



*Grace Episcopal Church
The Festal Celebration
of
the Holy Eucharist*

Christmas Eve

*The Right Rev. Frank Logue,
11th Bishop of the Diocese of Georgia*

The Rev. Kit Brinson

Mr. Mike Taylor, Church Musician and Choir Master

Before the service *O Come All Ye Faithful (verses 1-3)*
Angels we have heard on high
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. **People: And also with you.**

Celebrant: let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born 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 forever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson (*The people may be seated..*)

Reader: A reading from the Prophet 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.**

The Gradual (*read in unison*)

Psalm 96

Sing to the Lord a new song; * sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; * proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations * and his wonders among all peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; * he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; * but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! * Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; * ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; * bring offerings and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; * let the whole earth tremble before him.

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."

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.

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord when he comes, * when he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world with righteousness * and the peoples with his truth.

The Second Lesson

Reader: A reading from the book of 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.**

The Sequence

The Holy Gospel (*remain standing*)

Celebrant: 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.]

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon (*seated*)

The Rev. Kit Brinson

The Nicene Creed (*read in unison*)

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

Celebrant: My sisters and brothers 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 on God's word made flesh this night. From grateful hearts let us intercede for all who find themselves longing for the deepest, truest gift, saying: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the peace proclaimed by angels in the shepherd's field might be realized on every field of war and on every street of violence, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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 to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That in this time of gift-giving we might become more responsive to the abandoned, the despairing, and the mourning, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

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. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the joy and consolation of the wonderful Counselor might enliven all who are struck down by disease and illness, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the blessed hope we celebrate this night be the fulfillment of all who have gone before us in faith, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: 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. **Amen.**

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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

The Peace *(Please keep appropriate social distancing.)*

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you

People: **And also with you.**

The Offertory *O Little Town of Bethlehem (Verses 1 & 5)*

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer B

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

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

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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 Arch-

angels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**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.**

(the people kneel or stand)

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

The Celebrant continues

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary and all your saints, we may

enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction *Silent Night*

H 111

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Communion of God's People *(Please remain in your seats, the celebrant will come to you.)*

The Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.

The Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one, things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Procession *Joy to the World* **H 100**

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**





Poinsettias given in memory of:

Tyler Daniel, Ed Herrington and Mike Herrington by Kit Brinson; Edwin Herrin III by Cynthia Herrin; Jake Giddens by Jennifer Giddens; Judy Kathryn Purdom Cloyes by Barbara & Larry Purdom; Patrick O'Brien, Pat O'Brien, and Grace Elizabeth Carswell by Frances O'Brien; Charles and Louise Conley by Ann Combs; Augusta Blount and Jeff Blount by Clarence Blount; Rudy and Emma Charlett by Rick Charlett; Fred Ceballos, Pat McLaughlin, Tony Robinson, Rob Dye, Jim Dye, Jack McLaughlin by Sandee Ceballos; Arthur R. Joiner by Roger Joiner; David Rollison by Tom Hassett; The Kontos and Shadron family by Irene Shadron .

Poinsettias given in honor of: *Mildred B. Dowling and Dot Dunbar by Gail Walker*

Given to the Glory of God *by Blossom Williams*