



THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

December 24, 2021 — Christmas C

Good Shepherd Episcopal Church

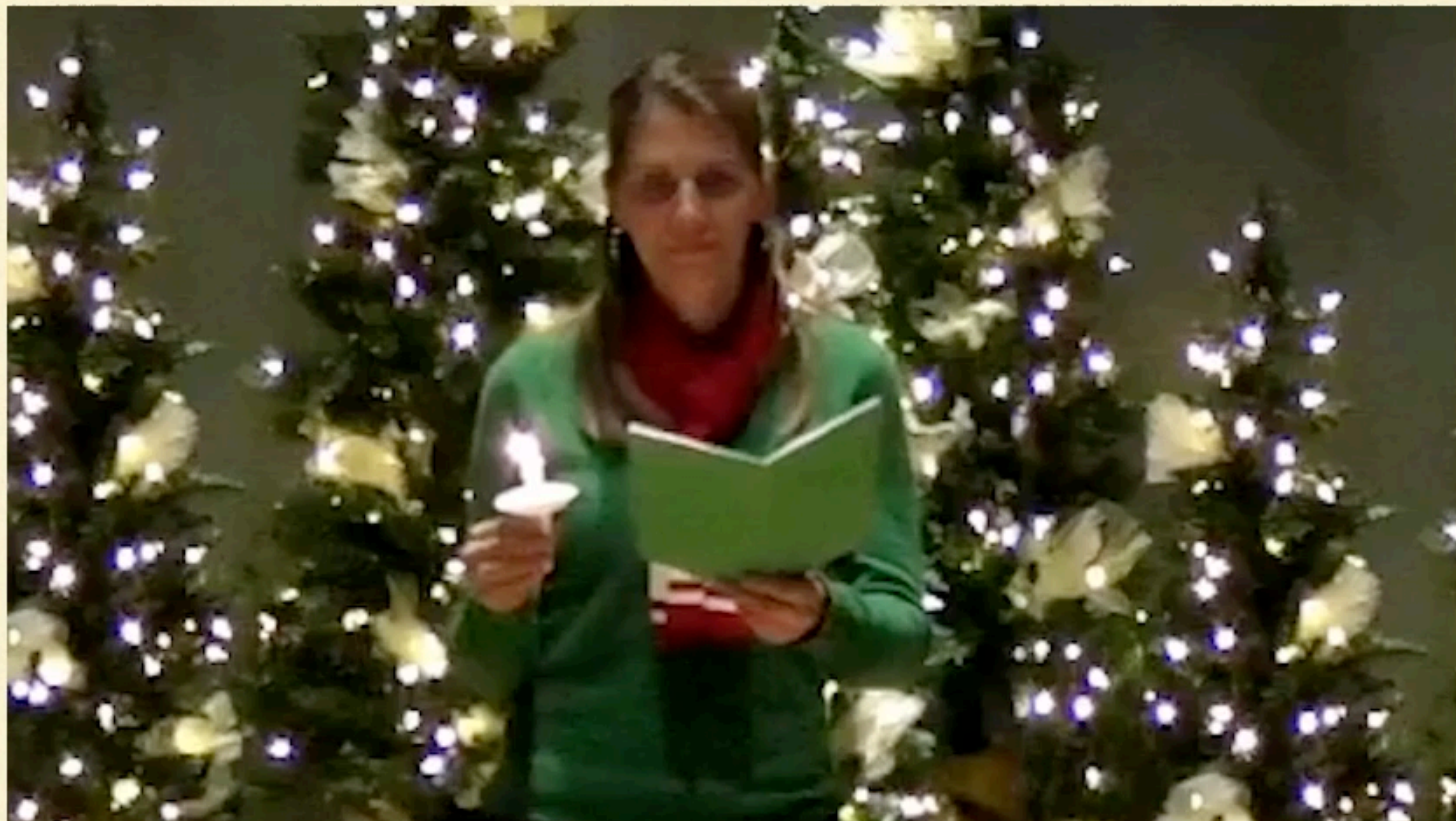
PARTICIPANTS



- Celebrant/homilist:
The Rev. Gary Brower
 - Lector:
Marge Pegula
 - Musicians:
Anna Branton
Connie Branton
Adam Cave
Sarah Harrison
Joel Rinsema
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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 - The portion of the Book of Psalms in use is from the *Book of Common Prayer, 1979*.
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- Once in royal David's city (Irby, 1982 *Hymnal*, 102)
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THE ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity,:

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.*



- O come, all ye faithful (*Adeste fideles*, 1982 *Hymnal*, 83)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: 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.*

(All sit for the readings.)

The Lessons

A reading from the prophet Isaiah 62.6-12)

Upon your walls, Jerusalem,
I have appointed sentinels.
Continually, all day and all night,
they won't keep silent.
You who call on the LORD, don't rest,
and don't allow God to rest
until he establishes Jerusalem,
and makes it the praise of the earth.
The LORD has promised
with raised hand and strong arm:
I will never again give your grain
as food for your enemies.
Foreigners won't drink your wine
for which you labored.
Those who harvest will eat it
and will praise the LORD;
those who gather will drink it
in my holy courtyards.

Pass through, pass through the gates;
prepare the way for the people!
Build, build the road;
clear away the stones!
Raise up a signal for the peoples.
This is what the LORD announced
to the earth's distant regions:
Say to Daughter Zion,
"Look! Your deliverer arrives,
bringing reward and payment!"
They will be called The Holy People,
Redeemed By the LORD.
And you will be called
Sought After—
A City That Is Not Abandoned

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

Psalm 96 *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.
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- 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 the letter to Titus (3.4-7).

But “when God our savior’s kindness and love appeared, he saved us because of his mercy, not because of righteous things we had done. He did it through the washing of new birth and the renewing by the Holy Spirit, which God poured out upon us generously through Jesus Christ our savior. So, since we have been made righteous by his grace, we can inherit the hope for eternal life.”

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



- Hark! The herald angels sing (Mendelssohn, 1982 *Hymnal*, 87)

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke (2.1-20).

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days Caesar Augustus declared that everyone throughout the empire should be enrolled in the tax lists. This first enrollment occurred when Quirinius governed Syria. Everyone went to their own cities to be enrolled. Since Joseph belonged to David's house and family line, he went up from the city of Nazareth in Galilee to David's city, called Bethlehem, in Judea. He went to be enrolled together with Mary, who was promised to him in marriage and who was pregnant. While they were there, the time came for Mary to have her baby. She gave birth to her firstborn child, a son, wrapped him snugly, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the guestroom.

Nearby shepherds were living in the fields, guarding their sheep at night. The Lord's angel stood before them, the Lord's glory shone around them, and they were terrified.

The angel said, “Don’t be afraid! Look! I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people. Your savior is born today in David’s city. He is Christ the Lord. This is a sign for you: you will find a newborn baby wrapped snugly and lying in a manger.” Suddenly a great assembly of the heavenly forces was with the angel praising God. They said, “Glory to God in heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors.”

When the angels returned to heaven, the shepherds said to each other, “Let’s go right now to Bethlehem and see what’s happened. Let’s confirm what the Lord has revealed to us.” They went quickly and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger. When they saw this, they reported what they had been told about this child. Everyone who heard it was amazed at what the shepherds told them. Mary committed these things to memory and considered them carefully. The shepherds returned home, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen. Everything happened just as they had been told.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Homily

The Nicene Creed *(All stand)*

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

Please respond to each bidding as shown in **bold print**:

Merciful God, increase our love to overflowing. Make your Church pure and blameless that we may greet with joy the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. We pray especially for our church leaders: for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Kym, our Bishop; Gary, our Rector; and Nadine, our Deacon. (*Silence*) Fill the valleys, make low the hills; ***Come, great redeemer, come.***

Merciful God, we long for the light of hope to break into our world, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, to guide us into the way of peace. We pray especially for Joseph, our President; Jared, our Governor; and for our legislators and courts. (*Silence*) Fill the valleys, make low the hills; ***Come, great redeemer, come.***

Merciful God, give us grace to heed the warnings of those calling us to be better stewards of your creation. We thank you for all you have made, especially those things that sustain and better our lives (*Silence*) Fill the valleys, make low the hills; ***Come, great redeemer, come.***

Merciful God, you lead us with joy; you delight in our joy. You clothe us in beauty. We give you thanks for your tender care, especially for those we now name (*Silence*). Fill the valleys, make low the hills; *Come, great redeemer, come.*

Merciful God, you remember your children. You do not leave us in sorrow or affliction. We name before you especially these loved ones (*Silence*). Crown your children with glory; clothe them with righteousness. Fill the valleys, make low the hills; *Come, great redeemer, come.*

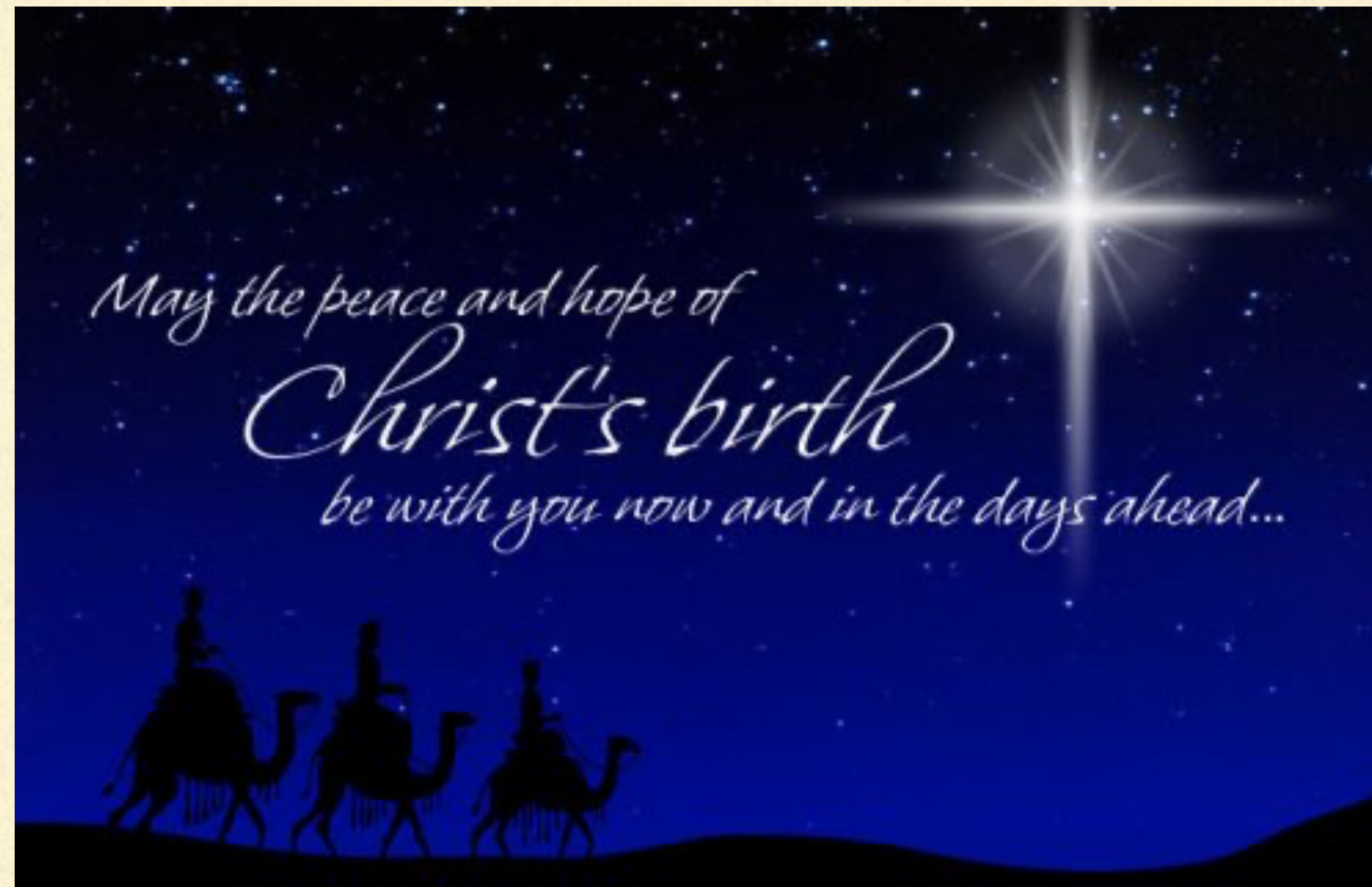
Merciful God, you have raised up for us salvation through your Son. Keep us, with all your saints, in the eternal life of Christ. We remember before you especially (*Silence*). Fill the valleys, make low the hills; *Come, great redeemer, come.*

The Celebrant concludes with an appropriate Collect.

THE PEACE *(All stand.)*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**



The Offertory

What Child Is This

William Chatterton Dix ~1865

John Mumford

Guitar

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[https://www.gshep.org/
give-to-good-shepherd](https://www.gshep.org/give-to-good-shepherd)

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord.

People: And of thine own have we given thee. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer B

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.

Then the Celebrant continues:

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:

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 the one who comes in the name of the Lord;
Hosanna in the highest!

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;

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 [_____ 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,

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 (*A period of silence is kept.*)

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

*A prayer for those who are joining the service remotely,
and will be unable to receive the Sacrament today.*

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. I remember your death, Lord Christ; I proclaim your resurrection; I await your coming in glory. Since I cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, I beseech you to 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 POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Celebrant and **People:** Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.





Joy to the World (Antioch, *Hymnal* 1982, 100)



“Angels we have heard on high”
