



## The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord

December 25, 2020

9:00 AM

### A Service of Holy Communion on Zoom

#### Ministers of the Liturgy:

The Rev. Dr. Judith lee

Kevin Keppler & Peach Warren

Musician: Dave Clinkman

#### Prelude

#### Greeting

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 Savior, which is Christ the Lord. Welcome Jesus, our humble gentle Savior, welcome to Bethlehem, where we have loved and fought and longed for the peace the world can never give. Fill us with your peace now and always.

#### Kevin Keppler:

He is the Son of God, the Light of the world and the Savior of all.  
Come let us adore him.

#### The Word of God

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

**Peach Warren** And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

#### Collect for Purity

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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. Amen.

#### Song of Praise

#### Angels we have heard on high

#### Hymn 96

*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*

*Oh, shepherds, why this jubilee?  
Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be  
Which inspire your heavenly song?  
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 (Gloria) in excelsis Deo  
Gloria in excelsis Deo*

### **The Christmas Collect**

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day 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 forever. **Amen.**

### **The Lessons**

**Kevin Keppler** Old Testament Reading

**Isaiah 52:7-10**

### **A Reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah**

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,  
who brings good news, who announces salvation,  
who says to Zion, 'Your God reigns.'

Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;  
for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.  
Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;  
for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.  
The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;  
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

**Peach Warren** Psalm 98

- 1 Sing to the **LORD** a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The **LORD** has made known his victory;  
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.
- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,  
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,  
the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

## New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 1:1-4

**Peach Warren**

## A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**O little town of Bethlehem vv 1 & 2**

**Hymn 79**

*O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep The silent stars go by;  
Yet in thy dark streets shineth The everlasting Light.  
The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee tonight.*

*For Christ is born of Mary And, gathered all above  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep Their watch of wond'ring love.  
O morning stars, together Proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all on earth!*

## The Gospel

John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John  
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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. What has come 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 a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

O little town of Bethlehem vv 3 & 5

Hymn 79

*How silently, how silently  
The wondrous gift is giv'n!  
So God imparts to human hearts  
The blessings of his heav'n.  
No ear may hear his coming,  
But in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him,  
still  
The dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy Child of Bethlehem,  
Descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in,  
Be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels  
The great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us,  
Our Lord Immanuel!*

## 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.

## Kevin Keppler & Peach Warren The Prayers of the People

In joy and thanksgiving at Christ's birth, Let us sing to the Lord a new song,  
**On earth peace, good will among people.**

We pray for all faithful people, for all welcome messengers of good news,  
Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will among people.**

For the nations and their rulers, for anyone with power and authority over the lives of others,  
Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will among people.**

For the Church, that with humility and faith we might change the world.  
Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will among people.**

For those who defend the helpless, for those who strive for justice, for those who work to find a way to peace,  
Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will among people.**

For anyone suffering, sick, alone, afraid, or in any kind of trouble.  
Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will among people.**

For our own community, for friends, neighbors, and family, near and far.  
Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will among people.**

For those who have died.  
Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will among people.**

We offer thanksgiving for Mary's firstborn Son - good news of great joy.

Let us sing to the Lord a new song, **On earth peace, good will among people.**

Son of God, Child of Mary, born in the stable at Bethlehem, be born again in us this day that through us the world may know the wonder of your love. **Amen**

### **The Peace**

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

### **The Holy Communion**

**Offertory hymn**

**What Child is this?**

**HYMN 115**

*What child is this who laid to rest  
On Mary's lap is sleeping  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet  
While shepherds watch are keeping*

*Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding  
The end of fear for all who hear  
The silent Word is speaking*

*This, this is Christ the king  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
The babe, the son of Mary*

*This, this is Christ the king  
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing  
Haste, haste to bring him laud  
The babe, the son of Mary*

**Offertory Sentence** All things come of thee O Lord And of thine own have we given thee

### **The Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **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 him thanks and praise.**

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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**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.**

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 all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

*We remember his death,*

*We proclaim his resurrection,*

*We await his coming in glory;*

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,

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Breaking of the Bread**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

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.

*During the Communion hymn families take part in Communion at home, praying in thanksgiving for the Life we share in Christ.*

**Communion Hymn**

**Away in a manger**

**Hymn 101**

*Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,*

*the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.*

*The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,*

*the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*



*The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,  
but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,  
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay  
close by me for ever, and love me I pray.  
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,  
and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Son of Mary, Son of God, may we, for whom the heavens have opened never lose that heavenly vision. May we, who like the shepherds, have seen in your birth a new kind of love, witness to that love in our lives. **Amen.**

### **Kevin Keppler & Peach Warren      The Christmas Blessing**

Let us bless the living God: he was born of the Virgin Mary  
revealed in his glory;  
worshipped by angels,  
proclaimed among the nations,  
believed in throughout the world  
exalted to the highest heavens.  
Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation.  
now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

May Christ, who by his Incarnation united things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, Alleluia.  
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

*Refrain*

*Go tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere;  
go tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born!*

*While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.*

*Refrain*

*Down in a lowly manger the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn.*

*Refrain*