

St. Paul's EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHRISTMAS EVE

The Rev. Alice Graham Grant
Celebrant and Homilist

HOLY EUCHARIST
4:00 P.M. SERVICE
DECEMBER 24, 2023

Prelude

Lo How a Rose E'er Blooming
'Twas In the Moon of Wintertime

arr. Kevin McChesney
arr. Martha Lynn Thompson

Processional

O Come, All Ye Faithful
Verses 1-3 and 6

Hymn 83

Liturgy of the Word

Opening Acclamation

The Celebrant says

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

People

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant says

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.

The following is sung.

Gloria

Angels We Have Heard on High
Verses 1 and 3

Hymnal 96

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
and the moun-tains in re-ply, ech - o - ing their brave de-light. Glo - - -
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - -
- - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o. 3. Come to Beth - le -
hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing; come, a - dore on bend - ed knee
Christ, the Lord, the new - born King. Glo - - -
- ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - -



Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
 People *And also with you.*
 Celebrant Let us pray.

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.*

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from 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.

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

Psalm of the Day 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.

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from Titus.

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.*

Gradual

Go Tell it on the Mountain
Verses 1 and 2

Hymn 99

Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

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

Homily

The Rev. Alice Graham Grant

Nicene Creed

All who are able, stand.

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

People's Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

Peace

BCP 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People *And also with you.*

Announcements

If you would like to donate online, follow the QR code found on the giving card in the back of the pews.

At the end of the announcements, you are also welcome to come forward to make a special donation to Heifer International, a non-profit organization whose mission is to end hunger and poverty, to mark an anniversary, blessing, or other event.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Offertory

In Dulci Jubilo
Canterbury Choir

arr. Ian Higginson

Eucharistic Prayer B

BCP 367

The people remain standing.

The Celebrant proceeds.

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

Celebrant and People

Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Hymnal S 130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might, _____

hea - ven and earth are full, _____ full _____ of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes _____ in the name of the Lord. _____ Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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,

Memorial Acclamation

Celebrant and People
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant then 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 to 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 forever. **AMEN.**

The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

People and Celebrant

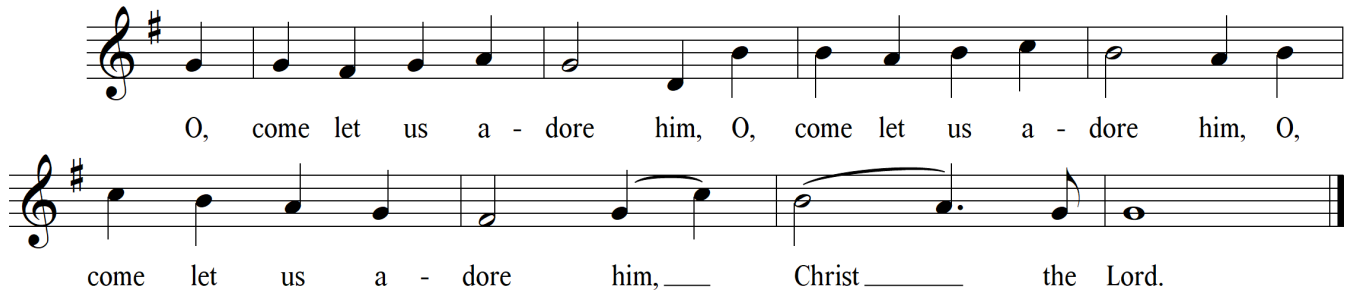
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

O Come Let Us Adore Him



O, come let us a - dore him, O, come let us a - dore him, O, come let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

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.

All are welcome to come forward for communion, including children. Please follow the ushers' guidance as you come to the rail.

If you would like to receive the wine by intinction (dipping the bread in the cup), keep the bread in your hands and wait for the communion server to come to you.

If you would like to receive from the common cup (drinking from the cup directly), please consume the bread first and then make your way to the steps at the end of the rail. A communion server will be there with the common cup.

If it is not your custom to receive communion, you are still welcome to come forward for a blessing. Simply cross your arms across your chest and the minister will offer a prayer.

A priest is also available to provide prayers for healing in the back southwest corner of the church. Simply head to the back during communion distribution and wait for your turn.

Communion Music

Of the Father's Love Begotten
Canterbury Bells

arr. Jerry Davidson

Away in a Manger
O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymn 101
Hymn 78

If you are at home or otherwise unable to take communion, you may say the following prayer.

Spiritual Communion Prayer

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and

strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

The people remain seated.

Carol

Silent Night

Hymn 111

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.

Final Prayer

Celebrant and People

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food as we hear your Word proclaimed and gather at your holy Table. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

**Recessional
Dismissal**

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hymn 87

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

Postlude

Carol Yeargin, Organist

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Worship. Serve. Grow.

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The Rev. George Adamik, Rector
The Rev. Javier E. Almendárez-Bautista, Associate Rector
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Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for:

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Our Children, Michael, Kathryn, and Grant by Tim and Mary Buckley</p> <p>Melanie Fairbrother's, long faithful service to St. Paul's by Kay and Brad Burgess</p> <p>For Family and Friends by The Catton Family</p> <p>My daughters, sons-in-law and my grandchildren by Gail Duncan</p> <p>The Altar Guild</p> | <p>The Staff, Priest, Volunteers, and the congregation at St. Paul's by Melanie Fairbrother.</p> <p>Our children, Emmie, Logan, and Evelyn by Jon and Heather Gates</p> <p>In honor of St. Paul's Clergy by Steve and Martha Glass</p> <p>For the Prayer Stitchers ministry and all of St. Paul's prayers during</p> | <p>Russell's illness by Judith and Russell Johnson</p> <p>Our Family by Karen and Ken Holmes</p> <p>In honor Ukraine families by John and Linda Lytvinenko</p> <p>Our Grandchildren, Andrew, Jack, Emma Cate, Madelyn, Olivia, Myles and Myra by Dennis and Cathy Pfeiffer</p> <p>In honor of our family by Mike and Sue Remavich</p> |
|---|--|---|



Poinsettias are given to the Glory of God and in memory of:

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|--|--|--|
| <p>Alfredo Belington and Pablo Fernando by Belington Family</p> <p>Joshua Bowen by Harriett Bowen and Brock and Tom Fransen</p> <p>James and Mary Davis by David and Brooke Bowersox</p> <p>Richard and Eloise Gray by David and Brooke Bowersox</p> <p>Bryan Wishon by David and Brooke Bowersox</p> <p>Bill and Anne Wishon by David and Brooke Bowersox</p> <p>Carrie Gilmore by David and Brooke Bowersox</p> <p>Wes Wishon by David and Brooke Bowersox</p> <p>Terry Bowersox by David and Brooke Bowersox</p> <p>Eleanor and Bernard Bystrynski, Lucy DiCapua and James Hartnett by Bill Bystrynski and Celia Hartnett</p> <p>T. K. and Lorene Martin, R.O. and Sallie Buckley by Tim and Mary Buckley</p> <p>David and Jeanne Clement by Sallie P. Clement</p> <p>John and Virginia Pollock by Sallie P. Clement</p> <p>Thomas Pollock and John Pollock by Sallie Clement</p> <p>My good friend, Charlie Muse by Alison Arnold</p> <p>John and Katherine Rega and Domenic and Mary Cestra by Steven and Laura Cestra</p> <p>Theresa Dean, mother of Tryus Cohan by Tryus and Heidi Cohan</p> <p>Patrick Coleman by Diane Coleman, Rebecca and Ben Tursam</p> <p>Our uncles: Lawrence J. "Butch" Schaffer and Harold "Hal"</p> | <p>Hermance by Sara and Mike Concini</p> <p>Sara's Dad, George W. Craft, II by Sara and Mike Concini</p> <p>Kevin Copperwheat by Jon and Barbara Copperwheat</p> <p>Beloved Family gone to soon by Ottis and Gail Cowper</p> <p>Our daughter Willa Mary by Ottis and Gail Cowper</p> <p>Ernest Davenport and Charles Healey by Kittie Davenport</p> <p>My husband, Noah, our parents, my brother, Rowland, by Gail Duncan</p> <p>Veterans in all the Wars by Walt and Jane Fiore</p> <p>Karina Wilson Foskett by Terry Fosket</p> <p>Joseph Furno and Peter Becker, Jr. by Becky, Karen and Alan Furno</p> <p>Manoj George by Sheela George</p> <p>Martha Waters with love from her family</p> <p>My Husband, Bill (William) Hennes by Roberta (Bobbie) Hennes</p> <p>All loved ones by the Hirschy Family</p> <p>Don and Mary Holderied, Anthony and Eleanor Gapinske by Antonette Holderied</p> <p>Marie and Amos Cheatham by Tim and Elaine Hunt</p> <p>Dora and Joseph Hunt by Tim and Elaine Hunt</p> <p>Paul Jernigan by The Jernigan Family</p> <p>Nancy, James and Erich Mayer by Cindy Kager</p> <p>Mary Alice Kent by Elizabeth Kent and Jim Budelman</p> <p>Morgan, Ro, Annie, Karl and Joe by the Kintz Family</p> | <p>Richard H. Tiller by Mike, Ellen and Jessica Krannitz</p> <p>Jura Kromah by Verity Kromah</p> <p>Nancy J. Marshall, Mary Marshall, Wheaton Thomson, John F. and Beatrice Marshall by Verity Kromah</p> <p>Ct. Foley and Nancy Sherman, John F. Marshall II., Fritz Massaquoi, and Tennema Deline by Verity Kromah</p> <p>Our son Peter by George and Melody Landberg</p> <p>Frank and Fran Wagner by Frank and Anne Laney</p> <p>Georgia Whaley by Frank and Anne Laney</p> <p>Lemuel and Elizabeth Laney by Frank and Anne Laney</p> <p>Karen Litzinger by Litzinger Family</p> <p>Ukrainian Families by John and Linda Lytvinenko</p> <p>Matt Magee and Bob Hoover by Barb Magee</p> <p>Our Parents, Herb and Inge Meinelt and Ted and Elizabeth Law by Carl H. and Mary Law Meinelt</p> <p>Catherine Payne Smith by Kip Monroe</p> <p>Jeff Goodman by Emily Goodman Neuhauser</p> <p>Our young son, Jeffrey Michael Reilly by Dick and Sheila Reilly</p> <p>Ray and Peg Schwartz by Joe and Esther Schwartz</p> <p>Jack Randall Smeltzer by Gary and Jenny Smith</p> <p>John Oliver Truitt</p> |
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Christmas Season 2023

A Christmas Message from the Rector:

In the darkness of that night in Bethlehem, a new light was born. And scripture says that the magi who sought and searched for that light, upon discovering it, went home a new way. They couldn't return by the old way.

As we celebrate the wonder of the incarnation of the Christ in our darkened world of war and divisiveness, may the light of this Christmas lead us to a new way.

I wish you a blessed and holy Christmas.

George

New to St. Paul's? Visiting us for Christmas? Welcome! Please let us know you are here by filling out a visitor card in the pew. Stop by our Welcome Station in the narthex (lobby) to chat with Greeters and find materials that might help if you are new to St. Paul's or the Episcopal Church. Contact Mary Kintz, Community Connector, at mary.kintz@stpaulscary.org to learn more.

Children's Chapel, Sunday School and all Youth activities resume January 7.

Children's Communion Class begins January 21.

Coffee Hour and Adult Formation Series "The Gospel of Mark" resume January 7.

Holiday Office Hours: The church office will be closed the week of December 26; office hours resume on January 2. Please remember that donations postmarked through December 31 will be credited to 2023 for tax purposes, regardless of the date received.

January Adult Formation Book Study on Zoom: Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7 p.m. on Zoom starting January 3 for a discussion of "Breathing Under Water" by Richard Rohr. Learn more on the website and register by contacting Annie Ritter at annicorn60@gmail.com.

Please visit our website for more information about our community:



St. Paul's Website