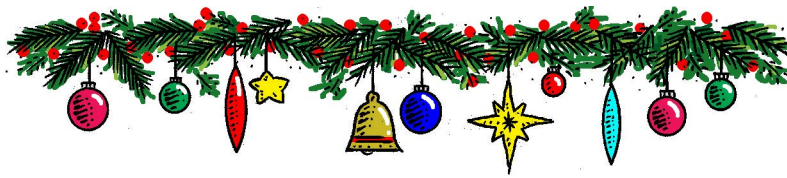
Postlude

Joy Medley, Arr. Heather Sorenson

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Christmas Flowers and Music Fund Donations Are Given To The Glory Of God

In loving memory of our parents, by Linda Ho

In loving memory of our loving parents, by Patti & Jay Webster

In loving memory of Helen Smith and Holger & Coranella Munson, our parents, by Peter & Julia Munson

In loving memory Edward Lee "Bud" Mulcahy, by Sandy & Lee Mulcahy

In loving memory of George & Margaret Schonewald and Don & Nina Bonniwell, by Steve & Cathy Bonniwell

In loving memory of David, by Katie McLellan

In Thanksgiving for the Joy to the World, by Katie McLellan

In thanksgiving for my family's health and safety, by Linda Ho

In thanksgiving for Redemption and Salvation through our Lord and Saviour JESUS CHRIST, by Patti & Jay Webster

In honor and glory for our loving families, by Diana Rumsey & Dick Nigbor

By Bruce McNab

Serving at this Christmas Eve Celebration

The Rev. Peter Munson, *Priest*

Warren Klug, *Presider & Reader*

Lees Pearson, *Reader*

Molly Noel, *Music Director*

Brittni Brown, *Violin*

Adam Gilbert, Big Beard Creative, *Video Production*

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Donna Rowlands, Katie McLellan, Jeff Posy, Joel Shannon



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