

The Eve of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2023

Zoom link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?
pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85887946777?pwd=eig4MEdsMUh6clV6b2dUblFOQ3I2Zz09)

Meeting ID: 858 8794 6777
Passcode: 782611

Prelude

Ave Maria Bach/Gounod

Procession to the Crèche

Candles are lit for the congregation before the hymn begins.

At their entry into the church for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Presider and other presenters make a station at the Christmas Crèche. The figure of the Christ Child is carried in the procession.

The People remain seated during the procession and the first hymn.

Hymn

Silent night

Hymnal 111

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
 heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
 peace. born! Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
 Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!

The figure of the Christ Child is placed in the crèche.

The Paschal Candle is then lit.

Presider The glory of the Lord has been revealed:

People **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

Presider Let us pray.

Most merciful and loving God, you have made this day holy by the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, and by the child-bearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we your people may enter with joy into the celebration of this day, and may also rejoice for ever as your adopted sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

Hymnal 83

O come, all ye faithful

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from God, Light from Light e - ter - nal,

1 come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
2 lo! he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;

Refrain
O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

All standing as they are able, the Presider says

Blessed be God: + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Presider says

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.**

The following is sung, all standing as they are able.

1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Presider Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

The Reader then says

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our care and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem, and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of the loving purposes of God, and of the glorious redemption brought to us by the holy Child Jesus. And let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

First Reading

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.

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

Remain seated.

Psalm 96: *Cantate Domino*

*The people pray the text in **Bold Font***

- 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.

Second Reading

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.

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

All stand as they are able.

Sequence Hymn
Emmanuel

Chorus Book 72

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are: "Em - man - u - el, Em - man - u - el, His name is called Em - man - u - el: God with us, re - vealed in us! His name is called Em - man - u - el." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score concludes with a double bar line.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **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.

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

Sermon

Bill Stech

Nicene Creed

All stand as they are able.

Presider Let us affirm the faith of the Church using the words of the Nicene Creed:

***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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.***

***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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.***

Prayers of the People

All remain standing as they are able.

Presider Brothers and sisters, children of God, the Word has been made flesh. The light of God's love has broken through our darkness; the Daystar from on high now shines in our hearts. Filled with the joy of Jesus' birth, let us pray together in the wonder of this night, and in the power of his Spirit, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Intercessor That the Prince of Peace may guide the leaders of the nations, and all men and women everywhere, into the ways of freedom and truth. Let us pray;
Lord, hear our prayer.

Silence is kept.

For Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, Presiding Bishop of our Church;

and Bonnie, our Bishop, that they may guide us in our journey to Bethlehem, uniting the whole Church as we live into our spiritual kinship with one another. Let us pray; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

For those for whom the darkness has suffocated hope: the lonely, the fearful, the hungry, and those who bear a private grief; that they may see the dawn of God's love, and revive the eternal hope that never fades away. Let us pray; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Silence is kept.

For our families and friends, and for all our absent sisters and brothers; for those who are sick or troubled, [especially _____ and those you may now name]; and for those who have died and who now feast at the heavenly banquet of God's grace [remembering especially _____ and those you may now name]. Let us pray; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we may be released from the captivity of our sins, the places of interior blindness that cause us to choose darkness over light; that we may be forgiven by the power of the Holy Spirit. Let us pray; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That we who gather to share the Holy Eucharist, and those throughout the world who come to receive this sacrament of Holy Presence, may bear witness to Christ born in our hearts. Let us pray; **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Presider 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.**

Confession of Sin

All kneel as they are able.

The Presider says

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. *Hebrews 4:14,16*

A Minister then says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

A Priest stands and 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.**

Peace

All stand as they are able.

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and the People may offer God's peace to one another in the name of the Lord.

Holy Communion

The Presider says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

The People then are seated.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts to the Presider.

The people stand as they are able when the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Offertory Hymn

Doxology

***Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God above, you heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.***

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing as they are able.

Presider The Lord be with you.

People ***And also with you.***

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

Almighty God, you shape your very life to create and restore
and enjoy us forever.

We gather around your altar like those who thronged your Son's manger,
longing for you to reassemble men and women, kings and working people,
Jews and Gentiles, heaven and earth, at the place
where our humanity and your divinity meet.

You had too much love to keep it to yourself;
and though we took up arms against you and one another,
you disarmed us in coming into our midst as a defenseless baby.

As his arms were bound in swaddling clothes,
so later his hands were nailed to the cross;
yet you made his birth the foretaste of our redemption
and his death the gateway to resurrection life.

You give us such joy and peace in your company that our hearts join the angels
in the Christmas sky and around your eternal throne,
singing the hymn of your unending praise.

Sanctus

Hymnal S-130

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na



The people may remain standing, or kneel, as they are able.

The Presider continues

God of new birth, as you laid your Son in Mary's arms,
you place these gifts of bread and wine in our hands.

Sanctify your church + to be as fragile and tender and true as the infant Savior.

Send down your Holy Spirit, + that this bread, of wheat gathered from the fields, and this cup of wine, from grapes, gathered from the vineyards, may be for us the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

On the night before he died for us,
Jesus was at table with his friends.

He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.

Again, he gave thanks to you,
gave it to them, and said:

“Drink this, all of you:

This is my Blood of the new Covenant,
which is poured out for you and for all
for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,
do this for the remembrance of me.”

Great is the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

God who exalts the humble and humbles the exalted,
as you drew the magi to the place of your epiphany,
call us to yourself, and bring your creation
to its consummation.

Lift your whole church, living and departed, to the vision of your glory,
once made flesh in a humble family,
now exalted and reigning with justice and mercy.
In this banquet restore us in your image, surround us with your company,
and prepare us for your freedom, after the pattern of your Son,
through whom and with whom and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honor and glory are yours, now and forever.

Presider and People



The Presider then continues

And now, as our Savior
Christ has taught us,
we are bold to say,

People and Presider

***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.***

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sins of the
 world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sins of the
 world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of
 God, you take a - way the sins of the
 world: grant us peace.

The Presider says

The table of bread and wine is now made ready.
 It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him.
 It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world,
 with whom Jesus identified himself.
 It is the table of communion with the earth, on which Christ became incarnate.

So come to this table, you who have much faith,
 and you who would like to have more;
 you who have been here often, and you who have not been for a while,

or ever before; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and all of us who have failed;
Christ invites everyone to be known and fed here.

All are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Music

One small child

Liza Dale, violin; Julie West, vocals

After Communion, the Presider says

Let us pray.

Presider and People

***Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.***

Blessing

A priest blesses the people, saying

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

And may the blessing of God Almighty, +
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Joy to the world!

Hymnal 100

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Minister
 People

Let us go forth in the name of Christ!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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About St Barnabas Church

Welcome to our parish! We are an Episcopal church with an Anglican tradition. This means we are both sacramental and mission-oriented. We are also a “Total Ministry” congregation, where all are encouraged to participate as each is called by God to do.

Tonight we celebrate the birth of Jesus, the world’s Savior. Our liturgy, hymns, and readings remind us that the Son of God, born into this world, is more than an idea or a philosophy. He is the coming of God to be one of us, to join God’s divine life to our humanity. We know that it is in Christ’s birth, death, and resurrection that the deepest and best hopes of humankind are met.

We hope you will find in our service tonight, a renewed certainty that God has visited God’s people. We believe God is with us and in us and we work to further God’s dream for the world by:

- Caring for the poor and hungry
- Welcoming and affirming LGBTQ people as full participants in the body of Christ and the life of the church
- Seeking and serving Christ in all persons
- Striving for justice and peace among ALL people

Because we believe that in feeding the hungry, we have done it to the least of these, collecting hundreds of pounds of fresh and non-perishable food in the past year. The St Barnabas Food Program donates to Washtenaw County Food Gatherers, Faith in Action, and Manchester Community Resource Center.

Because we believe that Jesus calls all to God’s table, we extend that welcome, regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or any other category used to divide us from God and from each other. We recognize that the fullness of God is revealed in the diversity of God’s people and that our exclusions hinder not only our relationships with others, but our relationship with God.

Because we see faith as a journey, we invite you to come with us and be a part of it. God invites everyone everywhere into God’s world and so do we. We believe that Jesus calls his church to be a compelling force for good in the world, and that we have been created to be a part of something larger than ourselves.

If you think God may be calling you to be a part of a community that is trying to make a difference in our world, that wishes to proclaim the message of Jesus Christ, but doesn’t presume to have all the answers, come and journey with us! And WELCOME!

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Musicians: Liza Dale, violin; Julie West, vocals; Kathy West, keyboards

Prayers of the People based on *Planning for rites and rituals: Year A*. New York: Church Publishing, 2018, pp.39-40.

Eucharistic Prayer from Wells, Samuel and Abigail Kocher, *Eucharistic prayers*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2016, pp.62-63.

Invitation to the Table adapted from *The Iona Abbey Worship Book*, (Glasgow, UK: Wild Goose Publications, 2001), p.53.

The Great Amen is found at *Hymnal S-146*

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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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