



Church of the Ascension

December 24th, 2020

The Rev. Heather Wenrick, Rector
Diane Lemcio, Music Director
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Follow Christ + Develop and Deepen Faith + Love and Serve

Prelude

Prelude in C Major, J.S. Bach - *Felix Martinez*

Welcome

Opening Acclamation

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

Introit:

Once In Royal David's City - Bee and Edie Peck

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed, where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed: Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

Blessing of the Creche

Presider: The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

People: **And we beheld his glory.**

Eternal Creator, you sent your only-begotten Son to take our human nature upon him and to be born this night of a pure virgin: +Bless, we pray, this Creche that it may be a sign of his humble birth; and grant that we who joyfully behold his appearing may be strengthened to greet him when God comes again in glory; even the same Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory Everlasting. **Amen.**

Carol # 83 O Come, All Ye Faithful, vv. 1, 6

1 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.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; **[Refrain]**

Collect for the Nativity of our Lord

God be with you.

And also with you.

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 Liturgy of the Word

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

Rebecca Askew

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 (chanted)

Felix Martinez

O sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples.
For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.
For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.
Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in holy splendor;
tremble before him, all the earth.
Say among the nations, "The Lord is king!
The world is firmly established; it shall never
be moved.
He will judge the peoples with equity."
Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth
rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the field exult, and everything in it.
Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
before the Lord; for he is coming,
for he is coming to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with his truth.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

The Second Lesson: Titus 2:11-14

Maisy Clunies-Ross

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

on the tune Puer Nobis, T. Pavlechko

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

The Gospel proclaimed in sections: Luke 2: 1-7

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.

silence

Carol #101 Away in a Manger

Madeleine, Eleanor, Mike Wenrick

Gospel of Luke: Luke 2: 8-12

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.”

Carol #83 O Come, All Ye Faithful, v. 3 *Lucas, Garrett, Connor Silver (and Graham?)*

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

*O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

Gospel of Luke: Luke 2:13-17

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;

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

Carol #87 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Wilson, Heather, Brian McRobbie

1. 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 hosts proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain:

Hark! the herald angels sing,
glory to the newborn King!

2. Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
Late in time behold him come,
offspring of the virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus, our Immanuel! **(Refrain)**

3. 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)**

The Homily

The Rev. Heather Wenrick, Rector

Prayers of the People

My sisters and brothers in the peace of God, all the gifts we shall receive in these days, are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this night. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying:
God, hear our prayer.

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherd's field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence, let us pray, **God, hear our prayer.**

That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and hungry, let us pray, **God, hear our prayer.**

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, let us pray, **God, hear our prayer.**

That the rejoicing of this night might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship, let us pray, **God, hear our prayer.**

That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness, let us pray, **God, hear our prayer.**

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, let us pray, **God, hear our prayer.**

Dear people of God, what else, or who else, should we pray for?

The People offer their particular concerns and thanksgivings, aloud or in silence.
Healing for: Barb, Tom, Dave, Dick, Nan, Penny, Kim's father (Don), Amy's cousin (Sam), Gene's sister Lois
Thanksgiving for the birth of a child: Meredith and Drew
Birthdays: Claudia McElearney, Mary Ann Ekman, Carol-Jean Gaffney, Elizabeth Servey, Mark Maleng, Carol Goodall

Presider: God of David's fragile house of open and expectation: in the time of hurt, your word is born to those who have no place and sung to those who watch in the wild; may his birth unsettle our world with hidden glory; through Jesus Christ, the Child of Peace. **Amen.**

The Confession

And now let us repent the wrongs we have done.

Silence may be kept.

We have wounded your love.	O God, heal us.
We stumble in the darkness.	Light of the world, transfigure us.
We forget that we are your home.	Spirit of God, dwell in us.

Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being: all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you, to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame, burn into us; cleansing wind, blow through us; fountain of water, well up within us; that we may love and praise you in deed and truth. **Amen.**

The Peace

Offertory - *O Holy Night* - A. Adams Maria Bozich, soprano; Joe Bozich, piano

Thanksgiving (Prayer for Spiritual Communion)

We are the gathered body of Christ walking in this world in Love.

We are the miracle of Love made Flesh

Carol #111. Silent Night, v. 1, 3

Devon Crouch

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.

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 Four-Fold Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter and 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 peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the One, Holy and Living God be upon you and remain with you forever. **Amen.**

Carol #100 Joy to the World, vv. 1, 4

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

4. He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

Dismissal

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Hear, King of Angels (from Christmas Oratorio) - J. S. Bach
Colin Chandler, trumpet

Music Permissions:

Silent Night #111

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)



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