

Christmas Day Holy Eucharist



December 25, 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 Day Eucharist
Saint Paul's Episcopal Church | Natick, MA | 10AM

Prelude: Fugue, and Variation Op. 18 by Cesar Franck

Opening Hymn #83, "O come, all ye faithful"

Blue Hymnal

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
Canon

Gloria 3

The musical score is written on a treble clef staff in 6/8 time, with a tempo marking of quarter note = 80. It features a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score is divided into two systems. The first system contains measures 1 through 4, with chord markings Dm, Gm, C, and F above the staff. A circled letter 'A' is placed above the first measure. The lyrics for the first system 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 system contains measures 5 through 8, with chord markings C and D above the staff. A circled letter 'C' is placed above the first measure of the second system, and a circled letter 'D' is placed above the fifth measure. The lyrics for the second system 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 make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated for the readings

A reading from the prophet Isaiah (52:7-10)

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.
Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.
Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

We will read Psalm 98 responsively by whole verse.

1 Sing to the LORD a new song, *
for he has done marvelous things.

**2 With his right hand and his holy arm *
has he won for himself the victory.**

3 The LORD has made known his victory; *
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, *
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.**

7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn *
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

**8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, *
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

9 Let the rivers clap their hands, *
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

**10 In righteousness shall he judge the world *
and the peoples with equity.**

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews (1:1-4)

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 82, "Of the father's love begotten"

Blue Hymnal

The Gospel

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

Glory to you, Lord Christ

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

The 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.**

Prayers of the People

Creator of all, we pray for the entire body of Christ in all its expressions;
Move through us in shadow, move through us in light.

Give us a calling, give us a purpose, give us your guiding presence;
Lead us in your shadow, lead us in your light.

Be with all who serve you; lay and ordained;
Strengthen us in the shadows, inspire us in the light.

Keep watch over the ways of the world, the government, our society;
Bring us peace in your shadows, and justice in your light.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
Hold them in shadow, heal them in light.

Give to the departed eternal rest.
As shadows of wisdom lengthen, let light perpetual shine.

We pray for all who have died, especially our loved ones who we have lost since last Christmas (we hold a moment to name those we miss)

We remember them in shadow and in light;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

This Christmas, we pray for those on our parish prayer list, those who celebrate alone or in grief, and those who need the power of Christmas most. We invite your prayers of intercession and thanksgiving at this time.

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, “He Shall Feed His Flock” from Handel's *Messiah* (Lorraine & Kelvyn)

Thank you for the generosity and impact of your Christmas offerings to St. Paul's and our ministries together!

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 give birth to 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 Hymn #84, "Love came down at Christmas"

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.**

The Christmas Blessing

Closing Hymn # 96, "Angels we have heard on high"

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, "Fum Fum Fum" arr. by Mark Hayes

GRATITUDE

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

(remove page and insert flower list)

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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Jacques and Alexy Boudreau
John and Michael Castellino

*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 zones.
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!

January 1st, 2023 | New Year's Day Eucharist 10AM (no 8AM)
January 6th, 2023 | Epiphany Party 6PM

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