

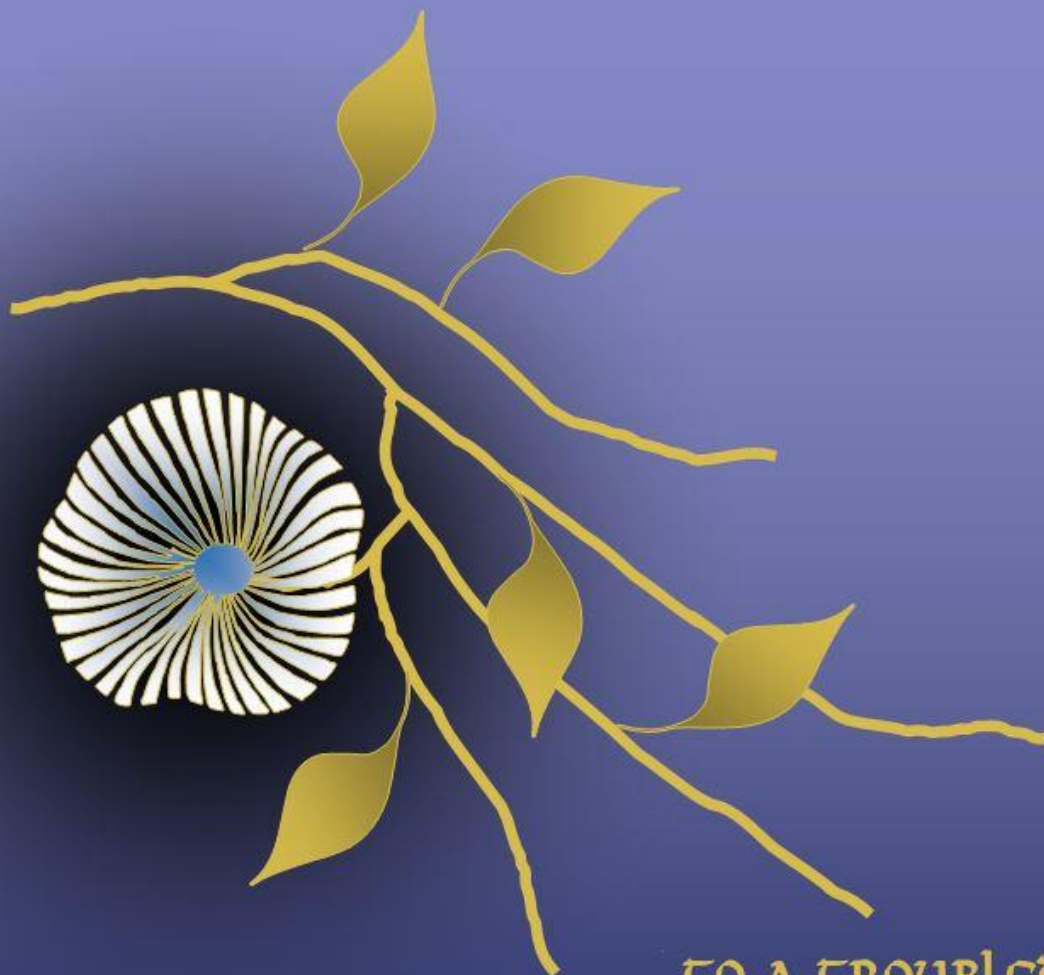
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLUE CHRISTMAS: A SERVICE OF HOPE AND REMEMBRANCE

FRIDAY DECEMBER 18, 2020 6:00 PM

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II WITH SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

A PLACE OF WELCOME, HOPE & HEALING



TO A TROUBLED WORLD,
PEACE FROM CHRIST.
TO A SEARCHING WORLD,
LOVE FROM CHRIST.
TO A WAITING WORLD,
HOPE FROM CHRIST.

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Welcome to *Blue Christmas: A Service of Remembrance and Hope*. This is a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the difficult feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult; for others, Christmas Eve, or New Year's Eve, or the beginning of another lonely New Year. Whatever memories of past experiences and pain of present experiences you may be carrying, we pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone and that Emmanuel, God with us, is near.

PRELUDE Gymnopedie No. 1

Erik Satie (1866-1925)

WELCOME

The Rev. D. Littlepage

GATHERING HYMN #114 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime

Une jeune pucelle



1 'Twas in the moon of win - ter - time, when all the birds had
 2 (With - in a lodge of) bro - ken bark the ten - der babe was
 3 (The ear - liest moon of) win - ter - time is not so round and
 4 (O chil - dren of the) for - est free, the an - gel song is



fled, that God the Lord of all the earth sent
 found, a rag - ged robe of rab - bit skin en -
 fair as was the ring of glo - ry on the
 true; the ho - ly child of earth and heaven is



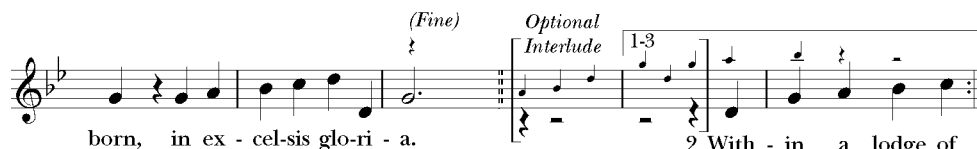
an - gel - choirs in - stead; be - fore their light the
 wrapped his beau - ty round; but as the hunt - er
 help - less in - fant there. The chiefs from far be -
 born to - day for you. Come kneel be - fore the



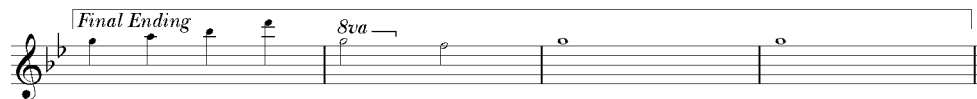
stars grew dim, and won - dering hunt - ers heard the hymn:
 braves drew nigh, the an - gel - song rang loud and high:
 fore him knelt with gifts of fox and bea - ver - pelt.
 ra - diant boy, who brings you beau - ty, peace, and joy.



Refrain
 Je - sus your King is born, Je - sus is



born, in ex - cel-sis glo-ri - a.
 2 With - in a lodge of
 3 The ear - liest moon of
 4 O chil - dren of the



Final Ending

Sva

Words: Jess Edgar Middleton (1872-1960), alt. Copyright © J.E. Middleton, used by permission of The Frederick Harris Music Co., Limited.
 Music: *Une jeune pucelle*, French folk melody, 16th cent.; Copyright ©1978, Lutheran Book of Worship, used by permission of Augsburg Publishing House.
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Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider God of Mercy, hear our prayer in this Advent Season for ourselves and our families who live with painful experiences of loss. We ask for strength for today, courage for tomorrow and peace for the past. We ask these things in the name of Christ who entered the world at Christmas to share our life in sorrow and joy, death and new birth, despair and promise.

All **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

A Reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD; LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O LORD, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD, more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

A reading from Dom Helder Camara

In the middle of the night, when stark night was darkest, then you chose to come. God's resplendent first-born sent to make us one. The voices of doom protest: "All these words about justice, love and peace—all these naïve words will buckle beneath the weight of a reality which is brutal and bitter, ever more bitter." It is true, Lord, it is midnight upon the earth, moonless night and starved of stars. But can we forget that You, the son of God, chose to be born precisely at midnight?

Reader Here ends the reading.

1 A - bide with me: fast falls the e - ven - tide;
 2 I need thy pres - ence ev - ery pass - ing hour;
 3 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
 4 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes;

the dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide:
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's power?
 ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

when o - ther help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 Who, like thy - self, my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heaven's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain sha - dows flee;

help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, Lord, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me.
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847) Music: *Eventide*, William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 1: 1-18

Presider
People

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."')

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

HOMILY

The Rev. D Littlepage

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE WITH CANDLE LIGHTING

Leader We light this candle confident that God will redeem our pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of trust, loss of jobs, loss of health, loss of faith, loss of joy, loss of a sense of normalcy. I invite your own prayers, silently or aloud. *(Pause)*

We gather the pain of the past into our wounded hearts and open hands, and offer it to you, O God, asking that you take it, and then, into our empty, open hands, place the gift of peace.

All We remember that through You all things are possible. Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and lead us into your future.

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lonely exile here, until the son of God appear
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader We light this candle to remember those persons whom we have loved and see no longer. We pause to remember individual names, faces, voices, their bodies. I invite your own prayers, silently or aloud. *(Pause)*

We give thanks for the memory that binds them to us in this season in which we anticipate Christmas.

All We remember them with love. May God's eternal love surround them.

O come thou Wisdom from on high, who orderest all things mightily
To us the path of knowledge show, and teach us in her ways to go
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader We light this candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months and for some of us, years that have been heavy with our burdens. *(Pause for Silent Prayer)*

We remember and lay before you the poignancy of memories, the grief, the sadness, the hurts, the anger, and pain.

All ***Let us remember that weeping may endure for the night, but joy comes in the morning.***

O come thou day-spring, come and cheer our spirits by thy advent here
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight
Rejoice, rejoice Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader We light this candle to remember the gift of faith and hope that God offers us in the Christmas story. We remember that in Jesus, God shares our life completely, and promises us a place and time where there is no pain or grief, forever.

All ***Let us remember the One who shows the way, the One who goes with us into all our tomorrows.***

Leader In the spirit of this season, let us now ask God for what we need for ourselves as people coping with loss, pain, suffering, loneliness, grief, or sadness during this season. *Pause for reflection and prayer, either silently or aloud*

All ***God, we come to you as Christmas nears with the pain growing inside us. As the nights have been growing longer, so has the darkness wrapped itself around our hearts. In this season of our longest nights, we offer to you the pain in our hearts, the traumas that some of us cannot put into words.***

O come desire of nations, bind in one the hearts of humankind
Bid then our sad, divisions cease, and be thyself our King of Peace
Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Leader The Christmas season reminds us of all that used to be and cannot be anymore. The memories of what was, the fears of what may be, stifle us. All around us we hear sounds of celebration that are often hard for us to share. Emmanuel,

All **be with us this night and through this season.**

Presider Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for Your love's sake.

All ***Amen.***

THE PEACE

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

George Chien, Soloist

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING EUCHARISTIC PRAYER D

BCP 372

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 God thanks and praise.

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks;
for you alone are God, living and true,
dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and for ever.
Fountain of life and source of all goodness,
you made all things and fill them with your blessing;
you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.
Countless throngs of angels stand before you
to serve you night and day;
and, beholding the glory of your presence,
they offer you unceasing praise.
Joining with them,
And giving voice to every creature under heaven,
we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we say,

Presider 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power.
Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love.
You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care,
so that, in obedience to you, our Creator,
we might rule and serve all your creatures.
When our disobedience took us far from you,
you did not abandon us to the power of death.
In your mercy you came to our help,
so that in seeking you we might find you.
Again and again you called us into covenant with you,
and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much
that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior.
Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
he lived as one of us, yet without sin.
To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation;
to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy.
To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death;
and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves,
but for him who died and rose for us,
he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe,
to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father,
having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end;
at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead,
proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand,
awaiting his coming in glory;
and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us,
this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Presider and People

**We praise you, we bless you,
we give thanks to you,
and we pray to you, Lord our God.**

The Presider continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your
Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts,
Sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people,
the bread of life and the cup of salvation,
the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup
may become one body and one spirit,
a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember all who minister in your Church
Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth
Remember all those who are struggling at this time of year.
Remember those on our prayer list.
Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and, all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

God of love and grace, of justice and peace, we give you thanks that in the Sacrament of the altar you assure us of your presence within us and within the body of Christ, the faithful through all the generations. Grant that we who have witnessed anew these holy mysteries, though unable to receive the physical elements of the Sacrament, may be moved by your indwelling Spirit ever more fully to embody your holy and life-giving presence,

reshaping in your likeness the world around us,
until we are gathered at last into the fullness of your glorious and eternal presence;
through Christ our Risen Lord, Amen.

COMMUNION MUSIC Imagine/I've Got Peace Like a River - Lennon/Traditional, arr. M. Horsley

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Enriching Our Worship

Presider Let us pray.

All Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us.
Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love
to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A PEACEFUL NIGHT (*said together*)

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Lord it is night.

The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done; What has not been done has not been done.

Let it be.

The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all dear to us, and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities.

In your name we pray. Amen.

THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL



Joy
and
Comfort
of
Hiding
Things

Christmas Eve at Trinity Episcopal Church

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24TH, 2020



2:00 P.M. CAROL SINGING, PRAYERS, SCRIPTURE & CANDLE LIGHTING.

4:00 P.M. NO-REHEARSAL CHRISTMAS PAGEANT PLUS CAROL SINGING, PRAYERS, SCRIPTURE & CANDLE LIGHTING.

6:00 P.M. CAROL SINGING, PRAYERS, SCRIPTURE & CANDLE LIGHTING.

The three in-person services listed above will be held outdoors (weather permitting—otherwise in the church), with all participants masked and practicing social distancing. Each service will last 30-35 minutes. Music will be led by members of The Choir School of Hartford and the Trinity Choir.

10:00 P.M. HOLY EUCHARIST WITH SPECIAL MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS - VIA YOUTUBE ONLY.

(9:30 Reception on Zoom – 9:45 Christmas Prelude on YouTube – 10:00 Liturgy on YouTube)

This service will feature a variety of special musical offerings, including a video production of “Carol of the Bells” arranged by our Director of Music Ministries, Michelle Horsley, and featuring members of The Choir School of Hartford.



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