

Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist



December 24, 2022

*Saint Paul's Episcopal Church
39 E Central Street | Natick, MA 01760
stpaulsnatick.org*

*Welcome in Love. Worship with Joy. Grow in Faith. Work for
Justice. Seek and Serve Christ in all persons.*

Christmas Eve Eucharist
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church | Natick, MA | 9PM

Prelude: "O' Come, O Come Emmanuel"

Strings

Opening Hymn #102, "Once in Royal David's City"
Congregation joins on verse two

Soloist, verse 1, Claire Skatrud

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Alleluia! Christ is born!

People: Come, let us adore him! Alleluia!

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.

Gloria!

16 Glory to God

Gloria 3

Canon

Musical score for "Glory to God" in G major, 4/4 time, tempo 80. The score is a canon with two staves. The first staff has a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It features a treble clef and a key signature change to G major. The tempo is marked as quarter note = 80. The score includes a key signature change to G major (one sharp) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est!" The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!" The score includes a key signature change to G major (one sharp) and a common time signature (C). The lyrics are: "Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"

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.

Please be seated for the readings

A reading from the prophet 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

We will read Psalm 96 responsively by whole verse.

- 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 the Letter to 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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn #115, "What Child is This?"

Blue Hymnal

The Gospel

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!"

[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.]

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

Rev. Chris Visminas

A Liturgical Affirmation from the New Zealand Prayer book

You, O God, are supreme and holy.

You create our world and give us life.

Your purpose overarches everything we do.

You have always been with us. You are God.

You, O God, are infinitely generous, good beyond all measure.

You came to us before we came to you.

**You have revealed and proved your love for us in Jesus Christ,
who lived and died and rose again.**

You are with us now. You are God.

You, O God, are Holy Spirit.

You empower us to be your gospel in the world.

You reconcile and heal; you overcome death.

You are our God. We worship you.

The Prayers of the People

These prayers were written by St. Paul's during the final session of Finding the In(n)

We pray for all MARYs who carry and care for God. Free them to act with autonomy and love, protect them in body and spirit that the child of God may be born into all our lives.

May we be bearers of your love.

We pray for all JOSEPHs who serve and protect the incarnate God. Grant them courage and strength that they may engage with love and empathy all that makes us vulnerable.

May we be open to the truth in each other.

We pray for all SHEPHERDS who tend to God's flock. Bring them peace that in stillness they may find and enfold all who have been shut out of the inn.

May we build communities where all of God's people belong.

We pray for all MAGI whose gifts do God's work. Bring them your wisdom and conviction to stay true to their path that the abundance of your creation may be enough for all.

May we be the hands and feet of Christ in this world.

We give thanks for the birth of Jesus who came and changed everything. Empower us all to be open and to listen to your presence in our hearts.

May we be free from all that binds us so that all that we are may walk in love with God.

Celebrant

Almighty God, Christ light, Spirit; continue to be incarnate through us. We ask that you hear our prayers and find your way into the world all over again, pouring your love into every shadow and dancing with us through the light. In the name of the one who was born in a manger and altered the course of history through the simple and extraordinary act of love. **Amen.**

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Offertory, Choir Anthem, *Ubi Caritas* by Ola Gjeilo

Thank you for your Christmas Offerings!

The Holy Eucharist

Our Sacred Story continues at the altar where we invite an incarnate God to enter our bodies and lives, infusing us with love at Christmas time and always, that we may allow God to birth new things through us.

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 and praise.

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Author Almighty, writer of the heavens and creator of earth. Because you sent the Christ light to be born among the oppressed, to be parented by teenagers, to be protected by Shepherds, to be worshipped by Magi, to be a refugee in Africa, to be a Jew under Roman occupation in the Middle East, to be an adolescent teacher in a Synagogue, to be a carpenter, a Rabbi, a rabble-rouser, a God in flesh, walking by our side, teaching us to love in transformative ways.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: Betty Carr Pulkingham (b. 1928) from *Freedom Mass*. Based on traditional African melodies. Copyright © 1989 Celebration, Aliquippa, PA 15001. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

Celebrant: 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,

**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 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

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

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia!**

The gifts of God for the people of God, take them in remembrance that Christ has died for you and feed on him with faith in thanksgiving.

All are invited to come forward to receive Communion when the ushers guide you from your pew. All are welcome to receive the bread (tell the priest if you need GF), and one person will receive the wine on behalf of us all. The chalice bearer will still hold the chalice in front of you and say "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation" we just ask you to not reach for it at this time. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms when the priest gets to you.

Communion Music, *Labor of Love*

Laura, Lorraine, & Kelvyn

Communion Hymn #101, "Away in a manger"

Blue Hymnal

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray

Incarnate One, thank you for coming to walk with us.

Thank you for inviting us into your story.

Thank you for being so fully human.

Thank you for being so fully Divine.

**Guide us as we leave this place full
in mind, body, and spirit with your love.**

**Help us to make room in the Inn of our hearts
by continuing to find our own way into your amazing story.**

Send us out to tell your story.

Send us out to spread your love.

Send us out to be vessels of new birth in our own day.

Walk with us every step of the way. AMEN.

Hymn #111, "Silent Night"

Blue Hymnal

We invite you to turn on the candle you were given or the light on your phone as the lights go down...

The Christmas Blessing

Hymn #89, "It came upon the midnight clear"

Blue Hymnal

Dismissal

Let us go forth in Love finding our way into the greatest story of all time. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!!!

Postlude, "*The Holly and the Ivy*"

Strings

GRATITUDE

Christmas Music and Christmas Flowers have been Given by the following people

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More Gratitude

We are deeply grateful to those who have pledged to support St. Paul's financially in 2023!

Becky Binns and Greg Gettel	Rick Subber
Emily and Sean Fagan	David and Cherie Binns
Betsy and Andrew Komjathy	Barbara and Dana Crockford
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Renée Graham	Ian McReynolds
Janet Bennet	Jacques and Alexy Boudreau
Walter Lee	John and Michael Castellino
Bryan and Lori York	

*A beautiful Christmas to each of you and to all those who you love.
A peaceful Christmas to those in fear, in danger, in poverty or war zone.
A healing Christmas to those in pain.
A transformative Christmas to the world.
A Holy Christmas to you, from us.
With Love,
St. Paul's*

See you Soon!

December 25th, 2022 | Christmas Morning Eucharist 10AM
January 1st, 2023 | New Year's Day Eucharist 10AM
January 6th, 2023 | Epiphany Party 6PM

Worship Sundays at 8AM and 10AM
And more! Just check stpaulsnatick.org.
You are always welcome here.