

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

FESTIVAL HOLY EUCHARIST
DECEMBER 24, 2020
8:00 PM

14 Cornwall Street, NW Leesburg, VA 20176 703-777-1124 www.stjamesleesburg.org

Merry Christmas and welcome to St. James' Episcopal Church

We gather in this holy season to tell again the most remarkable story we know. It is a story of a mysterious Giver who called this cosmos into being out of love and who, at one point in history, became flesh as an infant born in a humble village.

It's an immense claim—that God took on human form to seek us out and lead us home, that the Mystery behind the universe for a few short years taught, forgave, healed, even died for us, to draw us into the lives for which we were made. The Christmas faith proclaims that in Jesus of Nazareth we have actually seen straight through to the heart of God.

We are delighted to have you join us in this Christmas celebration. If you are a visitor we hope you will come back often and join us in exploring what this Christian faith can mean for our own lives and our world. Our website — www.stjamesleesburg.org — can point you to a host of programs and events.

The hope of the Christmas season is that the Christ-child born 2,000 years ago will be born again this season in you and me, and that Christ's healing love will spread across our world.

We hope to see you often in the future. May you know God's presence and love through this season and the new year.

The Rev. W. Earl Mullins, Interim Rector

Earl+

PRELUDE

Two Scandinavian Christmas Carols

arr. Walter Peltz

Bright and Glorious is the Sky

I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve

Frances Averitt, flute

Ding Dong, Merrily on High

Corey Rotz, tenor

arr. Harris

Ding dong, merrily on high The Christmas bells are ringing;

Ding Dong! Joyously reply, The angels all are singing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Ding Dong! Carol of the bells, Ring out the Christmas story, Ding Dong! Sound the glad noel, God's Son has come in glory.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Praise Him, people far and near, and join the angels singing.

Ding Dong! Everywhere, we hear The Christmas bells are ringing.

Gloria, Hosanna in excelsis!

Hear them ring this happy morn.

Our God a gift has given.

Ding Dong! Jesus Christ is born.

A precious Child from heaven.

Carol Prelude on "Greensleeves"

Steven Cooksey, organ

Richard Purvis

INTROIT

Infant Lowly, Infant Holy

Combined Choirs

arr. Mark. Shepperd

Infant holy, infant lowly, For his bed a cattle stall;

Oxen lowing, little knowing

Christ the child is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging, angels singing, Bells are ringing, tidings bringing Christ the child is Lord of all. Christ the child is Lord of all.

Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping Vigil till the morning new Saw the glory, heard the story, Tidings of a Gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, Praises voicing, greet the morrow: Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

OPENING HYMN PROCESSION - 83 Stz 1, 2, 3 and 6



CHRISTMAS ACCLAMATION

The people standing

The glory of the Lord has been revealed.

And all flesh shall see it together.

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

Song of Praise - 100 Stz. 1, 2 and 4



Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

THE COLLECT OF THE NATIVITY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes again in glory; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Word of God

THE FIRST LESSON Isaiah 9: 2-7

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.

arr. Ferguson

Comfort, comfort you my people, tell of peace, so says our God; comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load.

To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them!

Tell them that their war is over, God will reign in peace forever.

For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance since the kingdom now is here.

O that warning cry obey!

Now prepare for God a way; let the valleys rise in meeting and the hills bow down to greet Him!

Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain: let your hearts be true and humble, as befits His holy reign.
For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad; and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

14th Century German Carol

THE SECOND LESSON

Titus 2:11-14

For 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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The people stand to sing the hymn and remain standing for the Gospel.

THE SEQUENCE HYMN - 79 Stz 1, 3 and 5



THE GOSPEL Luke 2: 1-14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people are seated at the invitation of the preacher.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Earl Mullins

THE NICENE CREED

Said by all, standing.

BCP p. 358

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.

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Incarnate God, your angel host announces that peace is born among us, embodied in frail flesh. With confidence in the power of that miracle, we bring you our prayers for the church and the world.

That the child born to us may awaken us to heal this broken and hurting world, and that the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field will be realized in every place of war and on every violent street, we pray to you, O God.

Come now, O God of love. Reconcile your people and guide us, your children.

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor will bring wholeness and healing to all who are afflicted with illness and disease, and that in this time of gift-giving, our lives may be offerings of hope to those who are grieving, we pray to you, O God.

Come now, O God of love. Reconcile your people and guide us, your children.

That as you entered the world in the poverty of the stable, you would instill in us the courage to dismantle the barriers that separate rich from poor, so that we may build together the just world you intended, we pray to you, O God.

Come now, O God of love. Reconcile your people and guide us, your children.

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night may be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us, knitting your people into shared life for all eternity, we pray to you, O God.

Come now, O God of love. Reconcile your people and guide us, your children.

Light of life, you came in flesh, born into human pain and joy, and gave us power to be your children. Grant us faith, O Christ, to see your presence among us. Fill us with your light, that as we walk in the way of peace, we may join our voices with heaven and earth in singing songs of gladness, we pray to you, O God.

Come now, O God of love. Reconcile your people and guide us, your children.

THE PEACE

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

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Love came down at Christmas Combined Choirs Daniel Gawthorp

Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, love divine; Love was born at Christmas, Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead, Love incarnate, love divine; Worship we our Jesus, But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token; Love be yours and love be mine, Love to God and neighbor, Love for plea and gift to sign.

Christina Rosetti

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

PRAYER B

BCP P. 367

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

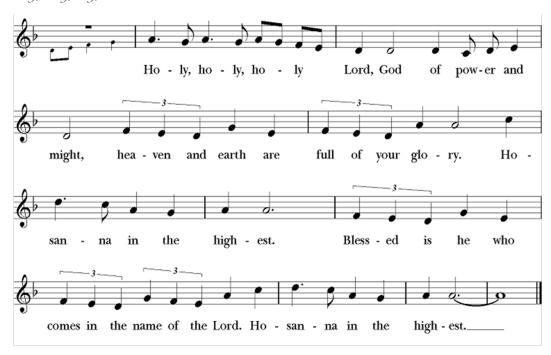
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, O God, Creator of heaven and earth. Because, in the incarnation of the Word made flesh in Christ Jesus, a new light has dawned upon the world; you have become one of us that we might become one with you in your glorious reign.

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



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 God,

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 Mary and Joseph 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, O God, now and for ever. **Amen**.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

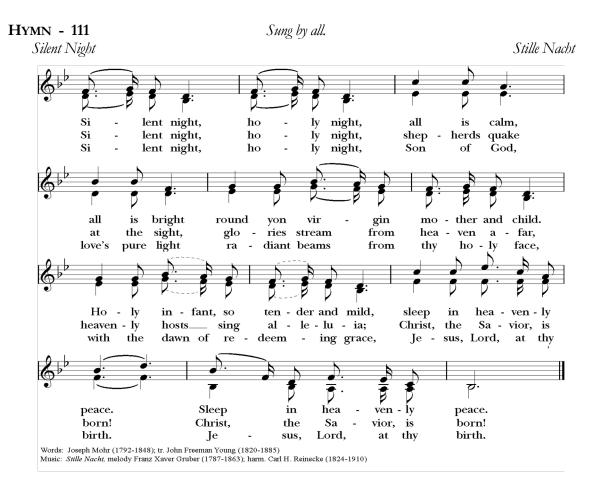
And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Lighting of Christmas Candles

Everyone at home is invited to light a candle during the singing of Silent Night



A PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Said by all, standing.

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer to you praise and thanksgiving. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, 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 BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered all things earthly and heavenly into one, bestow upon you the fullness of joy and peace; and the blessing of God, 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.

POSTLUDE

Good Christian Friends Rejoice

J. S. BACH BWV729

The Announcements

The Monthly Mission Partner for November is: St. James' Episcopal Church

This Advent, we **wait** in stillness for the time we can gather once again...we **pre-pare** for what God has in store for St. James' future...and we prayerfully **hope** to play a part in bringing peace, health, and the good news of Christ to our community and to our world.

To help focus our giving and our prayers on the continued vitality of the ministries and missions that we carry out in Christ's name, we are designating St. James' as the December Monthly Mission Partner.

As part of our Advent commitment, each week of December we will gather – at a distance, but still together – to give thanks to God for the gift of our parish life.

We invite you, if you are able, to make a special gift to St. James' this month through the Monthly Mission Partner program at https://onrealm.org/StJamesChurchLeesburg/give/mission.

Prayer requests

Those requesting our prayers this week: Dennis Brogan, Jeff Brannock, Brianne Bailey and Family, the Lamberty Family, Alice Lynn, Mary Paul, Inez Peebles, Caroline Ennis, the Lynch Family, the Page family, John Marsh, and the Riley family, Mary Bracken, Jennifer Griffith, Tim MacNamara, for other persons: Bryce Eckman, the Yusi, Hyman, and Moseley families, the Kevin and Margaret Sullivan Family, Heidi, Peter Schweitzer, Ann Stribling, Orma Call, Chris DeWaard, Jay Watkins, Mark and Meghan Roomsfa, Lori Turner, Charlotte, Christian Cutillo, Ruth Guerra, Miline Hughes, Erin Stanton, Barbara Rose, Nancy Hylton, Bridget Steel, Matthew Britto, Dewey, those who are unemployed or underemployed; and those serving in the armed forces at home and abroad.

The poinsettias and wreaths adorning our worship space are given by

Dottie, Jeff, Joseph, and Stephen Brannock, in remembrance of Thomas, Elsie and Richard Brannock, John and Rose Emerick, and Frank Grelle

Anthony V. and Anna Fasolo, in memory of their grandson, Alexander Joseph ("A.J.") Malacrida

Edgar B. Hatrick to the Glory of God, and in memory of his wife, Betty O. Hatrick, and his son-in-law, Mario Salcido

Edgard B. Hatrick to the Glory of God, and in thanksgiving for family, and friends

Edgar B. Hatrick to the Glory of God, and in honor of those who have lost their lives during the time of COVID, especially Glenda H. Minnick

Lois and Jerry Krumwiede, in memory of Barbara Dombrowski, Polly Clemens, George Durfey, and Dean Korpan

The Reverend Walter Earl Mullins, in memory of Nancy Jane Mullins

In memory of Lucille and Lawrence Muse by their children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren

Rachel and Wayne Newell in thanksgiving for all those who have made the virtual services and zoom meetings a continuing blessing to all of us

Rachel Newell in thanksgiving for Missy Jennings, our newest contributor to our St. James' music legacy

Calendar for Christmas

Christmas Eve Services

8:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Christmas Day:

10:00 am **Christmas** Day Service

Sunday Dec. 27

10:00 am **Diocesan-Wide Lessons and Carols**

See link on St. James' Website and in the Epistle

Sundays

b:00 pm Compline Service lead by St. James' families

ALL SERVICES WILL BE VIRTUAL

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Prelude: Scandinavian Carols, Concordia Publishing Prelude: Ding Dong Merrily on High: Alfred Music Prelude: I am So Glad Each Christmas Eve, Oxford

Introit: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly. 1997 Concordia Publishing

Anthem: Comfort, Comfort, Alfred Publishing

Postlude; Good Christian Friends Rejoice, Public Domain

Anthem: Love Came Down at Christmas, St. James Press. Printed with permission

Celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas

Hang an ornament on the Christmas Tree outside the red doors on

Cornwall Street.

Place an ornament in the box under the Porch on Wirt Street so that we

can add them to the Advent Tree near the altar for

Sunday worship.

Decorate an ornament with a prayer on the red ornaments in the box under

the Porch using the gold glitter pens to add to our

Advent Tree.

Donate a poinsettia in thanksgiving and joy of someone you love by

contacting Kay Gregg, our Parish Administrator at

kay@stjamesleesburg.org or 703-777-1124.

Make a Pledge to St. James' Church at <u>www.stjamesleesburg.org/</u>

online-giving

Make a special Christmas offering to St. James' at

https://onrealm.org/StJamesChurchLeesburg/give/Christmas

St. James' Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Earl Mullins, Interim Rector

Dr. Steven Cooksey, Director of Music/Organist

Dr. Stephen Knobloch, Corner Chorale Music

Director

Kay Gregg, Parish Administrator Janet Stayrook, Preschool Director Adan Cortez, Lead Sexton Francisco Ramos, Sexton

St. James' Vestry

Carolyn Briles

Karen Knobloch

Katherine Bucklin

Chris Cuellar

Andy Durot

Ferry

Terry Prevost

Thomas Horne

Mary Lou Leipheimer

Karen Knobloch

Steve Mayo

Rebecca Page

Terry Prevost

Jane Roth

Fred Williams

Maddie Reece, Youth Representative

St. James' Worship Schedule

Holy Eucharist

Sunday 10 a.m. Online: Facebook Live

<u>Facebook.com/stjamesleesburg</u>

Learn more at <u>www.stjamesleesburg.org/st-james-livestreaming</u>

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