

Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship



Welcome to All Saints Episcopal Church

December 24, 2023

9:00 pm

The Rev. William Petersen, Celebrant
The Rev. Elizabeth Preysner, Preacher
Holly Simons, Minister of Music

Prelude What Child is this? – *English melody arranged by Carol Foss*
I wonder as I wander – *Appalachian carol arranged by Jack Schrader*
Silent Night – *Franz Gruber, arranged by Karen Kuehmann*
Claudia Bissett, flute

Christmas Dialog and Greeting

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

People **The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

Celebrant Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

People **We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

Celebrant For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

People **In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

Celebrant May the grace and truth of Christ be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Processional Hymn # 83 (vs. 1-3) *O Come All Ye Faithful*

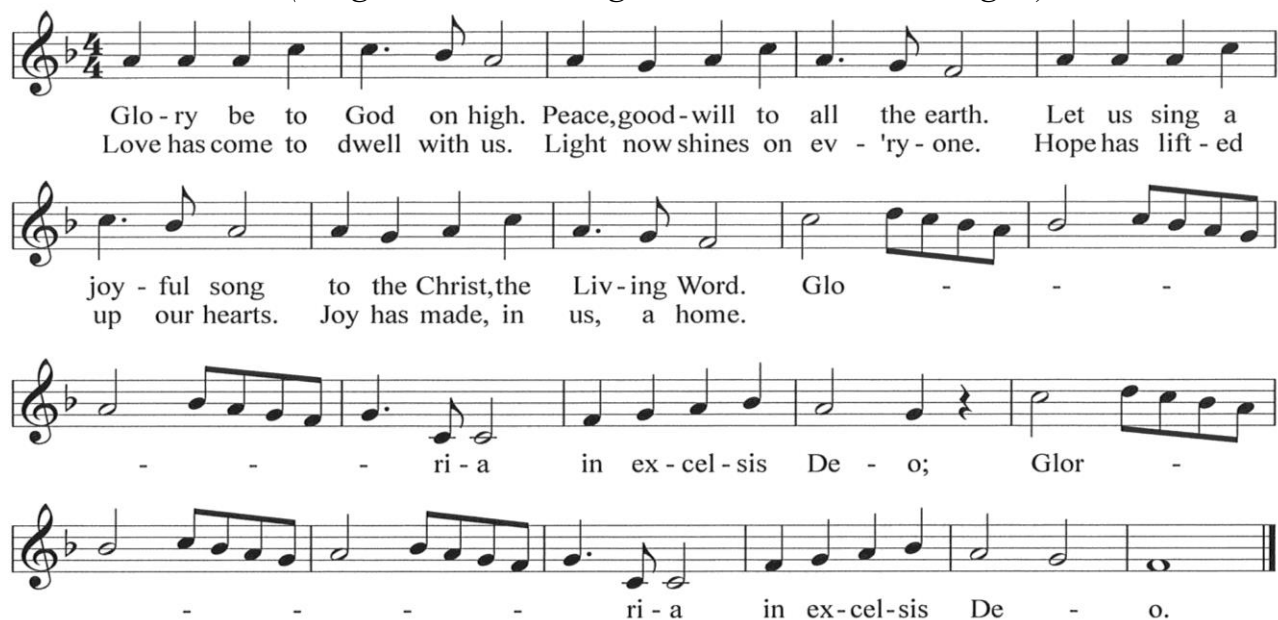
*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;*

[Refrain] *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 from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only begotten Son of the Father. [Refrain]*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest. [Refrain]*

Christmas Gloria (sung to the tune "Angels we have heard on high")



Glo - ry be to God on high. Peace, good-will to all the earth. Let us sing a
Love has come to dwell with us. Light now shines on ev - 'ry - one. Hope has lift - ed

joy - ful song to the Christ, the Liv - ing Word. Glo - - -
up our hearts. Joy has made, in us, a home.

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o; Glor -

- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Collect for Christmas Eve

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray together.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2, 4,6

This poem promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this!

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. 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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn #79 (vs. 1, 2 and 5) *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

*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 the earth!*

*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 Emmanuel!*

Second Reading **Titus 2:11-14**

*The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity.
Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of
our Savior's final appearance.*

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn (vs. 1) **O Holy Night**

*O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till He appeared and the soul felt His worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.*

[CHORUS]

*Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices,
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, divine, O night when Christ was born!*

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:1-14

Gospeller 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. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

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." To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

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!" To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

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. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them. To us is born a Savior.

Jesus Christ our Lord.

Sequence Hymn (vs.3) O Holy Night

*Truly He taught us to love one another,
His law is Love, and His gospel is Peace;
chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother,
and in His Name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we;
Let all within us praise His Holy Name!*

[CHORUS]

*Christ is the Lord! Then ever, ever praise we,
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!
His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!*

Christmas Homily

Rev. Liz Preysner

NICENE CREED *We profess our faith with the whole church.*

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
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, who with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified, who 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

Wonderful Counselor, increase our joy as the church gathers on this holy night to sing of our dear Savior's birth. May the story of salvation live in the hearts of all who sing of its wonders. God of grace,

Hear our prayer.

Mighty God, you have broken the yoke of sin's burden through the birth of your Son. Comfort those whose burdens distract them from the deeper peace of this holy night and grant them a restful mind. God of peace,

Hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father, uphold all who are in sorrow or need of your divine goodness and mercy. We remember with thanksgiving all who have died and who now rest in your peaceful light. God of love,

Hear our prayer.

Gracious God, bathe us always in the light of your Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant Unto us this night, in the City of David, is born a Savior who is Christ the Lord. Peace on earth to all by God's favor. The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Choral Offertory Anthem Still, still, still – *Traditional Austrian carol; arranged by J. Hoelscher*

The Christ Mass

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Celebrant 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus (sung to tune "Bring a torch, Jeannette Isabella")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly One God of pow - er, God of might. Heav'n and
earth are full of your glor - y. Ho - sa - na in the high - est. Blessed! Blessed
is the one who comes Blessed! Blessed! in the name of God.

The congregation may kneel or remain standing.

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 sacrifices 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 now pray,

LORD'S PRAYER (*sung to tune of Away in a Manger; lyrics: Mark Vitalis Hoffman*)

Our Father in heaven, all praise to Your name! Your kingdom among us, Your presence proclaimed! What You want to happen, grant that it be done On earth as in heaven, now for everyone.

For bread that is needed, provide us each day; As we forgive others, our sins take away; Don't bring us to testing more than we can bear, But save us from evil by Your loving care.

For Yours is the kingdom; o'er all things You reign. And Yours is the power, all things You maintain. To You be the glory, resounding again From all of creation, forever! Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the bread.

Agnes Dei (Lamb of God) (*Sung to tune "What Child Is This"*)

O lamb of God, O Holy Child, who takes the sin of the world away; have mercy on us, lamb so mild, the babe, the son of Mary. This, this is Your body giv'n, Your precious blood, the gift of heav'n. Take, eat, for we are one in the babe, the son of Mary.

Invitation to Communion

The mystery hidden for the ages is revealed for us in this meal. Come, behold and receive your God.

Communion Hymn # 87 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

***Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king;
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all you nations, rise; join the triumph of the skies;
with angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

***Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

***Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn king!"***

The Gospel of the Incarnation John 1:1-14

The Celebrant lights a large candle from an altar candle, which symbolizes Christ, the Light of the world of whom John's gospel speaks. The ushers light their candles from the Celebrant's candle, then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the aisle. The lighted candle is never tilted, but is always held upright when giving light to another.

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.

Candle Hymn Silent Night

We will listen to the music of Silent Night and not sing it to honor the 180,000 Christians in the Holy Land whose leaders have called to refrain from organizing any unnecessarily festive Advent and Christmas activities in solidarity with the victims of the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. May our silence be a prayer for peace.

Blessing for Christmas

May the Word that Mary brought to birth carry you into new and abundant life.

Amen.

May the Word that Joseph cradled in his arms enfold you with love and strength.

Amen.

May the Word that angels proclaimed in song bring harmony to our world.

Amen.

And may the blessings of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

Amen.

Individual candles are extinguished and the congregation stands.

Sending Hymn #100 Joy to the World (v 1, 3, 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.*

*No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns in fest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow, far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.*

*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.*

The Dismissal

*The God we worship is never confined to this holy place. So go and travel with the God
who is found in ordinary and surprising places.*

Worship need not cease.

**It can echo in our lives, in our words, in our deeds,
in our moods, and in our dreams.**

Carry worship with you wherever you may go.

Postlude People, look East - French carol, *arr. R, Lau*

About All Saints' ~ We welcome you to a church that is clear about the Christian faith that stands in the rich tradition of Christian worship that encourages people to grow in the faith they profess, that believes we ought to live so as to make a difference in the world. If you are looking for such a church, then All Saints' Episcopal Church is for you - we invite you into our community of faith.

How to use this Worship Bulletin ~ We follow the order of worship from The Book of Common Prayer as it is printed in this bulletin. Leader parts are in regular print; the congregation parts are in **bold** print. Notes and directions are printed in *italics*. Hymn numbers are noted in this bulletin and can be found in The Hymnal 1982 found in the pew racks.

All are invited to receive Communion in this church.

The Common Cup as an Option Following guidance from Bishop +Rob to clergy and discussion with our Worship and Music Team and Vestry, we will offer the option of receiving wine by common cup as we offer the option of gluten free bread during Holy Communion. The Eucharistic Ministers will continue to distribute wine via individual cups and if you desire the common cup*, please ask Pastor Bill (just as you would for gluten free).

**Note: For sanitation concerns and at the direction of our bishop, we will no longer offer the opportunity for Intinction (the dipping of the bread/wafer into the wine. The common cup is only available for drinking from.*

Facility Information ~ Handicap accessible restrooms are located downstairs in the hallways exiting the Parish Hall and upstairs in the hallway exiting the sanctuary. A small restroom is located off the narthex lobby at the rear of the worship space. We welcome children in worship, but should you (or they) need, an unstaffed nursery area is located off the narthex lobby.

Seeking a Church Home? ~ If you would like additional information about All Saints', are seeking a faith community to call home, or interested in exploring your faith, please speak with the rector.

Masks are not required in the building at the present time. However, if you feel more comfortable wearing a mask, then you are encouraged to do so.

Sharing of the peace will be done from your seat only.

Offering plates are available at entrances to the worship space or giving online @ wolfesaints.com.

We continue to livestream for those unable to worship in person.



Ministers: All the People of All Saints'
Bishop: The Rt. Rev. A. Robert Hirschfeld
Rector: The Rev. William "Bill" Petersen
Priest Associate: The Rev. Elizabeth Preysner
Minister of Music: Holly Simons
Sunday School Teacher: Danielle Pierpont
Parish Administrator: Debra Hoyt
Sexton: Mark McLaughlin