Morning Prayer

Christmastide 2C

January 2, 2022

Zoom link: https://uso2web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=ei9 4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zzo9 Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777 Passcode: **782611**

Prelude

Announcements

Opening Sentence

The Presider says

Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. *Luke 2:10, 11*

Opening Hymn

Once in royal David's city

1 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.

2 He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all, and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall; with the poor and mean and lowly lived on earth our Savior holy.

3 And through all his wondrous childhood he would honor and obey, love and watch the lowly maiden, in whose gentle arms he lay: Christian children all must be mild, obedient, good as he.

4 For he is our childhood's pattern; day by day like us he grew. He was little, weak, and helpless, tears and smiles like us he knew; and he feeleth for our sadness, and he shareth in our gladness.

5 And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love, for that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above; and he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

6 Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by, we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high; where like stars his children crowned, all in white shall wait around.



Hymnal 102

Confession of Sin

The Presider says

Let us confess our sins to God.

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

A Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you, + forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Presider O God, open our lips, our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*People* And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

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

Presider Alleluia. To us a child is born:*People* Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

Jubilate: Psalm 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; * serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song.

Know this: The Lord himself is God; * he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; * give thanks to him and call upon his Name. **For the Lord is good;**

his mercy is everlasting; *

and his faithfullness endures from age to age.

Psalm 84

¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! * My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. ²The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; * by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. ³Happy are they who dwell in your house! * they will always be praising you. ⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! * whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way. ⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, * for the early rains have covered it with pools of water. ⁶They will climb from height to height, * and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion. ⁷LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; * hearken, O God of Jacob. ⁸Behold our defender, O God; * and look upon the face of your Anointed. ⁹For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, * and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked. ¹⁰For the LORD God is both sun and shield; * he will give grace and glory; ¹¹No good thing will the LORD withhold * from those who walk with integrity. ¹²O LORD of hosts, * happy are they who put their trust in you!

- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: * as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.
- *Presider* Alleluia. To us a child is born:
- People Come let us adore him. Alleluia.

The Lessons

First Reading

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

⁷For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations: proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden. and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty. says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Canticle 19: The Song of the Redeemed

Revelation 15:3-4

Magna et mirabilia

O ruler of the universe, Lord God, great deeds are they that you have done, * surpassing human understanding.
Your ways are ways of righteousness and truth, * O King of all the ages.
Who can fail to do you homage, Lord, and sing the praises of your Name? * for you only are the Holy One.
All nations will draw near and fall down before you, * because your just and holy works have been revealed.

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.

Second Reading

Ephesians 1:3-6,15-19a

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. ¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.

Canticle 21: We Praise You, O God

Te Deum laudamus

We praise you, O God, we acclaim you as Lord; all creation worships you, the Father everlasting. To you all angels, all the powers of heaven, the cherubim and seraphim, sing in endless praise: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. The glorious company of apostles praise you. The noble fellowship of prophets praise you. The white-robed army of martyrs praise you. Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you: Father, of majesty unbounded, your true and only Son, worthy of all worship, and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide. You, Christ, are the king of glory, the eternal Son of the Father. When you took our flesh to set us free you humbly chose the Virgin's womb. You overcame the sting of death and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers. You are seated at God's right hand in glory. We believe that you will come to be our judge. Come then, Lord, and help your people, bought with the price of your own blood, and bring us with your saints to glory everlasting.

Third Reading

Matthew 2:13-23

A Reading from Matthew.

¹³ Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said,

"Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴ Then Joseph^[a] got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, ¹⁵ and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."



¹⁶ When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men,^[b] he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men.^[c] ¹⁷ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

¹⁸ "A voice was heard in Ramah,

wailing and loud lamentation,

Rachel weeping for her children;

she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

¹⁹ When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, ²⁰ "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." ²¹ Then Joseph^[d] got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²² But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. ²³ There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

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

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Marv. He suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holv Spirit. the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

PresiderThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd also with you.PresiderLet us pray.

The People's Respondent, the Presider, and the People

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.

- V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;
- **R.** And grant us your salvation.
- V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;
- **R.** Let your people sing with joy.
- V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;
- **R.** For only in you can we live in safety.
- V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;
- **R.** And guide us in the way of justice and truth.
- V. Let your way be known upon earth;
- R. Your saving health among all nations.
- V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;
- **R.** Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
- V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;
- R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

Collect of the Day

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Three Collects for Epiphany

Jesus, as we travel far and fast, lead our minds back to the wise ones following your star, and forward to the day when all will see your shining light. **Amen**.

Jesus, light of the world, let your bright star stand over the place where the poor have to live; lead our sages to wisdom and our rulers to reverence. **Amen**.

O God, by the leading of a star you revealed your Son Jesus Christ to the gentiles; grant that your Church may be a light to the nations, so that the whole world may come to see the splendor of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Intercessions and thanksgivings

Presider: Raising our voices in proclamation and praise, let us rejoice as we offer our prayers to God, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Intercessor: In thanksgiving for the peacemakers who toil in troubled lands, and in families of discontent, that the Prince of Peace may give them words of wisdom as they seek to encourage new means of communication and the mending of relationships; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

In thanksgiving for those who bring treasures to the poor and needy of the world, offering precious gifts of hope to God's fragile people; let us pray. Lord, hear our prayer.

Silence is kept.

For those who exercise leadership throughout our Church, especially our Bishops Bonnie, Michael, Justin, Moises, Elizabeth, Donald and Craig. Bless all ministers, priests, deacons, ministry teams, those in formation; and our brothers and sisters worshipping at Mother of the Savior, Dearborn, St James', Birmingham, and St Anthony of Padua, Carreton, in the Dominican Republic; and those in the Anglican Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo; that they may bear in their actions the love of Christ, enlightening the hearts of those who have a hidden faith, and strengthening those of a weak spirit; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

For Joseph, our President, members of our legislative bodies, and those who serve on the Supreme Court, that they may honor our historic inheritance and take us along new pathways in the service of bettering our nation; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.** Silence is kept.

As God's adopted children, through the will of Jesus Christ, let us add to these prayers our petitions for the sick, the troubled, the lonely, and the stressed [especially for_____].

For those who have died in the noonday of their lives [especially_____], and for parents who grieve the loss of children, that they may be comforted by the Father of us all, whose only Son was not spared an early death; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

In thanksgiving for all the blessings of this life [especially _____], remembering those who have been our mentors and teachers, and through whose companionship we have experienced the riches of divine grace; let us pray. **Lord**, **hear our prayer**.

Silence is kept.

Presider: Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The Presider continues

In union, O Lord, with your faithful people at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, we desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. We remember your death, Lord Christ; we proclaim your resurrection; we await your coming in glory. And since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we beseech you to come spiritually into our hearts.

Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Prayers for those celebrating their birthdays and anniversaries

In January, we celebrate the birthdays of Jan V, Pat, Bonnie, Kathy O, and any others you wish to remember in prayer.

Prayer for a Birthday

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants Jan, Pat, Bonnie, and Kathy, as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**.

Prayer for an Anniversary

Eternal God, creator and preserver of all life, author of salvation, and giver of all grace: Look with favor upon the world you have made, and for which your Son gave his life, and especially upon all couples. Grant that their wills may be so knit together in your will, and their spirits in your Spirit, that they may continue to grow in love and peace with you and one another all the days of their lives. **Amen**.

The Presider then says

My brothers and sisters, I invite you- wherever you are- to take into your hands the gifts you offer today. Gifts of food, gifts of money, gifts of whatever form, and join me as we offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good our vows to the Most High.

Let us pray.

Loving God and merciful Creator, whose hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: we come to you with thanksgiving and praise. We offer to you this day our gifts of time, talent, and possessions, knowing that all we are, and all we have, is a gift from you.

Please accept these gifts, and help us to reach out to others as you, our God, have reached out to us. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

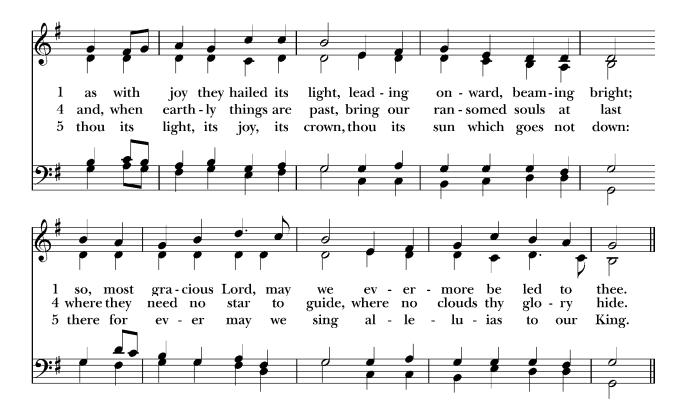
A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them:

Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

Concluding Hymn *As with gladness men of old* Hymnal 119





Blessing and Dismissal

A priest blesses the people, saying

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world; and the blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Presider Let us go forth in the love of the Father who created us, rejoicing in the Son who was born on earth for us, and in the wisdom of the Holy Spirit.*People* Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Faith in Action continues to provide leadership in collecting donations to support households in need in the Chelsea and Dexter areas. They are in need of our continuing help. You may bring your donations to FIA, or to Nancy who will see that they get there. **If you bring food directly to FIA**, please let Nancy know, so she can continue to keep our records of donation. If you write a check, please make it to *Faith In Action*. The **next Food Drive at the church** is **January 16**. Please contribute as generously as you can.

A reminder that our Social Time is active every Tuesday evening from 7:00-7:30 on Zoom! The link can be found on the church web site calendar, and also here: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86367804283?pwd=eW9jelFKTTdaaUlXRoZxMEc1NlM 3Zz09 Meeting ID: 863 6780 4283, Passcode: 894503

Upcoming Commemorations

January 2 Vedanayagam Samuel Azariah: First Indian Anglican Bishop, 1945

- 3 William Passavant, Prophetic Witness, 1894; Angela Foligno, Mystic, 1309; and, Gladys Aylward, Missionary, 1970
- 4 Elizabeth Ann Seton, Vowed Religious and Educator, 1821; and, Thomas Atkinson, Bishop, 1881
- 5 Sarah, Theodora, & Syncletica of Egypt, Desert Mothers (Ammas), 4th-5th c.
- 6 The Epiphany of our Lord Jesus Christ
- 8 Harriet Bedell, Deaconess and Missionary, 1969

January 2, 2022

The Presiding Bishop's Christmas Message

A number of years ago, I read a book by Roberta Bondi, who at that time was teaching at the Candler School of Theology at

Emory University. The title of the book was "To Love as God Loves". Professor Bondi, in that book, looked at and examined early Christians. And one of the things she observed was that early Christians saw their vocation of following Jesus as learning how to love as God loves. And that was the title of the book, "To Love as God Loves".

If that is true, as I believe it is, when we look at the New Testament stories of Jesus, and particularly the stories around Christmas, we see early glimmers of Jesus showing us how to love as God loves. The Christmas stories found in Matthew and in Luke, for example, actually show us something about God's way of love. We all know the Christmas stories, the baby wrapped in swaddling clothes as it's found in Luke's gospel, the baby that's born of Mary, the stories of Mary while she was pregnant meeting her cousin Elizabeth, and the words of the Magnificat, "My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior..." We know the stories of Mary giving birth in the

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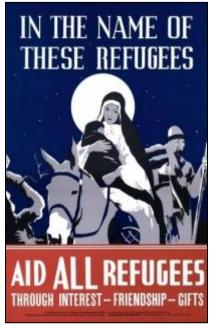
stable, because there was no room for them in the inn, the stories of the shepherds out on the field beholding the angel choir: "Gloria in Excelsis Deo!"

The story of a baby born is the story of beauty, a story of hope, whereas the Jewish tradition says every child who is born is a reminder that God is not finished with the world yet. In this case, the baby that was born was named Jesus. Matthew tells the same story, but highlights other dimensions that remind us profoundly of the way God loves. In Matthew's story, the child is born and there is great beauty in it, but there is some difficulty, even in the relationship between Mary and Joseph when they discover that she is with child before they're actually married. But an angel intervenes and tells Joseph in the dream that this child is God's miracle. And so, Joseph accepts his responsibility, and cares for Mary and the baby Jesus who is to be born. And all moves along well. And in Matthew's version there is the star, the Magi or the wise men who come from afar, but then the story takes a dark turn.

And all of a sudden, the same beauty that surrounded the birth of a child now is tinged by an ugliness of tyranny, the ugliness of injustice, the ugliness of hatred, the ugliness of unbridled selfishness as King Herod hears rumors of a rival to his throne being born and begins plans to execute children to stamp out his rival. In Matthew, that is the context for the birth of Jesus. And Mary and Joseph and the baby Jesus when he is born are forced to flee as refugees, seeking political asylum eventually in Egypt because of the wrath of King Herod. They are saved from the destruction, but many do die.

In the late 1930s, The Episcopal Church embarked on efforts to save refugees who were fleeing tyranny, evil, injustice, bigotry, hatred in Europe at the advent of the Episcopal Second World War. The In Church, Episcopalians and many other Christians and Jewish people in the United States and people of goodwill and human decency worked together in a variety of ways to save as many refugees as they could. And at that time, Episcopalians created this image. It shows Mary holding the baby Jesus in her arms on the donkey, with Joseph walking with them. And as you can see, the sign said, "in the name of these refugees, aid all refugees."

The Christmas stories are reminders that this Jesus came to show us how to love as God loves. And one of the ways we love as God loves is to help those who are refugees, those who seek asylum from political tyranny, poverty, famine, or



other hardship. In the 1930s, Episcopalians did this to love as God loves, and today, ministries like Episcopal Migration Ministries, the work of this church, have helped to resettle some 100,000 refugees as of December 2021. And that work goes on for refugees from Afghanistan and from other places around the world.

The Christian vocation as Jesus taught us is to love as God loves. And in the name of these refugees, let us help all refugees. God love you, God bless you. And this Christmas, may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love

As people following Jesus, who teaches us to love as God loves, please be as generous as possible to the work of Episcopal Migration Ministries: <u>https://episcopalmigrationministries.org/</u>

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Opening bidding at the Prayers and Intercessions, and **Three Collects for Epiphany** from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*. New York: HarperOne, 1997, pp.575 and 578

Concluding prayer at the Intercessions adapted from *The Armed Forces Prayer Book*, 1951. **Closing hymn** from *Christmas with the Choir of King's College*, sung by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, England © 2020.

Postlude In dulci jubilo BWV 729, by J.S. Bach. From the album Carol Rhapsody, by John Walker © 2020

Our Mission:

We seek to grow as diverse disciples of Jesus Christ, and to serve Jesus by serving others in the world, guided by the values of Ancient Rites, Open Minds, and Affirming Hearts.

St Barnabas Episcopal Church

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