# **TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

# CHRISTMAS EVE 10:00 P.M.

DECEMBER 24, 2020

# A PLACE OF WELCOME, HOPE & HEALING



Trinity Episcopal Church 120 Sigourney Street • Hartford, Connecticut • 06105-2796 860.527.8133 • www.trinityhartford.org

# Presiding Bishop Michael Curry Christmas Message 2020

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King; let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.

Perhaps like me, you've sung this hymn for years – in church, at home with your family, gathered with friends and neighbors. Perhaps you've sung it to yourself – in your car, on a walk, or quietly in the dark of night.

Joy to the world!

While we may not feel joyful this year – as the pandemic of disease continues to bring sickness and death, when fear and mistrust – a darkness – threatens to overcome the light – we, as followers of Jesus Christ must bear joy to this aching world. We must shine light into the darkness. Joy to the world!

Like much in our lives, proclaiming joy is difficult work – also good and essential work – especially now. Though we mourn that which is lost in our lives, our families, and our communities – Joy to the world!

While we strive to pull up the twisted and thorny vines of hatred and bigotry and anger - Joy to the world!

Through streaming tears and gritted teeth – Joy to the world! – because God is breaking into our lives and into this world anew.

While this is a strange year, the ministry He gives us remains the same. We will prepare him room in our hearts by taking on the ministry Jesus demands of us: feed those who are hungry; welcome the stranger; clothe those who are naked; heal those who are sick; visit the prisoner. Love God. Love your neighbor. Sing joy into this old world. Prepare him room.

St. Luke writes of the first Christmas, "[Mary] gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." There, in the simplest bed, in the cool of the night, in a trough, in bands of cloth, lies the One for whom no room was made. And yet strangely, there lies the One whom not even the universe can contain.

Joy to the world! The Lord is come. In your hearts, in your homes, in your lives, prepare him room.

God love you; God bless you; and may God hold us all in those almighty hands of love.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry Presiding Bishop and Primate The Episcopal Church

# THE EVE OF THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORDDECEMBER 24, 2020HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II WITH SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

#### Prelude

Variations on In Dulci Jubilo

Denis Bédard (b.1950)

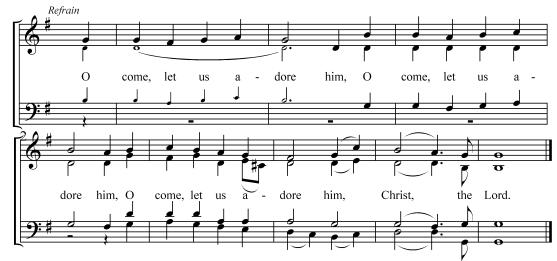
1982 Hymnal #83

Ding, Dong, Merrily On High 15th c. French Carol arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015) Singers: Savannah Stowell, Olivia Mogor, Krista Mogor

#### GATHERING HYMN

#### O come, all ye faithful vv1,3,6 In collaboration with Emanuel Lutheran Church Jonathan Reuning-Scherer, organist



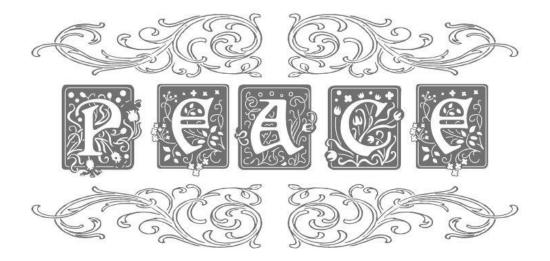


#### THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

- *Presider* Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
- People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

#### COLLECT FOR PURITY

All 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.





Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

#### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Presider	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Presider	Let us pray. O God, you have cause

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.

All Amen.

#### THE 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.

ReaderHear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.PeopleThanks be to God.

#### PSALM 98 Please read responsively

- 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.





Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt. Music: Antioch, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. People Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

Presider 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.

Presider The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

The Rev. D. Littlepage

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He 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.

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Intercessor and People pray responsively.

*Intercessor* My siblings, in the peace of God, all the gifts we shall give and receive in these days are but small tokens of the gift that shines forth in God's word made flesh this night. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for this deepest, truest gift, saying: Lord, hear our prayer.

Intercessor All	That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherds' field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence, let us pray. Lord, <i>hear our prayer</i> .	
Intercessor All	That the child born to us might find in our hearts warm welcome by our openness to the needs of the homeless and the hungry, let us pray. Lord, <i>hear our prayer</i> .	
Intercessor All	That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, let us pray. Lord, <i>hear our prayer</i> .	
Intercessor All	That the rejoicing of this day might be a bond leading us to true communion of life and worship, let us pray to the Lord, <i>hear our prayer</i> .	
Intercessor	That the joy and consolation of the Wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness, especially those on our parish prayer list, let us pray. Lord,	
All	hear our prayer.	
	Here other intercessions may be offered.	
Intercessor All	That the blessed hope we celebrate this night might be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, let us pray. Lord, <i>hear our prayer</i> .	
Presider	God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your word in our flesh. May our words of praise and petition be strong echoes of your Christmas Word, so that all might come to the peace you promise in Jesus, who is Lord and God this night and forever.	
All	Amen.	
THE PEACE		
Presider People	The peace of the Lord be always with you. And also with you.	
THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE		
OFFERTORY	ANTHEM Carol of the Bells <i>Ukrainian Carol, arr. Michelle Horsley (b. 1990)</i> The Choir School of Hartford, and Friends	
THE GREAT	THANKSGIVING: EUCHARISTIC PRAYER B BCP 367	
Officiant <b>People</b> Officiant <b>People</b> Officiant <b>People</b>	The Lord be with you. And also with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.	

Presider	It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; because you gave Jesus Christ your only Son to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the
	company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:
	<ul> <li>Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,</li> <li>heaven and earth are full of your glory.</li> <li>Hosanna in the highest.</li> <li>Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.</li> <li>Hosanna in the highest.</li> </ul>
Presider	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."
All	Therefore, according to his command, O Father, We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we await his coming in glory;
Presider	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.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Presider	And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
All	Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those
	<ul> <li>as we forgive those</li> <li>who sin against us.</li> <li>Save us from the time of trial,</li> <li>and deliver us from evil.</li> <li>For the kingdom, the power,</li> <li>and the glory are yours,</li> <li>now and for ever. Amen.</li> </ul>
	The Presider breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

- 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.

COMMUNON ANTHEMHallelujah Chorus (from *The Messiah*)G.F. Handel (1685-1759)Collaborative Virtual Choir Project with Emanuel Lutheran Church

*Presider* Let us pray.

All Eternal God, we thank you for the birth of your son, Jesus Christ, for through him all births are made holy and all things are made new. May we, like the shepherds, live with new-found joy in our hearts. May we, like Mary, always make room for the living Christ in our hearts. May we, like the angels, always proclaim that God is with us and invite others to seek and know him. May we go out to be instruments of your peace, in this Christmas Season and always. Amen.

#### HYMN

Silent Night

#### 1982 Hymnal #111

Singers: Sophie & Jim Reilly, Casey Rousseau, Kathie Wilson, Pekah Wallace, Linda & Mark MacGougan, Susan & Everett Post, Julian Rose & Britni Louise, Ruth Rose, The Mogor Family (Austin, Jane, Olivia, Krista, Clement & Ifeoma), Christina Gellman, Martha Freimuth, Faith Wada, Tom & Enid Oberholtzer, Anne & Peter Green, Christian Mesias, Julieta Jimenez, Kate Smith, and George Chien



Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885) Music: Stille Nacht, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

Reader	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.	
	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 BLESSING		
Presider All	May Almighty God, who sent the Christ to assume our nature, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. Amen.	
Presider All	May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. Amen.	
Presider All	May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you peace and favor. Amen.	
Presider	And the blessing of God Almighty, the Eternal Majesty, the Incarnate Word, and the Ever-Abiding Spirit be among you and remain with you always.	
All	Amen.	

THE DISMISSAL

PresiderAlleluia, alleluia, let us go forth in the name of the newborn Christ.PeopleThanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia.



## Cover Art: We are grateful to The Rev. George Chien for creating the artwork on the cover.

The words of the service are taken from The Book of Common Prayer.

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### LET US PRAY

In our Parish Cycle of Prayer we pray for Ray, Mima, Bella, Sasha & Sophiya Esponda and Fleetie Floyd; and the Flower Guild.

In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for St. Mark's, Bridgeport; St. Mark's, Bridgewater; Good Shepherd, Bristol/Plainville. For soup kitchens and food pantries, and all ministries that feed those who go without.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement: His Holiness Pope Francis, Bishop of Rome;His All Holiness Archbishop Bartholomew of Constantinople, New Rome and Ecumenical Patriarch; The General Secretary of the World Council of Churches; Bishop Ivan M Abrahams, General Secretary World Methodist Council; The Reverend Chris Ferguson, General Secretary of the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

We pray for Juli Porter, Alexandra Adams, Juhudi Mgombo, Nancy Crandall, Fred Margeson, Jennifer Stephens, Zechariah Stephens, Jo-Ellen Jansing, Katie Reynolds, Mavis Bennett; Ginny Catanzaro; Tori Henry; Louise Krippenstapel; Carlene Lewis; Judy Miller; Margaret Moore; Valentina Moore; Al Pereira; Jo-Ann Sadosky; Diane Bodine, Helen Strassner; Lindsey Tengatenga; Alice Turcotte; Richard Green (brother of Peter Green), Donald Bowens (Dianne Bowens-Waller), Joseph Negrelli Jr. and his family, Bill McMunn and Richard Alan Garver, Diane Bowens-Waller, Bruce and Jane Tatge (parents of Anne Green), Polly Thomas, Rebecca Bourret, Peter Vreeland, Amy Williams, Ken Rousseau (Casey Rousseau's dad), and Diana Perkins (friend of Suzanne and Boo), Jessica Compfer, Raldah Stephens, Joan and Ean Walsh (family of Jennifer Stephens) and those affected by mental and physical ailments, violence, natural disasters, and immigration and refugee policies, and their families; and for those who mourn for loved ones.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom. We pray for the repose of the souls of homicide victims in our city of Hartford, and beyond. We pray for those who will die this week, that they may meet their Lord in faith and hope. We pray for ourselves and for our departed loved ones, that rejoicing with them in God's kingdom where every tear is wiped away, we may as one family sing praise forever and ever.

## + ASSISTING AT WORSHIP +

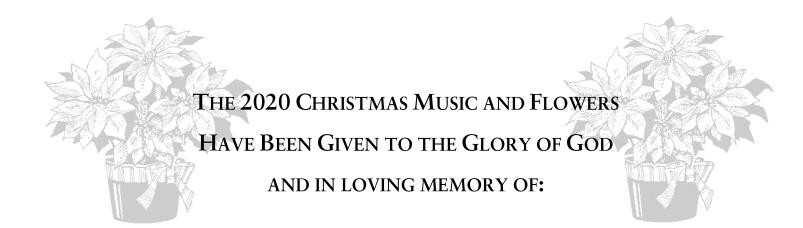
The Rev. D. Littlepage – Presider & Preacher

**Readers** Martha Freimuth Kate Byroade

Intercessors Ruth & Winston Rose

Director of Music Michelle Horsley

Virtual Vergers Casey Rousseau Jake Troiano



Richard Boucher Mildred Buttrey Steve Goldstein Angela Kraling Paul, Gretchen & Sarah Oberholtzer David Robinson Ian Robinson Margaret Schul Noel Sears Al Shuckra

Steve Smith Doris & Oscar Sodergren Bruce Williamson

# AND IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

The Trinity Church Staff:

The Rev. D. Littlepage, Michelle Horsley, Vinnie Pacileo, Patrick Reid, Fran Times-Mack, Barbara Roos, The Rev. George Chien (UMC, MCC)

Michelle Horsley and the Choir School of Hartford

The Trinity Church Office Volunteers

Casey Rousseau and Jacob Troiano, Trinity's Virtual Vergers

Enid and Tom Oberholtzer

The Trinity Community

The Trinity Choir School





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