

# Christmas Eve

December 24, 2019



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF ST. JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

(Established 1836)  
Flat Rock, North Carolina

**WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS!** On this most joyous and holy night we are blessed with the presence of many visitors. We extend our warmest welcome to you and invite you to share in the Eucharist with us. Holy Eucharist is open to all Christians baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, regardless of age or denomination.

We give thanks to the following for their ministry tonight:

**5:00 Service:**

Lay Readers: Sandra Jeffery, Susan MacDonald  
Ushers: Tom Savage, Lynn Savage  
Acolyte: MacKenzie Savage  
Torch Bearers: Julianna Savage, Mary Shelton  
Shuttle Driver: Steve Hutcherson  
Altar Guild: Sandra & Michael Jeffery, Cathryn Harrell

**10:30 Service:**

Lay Readers: Joe Kovaz, Bill Taylor  
Ushers: Karen Conley, Greg Newbold, David Christenbury  
Acolyte: Betsy Tibbs  
Shuttle Driver: Mike Covell  
Altar Guild: Kathy Newbold, Candace Lewis, Cindy & Michael Shannon

<p><b>Our Christmas loose offering and designated checks</b> have been designated for Interfaith Assistance Ministry. Please give generously to this important local ministry.</p>
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WELCOME TO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OF SAINT JOHN IN THE WILDERNESS

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

December 24, 2019

5:00 & 10:30 p.m.

Festival Eucharist, Rite II

Book of Common Prayer, page 355

PRELUDE: Hear the Shepherd Boy, Piping So Merrily.....Dale Wood  
O Little Town of Bethlehem  
Good Christian Friends, Rejoice  
Away in a Manger  
On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: No. 83 O Come, All Ye Faithful.....Adeste Fideles  
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, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation, sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God, glory in the highest: REFRAIN

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: REFRAIN

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

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

*People* **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Celebrant* 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.**

*People* 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.**

## The Collect of the Day

*The Celebrant says to the people*

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

*The Celebrant says the Collect* ..... See Insert

*People*              **Amen.**

**Welcome** ..... Father Bill McCleery

## THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

### The Lessons

*The people are seated for the lessons*

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 ..... See Insert

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

*The people stand*

HYMN: No. 79 O Little Town of Bethlehem ..... St. Louis

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 wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on 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!

*The people are seated*

Psalm 96 ..... See Insert

*The people stand*

HYMN: No. 89 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear ..... Carol

It came upon the midnight clear, that glorious song of old,  
From angels bending near the earth to touch their harps of gold:  
“Peace on the earth, good will to men; from heaven’s all gracious King.”  
The world in solemn stillness lay to hear the angels sing.

For lo! The days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

*The people are seated*

Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14 ..... See Insert

*Reader*                      The Word of the Lord

*People*                      Thanks be to God.

*The people stand.*

GRADUAL HYMN: No. 87 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing..... Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn King!  
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!  
REFRAIN: 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, off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity.  
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! REFRAIN

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! REFRAIN

*Then, as all remain standing, the Deacon reads the Gospel*

                                    The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke  
*People*                      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-14, 15-20 ..... See Insert

*After the Gospel, the Deacon says*

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

**The Sermon** ..... Fr. Bill McCleery

*All stand*

## The Nicene Creed

*People* 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.

## The Prayers of the People, Form IV

*The people kneel or are seated*

*Leader* 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.

*Silence*

*Leader* Lord, in your mercy  
*People* Hear our prayer.

*Leader* 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.

*Silence*

*Leader* Lord, in your mercy  
*People* Hear our prayer.

*Leader* 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.

*Silence*

*Leader* Lord, in your mercy  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* 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.

*Silence*

*Leader* Lord, in your mercy  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* 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.

*Silence*

*Leader* Lord, in your mercy  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader* 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.

*Silence*

*Leader* Lord, in your mercy  
*People* **Hear our prayer.**

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **The Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

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

*Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*Gluten-free wafers are available on request*

OFFERTORY MUSIC:	5:00 pm	Nocturne on "O Come, All Ye Faithful" .....	Charles Callahan
	10:30 pm	In the Bleak Midwinter .....	Robert Powell

**In the Bleak Midwinter**  
Text by Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;  
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign:  
in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
but his mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him give my heart.

*All stand*

OFFERTORY RESPONSE: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow ..... Old 100<sup>th</sup>  
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**The Great Thanksgiving** Eucharistic Prayer B

*The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says*

	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	<b>And also with you.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	<b>We lift them to the Lord.</b>
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	<b>It is right to give him thanks and praise.</b>

*Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you,  
Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.



## The Proper Preface

*People*

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:

**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.**

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then 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,

*People*

**We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory.**

*The Celebrant 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 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, blessed John and 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,

*People*

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.**

## The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*The Celebrant continues*

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

*Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation*

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.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

## The Communion of the Faithful

COMMUNION MUSIC: Carols for Organ.....various composers

## Post Communion Prayer

*Celebrant & People* Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. ...Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*The people kneel or are seated*

BENEDICTION HYMN: No. 111 Silent Night ..... Stille Nacht

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.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,  
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;  
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.

### The Blessing

*All stand*

DISMISSAL HYMN: No. 96 Angels We Have Heard On High ..... Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.

REFRAIN: Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?  
What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? REFRAIN

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King. REFRAIN

### The Dismissal

*Deacon* Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: Joy to the World ..... Hugo Gehrke

