

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

In the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina



Nativity by Giotto (1303-05)

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Eve of the Nativity

5:00 p.m. & 8:00 p.m. – Solemn Choral Eucharist with incense

8:00 p.m. (music begins at 7:45 p.m.) – Pre-Service Concert

Before the Processional

Christina Brier, harp

To Know Christ and to make Christ known...

St. Paul's invites all people to the Christian Way of unity with God and neighbor through a welcoming environment of worship and ministry.



The Word of God

Processional

O come all ye faithful (verses 1, 2 and 3)

Hymnal 83

Station at the Creche

Celebrant The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

People And we beheld his glory.

Celebrant O God our Creator, to restore us you spoke and your Eternal Word became flesh in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that as he humbled himself to be clothed in our humanity, so we may be found worthy, in him, to be clothed with his divinity; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The hymn resumes with verses 4, 5, and 6.

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.*

Hymn of Praise

The Collect of the Day

BCP 212

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. *Amen.*

(The people may be seated.)

A Reading from 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

(Silence for reflection upon the reading.)

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.

A Reading from 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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks Be to God.

(Silence for reflection upon the reading.)

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2:1-20)

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 this words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying 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.

The Sermon

The Rev'd Adam Pierce, Assistant Rector

(The people stand)

The Nicene Creed

BCP 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. 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 III)

BCP 387

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 Rob, our bishop; Ray, our interim rector; Adam, our assistant rector; Richard, our priest associate; and all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for Donald, our president; Joseph, our president-elect; Roy, our governor and 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

In our parish we pray for those on our parish prayer list: Daniel Andersen, Robert Andersen, Bill Carder, Dale Curran, Alix Dorr, Fr. John Cawthorne, David Heath, Anne Laudati, Richard Laudati, Jere Lewis, William Murphy, Barbara O'Rourke, Tammy Pollock, Jim Summey, Joann Summey, Ralph Tilden, Mack Umphlett, and those friends of the Parish listed in the bulletin.

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Angels' Carol

John Rutter

The people stand.

The Great Thanksgiving

BCP 367

The people stand. The Celebrant sings or says:

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.

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, you only Son, to be born for us; who, by the might 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

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,

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 pray,

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant 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.

Communion of the People

Communion Music

<i>O Holy Night</i>	Isabella Stollenmaier, mezzo-soprano, at the 5:00 pm service	Adolphe Adam
<i>Gésu Bambino</i>	Beth Stovall, soprano, at the 8:00 pm service	Pietro Yon
<i>What child is this</i>		Hymnal 115
<i>God rest you merry, gentlemen</i>		Hymnal 105
<i>It came upon the midnight clear</i>		Hymnal 89

Candle Lighting

Silent Night Hymnal 111

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

Christmas Season Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the Darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. *Amen.*

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. *Amen.*

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. *Amen.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Processional *Joy to the world* Hymnal 100

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

Voluntary *Bring a torch, Jeanette, Isabella* arr. Keith Chapman



Christmas Music and Flower Donations

*In thanksgiving for our family
Dick & Shannon Rowe*

*In memory of our parents - Bert & Jean Bassett
Jane Mitchel, Keith Bassett, Neil Bassett*

*In thanksgiving for St. Paul's musicians
Richard Rhoads*

*In memory of our parents, Pat and Neil Sorrenti,
Ed and Nellie Selweski, and nephew,
Chris Sorrenti
Rick and Teresa Sorrenti*

*Given by Larry and Debbie Hartman in
memory of Alex Hartman and Carl Davenport*

The parish offices will be closed December 24-January 3.

Prayer List

In our parish

DANIEL ANDERSEN	JERE LEWIS
ROBERT ANDERSEN	WILLIAM MURPHY
BILL CARDER	BARBARA O'ROURKE
DALE CURRAN	TAMMY POLLOCK
ALIX DORR	JIM SUMMEY
FR. JOHN CAWTHORNE	JOANN SUMMEY
DAVID HEATH	RALPH TILDEN
ANNE LAUDATI	MACK UMPHLETT
RICHARD LAUDATI	

People Requesting Prayer

ANN AND RODNEY
JESSICA BEAVER
SHARON BERRY
JIM AND SARA COMBS
ROBIN KEENE
JEFF RICHARDSON
REV'D MICHAEL SINGER
ARCHIE SKIRVING
TRACY CALHOUN SORRENTI
RYAN STANFIELD
CORLEEN THOMPSON
BENNETT WHITFIELD



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Bulletin and E-news submissions:

Please see the forms on our website

at the bottom of this page: <https://spechurch.com/e-news/>

(Deadline Mondays 5:00 p.m.)

The Rt. Rev'd Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Rev'd Raymond Hanna, Interim Rector

The Rev'd Adam Pierce, Assistant Rector

The Rev'd Richard Banks, Priest Associate

Ronnie D. Wise, Director of Music and Organist

Richard Rhoads, Assistant Director of Music and Organist

Diane Matz-Kane, Finance Assistant

St. Paul's Vestry 2020

Keith Calder

Sally Pope

Joe Farri

Teresa Singer

Ruth Gates

Rhonda Stroud

Angela Green

Meaghan Thomas

Steve Haughey

Jan Vick

Joan Rosko Miller

Treasurer: Judy Wilson

Clerk: Merry Ann Wright