



**The Eve of the Nativity of Our lord
December 24 2020**

**A Service of Holy Communion with a Dramatic
Reading of the Gospel
4:00 PM on Zoom**

Ministers of the Liturgy

The Rev. Dr. Judith Lee

Our Youth:

Sebastian Carpenter, Malachi Carpenter, Allison Kee, Emily Kee, Selena
Phillips, Nathan Pirelli, Teagan Richards, Zoey Richards, Lauren Ruggiero,
Tessa Scrimgeour, Landon Sweet

Musicians: Randolph Bloom, Jeff Lukas, Kimberly Stochaj

*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.* [Isaiah 7:2]

Prelude

In Dulci Jubilo

Marcel Dupre (1886-1971)

*During the Prelude pictures from past pageants will show the participants and the congregation
gathering in pews and in the back of the church.*

Mother Judith

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

Opening Hymn

Once in Royal David's City

Hymn #102

Irby

Soloist: Kimberly Stochaj

*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.*

THE WORD OF GOD

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

Tessa Scrimgeour And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Tessa Scrimgeour The Christmas Collect

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

Nathan Pirelli The First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from the Prophet 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. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 83 O Come all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

During the hymn we will see pictures from past pageants of participants processing to the altar.

*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*

*God from God, Light of Light eternal
Lo, He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Only God Begotten, Son of the Father;
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!*

Mother Judith: The Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to Luke [2:1-20]

During the reading, we will see slides of the pageant participants gathered at the altar

Allison Kee Narrator #1

At that time, Caesar Augustus sent out a decree that a census be taken throughout the Empire. Everyone went to his ancestors' hometown to be counted. So Joseph went from Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to Bethlehem in Judea, which is the city of David, because he was a descendant of David. He went with Mary, who was pregnant.

While they were in Bethlehem, they rested in a barn, for there was no room for them in the inn. The time came for Mary to give birth. When Mary saw the warm barn full of sweet-smelling hay and the friendly faces of the stable animals, God's creatures all, she knew this would be a good place for the Christ child to be born. That night Jesus was born. There was no cradle so Mary wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger.

Emily Kee Narrator #2:

While the animals were rejoicing, God was sending angels from heaven to tell the world of the baby's birth. Shepherds were keeping watch over their sheep in the countryside around Bethlehem. Suddenly, God's angel came upon them, and the bright light of God's glory shone all around them. They were terrified. The angel said to them:

Teagan Richards Angel #1:

"Do not be afraid, for I bring you good tidings of great joy, for the whole world. Tonight a Savior has been born in Bethlehem, the Messiah, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign to you: You shall find the baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

Landon Sweet Narrator #3:

Suddenly the angel was joined by many other angels, singing God's praises:

Zoey Richards: Angel #2:

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward all."

Landon Sweet Narrator #3:

When the angels had gone up to heaven, the shepherds turned to each other and said,

Sebastian Carpenter Shepherd #1:

"Let's go to Bethlehem as fast as we can.

Malachi Carpenter Shepherd #2:

That's a good idea. We can and see for ourselves what the angels are singing about.

Landon Sweet Narrator #3

And they ran into the town, and they found Mary, Joseph, and the baby in a barn surrounded by animals. The baby Jesus gazed up at the shepherds, and they knew that he was the Messiah, Christ the Lord. When they left Bethlehem, they spread the good news of Jesus birth to everyone they saw, because they were filled with love and joy.

Allison Kee Narrator #1:

Christmas will always be a time for celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ. This is how much God loved the world: he gave his Son, His one and only Son. By believing in him, anyone can have a whole and peaceful life. We thank God for this gift. No words can describe it.

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

Musical Meditation

In the Bleak Midwinter

Jeff Lukas

Selena Phillips & Lauren Ruggiero 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 do research to find new ways of healing, 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

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

Offertory Hymn

Away in a Manger

Hymn #101

*Away in a manger no crib for a 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 you lord Jesus; look down from the sky
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me lord Jesus I ask you to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with you there.*

The Holy Communion

Mother Judith

God is with us.

God is with us on this holy night, drawing us together even though we must stay apart

God is with us in our friends and family.

God is with us in our hearts.

From the beginning of time, when God created the world out of darkness,

God has been with us.

For thousands of years, teachers and prophets have taught us that God is with us.

When Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem,

and angels and shepherds and animals gathered around a manger—just like we do today in our own homes-- God was with us in Jesus.

God is with us in this bread and this wine.

Jesus taught his friends that God was with them when he said:

Eat this bread, this is my body given for you.

O God, through your Holy Spirit may our hearts and minds be open to your presence. May we be with you, as you are with us.

Gathered in our own homes, as your children, we are made one body in Jesus Christ, Who came in love, lived in love, and died in love, who was and is and is to come. We share in offering our gifts of bread and wine, and we offer to you our lives—all that we are, have been, and will become.

Pour out your Spirit upon this offering, that it may draw us together in one Spirit. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

We praise you and thank you, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Holy Communion

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. Take it in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

During the musical meditation, please share communion at home. We pray in thanksgiving for the Life that we share in Christ.

Musical Meditation **A Question for Christmas** *Ed Rush & Douglas Nolan*

Jeff Lucas

Tessa Scrimgeour **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

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.**

Hymn 111

Silent Night

Stille Nacht

During this hymn, you are invited to light a candle and sing, your computers muted.

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.*

Selena Phillips & Lauren Ruggiero The Blessing of Christmas

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.

Mother Judith May Christ, who by his Incarnation brought together all 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.

Hymn 100 *Joy to the World?* Hymn #100

*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 men their 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.*

Mother Judith The Dismissal

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