

**Good Shepherd
Episcopal Church**

Bluemont, Virginia



Christmas Eve Service
December 24, 2020



Artwork acknowledgements

On the front cover:

"Song of the Angels"

Oil Painting by Adolphe-William Bouguereau (1881)

Above:

"The Angel Appearing to the Shepherds"

Oil on canvas by Thomas Cole (1833)

Page 3:

"The Birth of Jesus"

Woodcutting by Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1851)

Last page:

"Adoration of the Shepherds"

Oil Painting by Gerard van Honthorst (1622)



Welcome! We're glad you are here with us, virtually, tonight to celebrate our Lord's birth. May God bless you with a Merry Christmas and a Happier New Year.

+++++

This Christmas Eve service is from the Book of Common Prayer, 1979, of the Episcopal Church ("The Red Book").

Hymns and service music are included in this bulletin

+++++

Directions for standing and sitting are included in brackets [__] for continuity with in-person worship and may be followed at your discretion from the comfort of your home worship space.

+++++

Scripture Readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

+++++

All who seek God are welcome at the Lord's Table to receive, spiritually, the Bread and Wine of Christ's Body and Blood. Even if you do not seek God, you are still welcome because God seeks you. Come and hold in your hand and taste on your lips the love which we cannot comprehend.

+++++

Please join in from home, with your microphone muted, with all hymns, spoken responses, and service music, as included in this bulletin. The celebrant and a service leader will help guide you in these times of congregational involvement.

+++++

For our Candle Lighting ceremony, near the end of this evening's service, please have a candle ready to light during the playing of "Silent Night". You may light as many candles as you like, and hopefully one for each person in your virtually attending group.

+++++

During our pre-service time, we'll be playing music from various contributors. If you'd like to participate with a song or poem or story, please raise your hand and we'll do our best to call on you. The more participants, the merrier!

~ Here is what we've planned so far ~

"I Believe in Father Christmas" Words and music by
Greg Lake & Peter Sinfiel, Sung by Tim

"Hark! the herald angels sing" Music by Felix Mendelssohn
Josette – clarinet

"Christmas in Dixie" by Alabama
Sung by the Purnell Family

"Go Tell it on the Mountain" African American Spiritual
Josette – clarinet, Tim – vocal

"Silent Night" by Joseph Mohr & Franz Gruber
Josephine – piano

"Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming" Sung by Josette & Tim

"Were You There on that Christmas Night?"
Words and music by Natalie Sleeth, Sung by Josette

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

with Spiritual Communion

The Word of God

Opening Hymn 83 “O come, all ye faithful” *vv. 1,6* *Adeste Fidelis*

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.

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.

Song of Praise “He is born, the child divine”

~ Josette (Clarinet & Vocal)

Traditional French Carol

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 Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

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.

People

Amen.

[The people may be seated]

The Lessons

The Reader introduces the first lesson, saying

A Reading from Isaiah.

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.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

Sung by cantors

Cantate Domino

- 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.

The Reader introduces the second lesson, saying

A Reading from the letter to Titus.

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.

People

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn 79 “O little town of Bethlehem” *vv. 1–2* *St. Louis*

1. 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.
2. 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.

Then, [all standing,] the Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 2:1–20

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.

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

As the Gospel concludes, the people sing

Gradual Hymn 79 “O little town of Bethlehem” *v.5*

St. Louis

5. 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 Sermon

[The people may be seated]

After the Sermon, there follows, [all standing]

The Nicene Creed

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 Rev. Deborah Rutter

[Kneeling,] prayers are offered for the Church and the World

The Prayers of the People

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly
and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

**That they may be faithful ministers of your Word
and Sacraments.**

We pray for all who govern and hold authority
in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

[All stand.] The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord
be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

The Holy and Spiritual Communion

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.

Offertory Anthem “Still, still, still”

Austrian Folk Tune

~ The Purnell Family

*A time of quiet reflection as we offer ourselves to God
in this year of physical separation and prepare ourselves to join in a
spiritual communion together with Christ.*

*Please send your Christmas donation to
Good Shepherd Church, PO Box 324, Bluemont, VA 20135*

The Great Thanksgiving

The Celebrant faces the people and says

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.**

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.

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:

The cantors sing, using setting S-130 in the Hymnal

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, *(repeat)*
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. *(repeat)*

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. *(repeat)*

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,

Celebrant and 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 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 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then, using setting S-154 in the Hymnal, the Cantors lead the People singing

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

An Invitation to a Spiritual Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The presider gives the following invitation.

In union, blessed Jesus, with the faithful gathered at every altar of your Church where your blessed Body is offered this day, and remembering particularly the people of Good Shepherd Church and

the village of Pine Grove, we offer you praise and thanksgiving, for creation and all the blessings of this life, for the redemption won for us by your life, death, and resurrection, for the means of grace and the hope of glory.

The Act of Reception

The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all.

Lord Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament. And, since I cannot at this time receive communion, I pray you to come into my heart, my soul, and my mind. Let nothing separate me from you; let me serve you in this life until, by your grace, I come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. *Amen.*

The Celebrant says the following

The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them spiritually in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Anthem “The Lord bless you and keep you”

John Rutter

~ Josette

After the Communion Anthem, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

A Christmas Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

God our Father,
whose Word has come among us
in the Holy Child of Bethlehem:
may the light of faith illumine our hearts
and shine in our words and deeds;
through him who is Christ the Lord. *Amen.*

The Celebrant invites all to light their candles while singing Silent Night.

Candle-Lighting Hymn 111 “Silent Night”

Stille Nacht

1. 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.

2. 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!

3. 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.

The Celebrant blesses and dismisses the people.

People

Thanks be to God. Amen. Alleluia!



From our church home to yours...

Merry Christmas!