



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Mobile, Alabama

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Day

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Friday, December 25, 2020

Ten o'clock in the morning



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN GIBSON

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral, the oldest Protestant church in the state of Alabama. Today, as we gather to celebrate once again the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we join generations of worshippers who have sung and prayed and heard the Bethlehem story in this sacred place. As you settle yourself before our worship begins, spend a few minutes imagining the moments in history seen by that “cloud of witnesses”—times of wars and of longed-for peace, times of economic hardship and of great prosperity, times of national or personal crisis and of joy and celebration. If we place ourselves within the context of those worshippers and their moments in time, we may gain a new perspective on the matters we carry in our hearts today. We may also gain strength and courage from the prayers and the hopes and dreams that linger all around us. This year our prayers are especially focused on the healing of our whole world during this time of pandemic. We also pray especially for the unity of our nation and for the welfare of all its people.

Our worship today also takes us outside of time, into the eternal life of God, as we hear the words of scripture, sing the psalms and hymns, and say the ancient creeds and prayers. We will be lifted to other dimensions through the music. We will be drawn into the sacred mystery of the Eucharist.

Whether this is your first visit to Christ Church or the repeating of long-standing tradition for you, I am glad that you are here and extend the welcome of the Vestry and the whole Cathedral Family to you. This year for the first time we welcome those who worship with us virtually via live stream. We are bound together in God’s love even though we are apart physically. Please know that all Christians are welcome to receive from the Lord’s Table. Communion in one kind will be brought to you in your pew. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may cross your arms to receive a blessing.

I wish you a blessed Christmas: may you know God’s peace and share the Good News of God’s love with the world.

Faithfully,

Handwritten signature of Beverly F. Gibson

The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson, Ph.D., Dean

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL MISSION

Christ Church Cathedral lovingly welcomes all people to traditional Episcopal worship, to deepen our relationships, serve our community, and grow closer to God.

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ Christmas Day

Friday, December 25, 2020

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two Ten o'clock in the morning

We invite you to participate in the worship of God. Our service is the Holy Eucharist: Rite Two in The Book of Common Prayer. For ease of use, this booklet contains the congregational portions of the liturgy and service music. Congregational responses are printed in bold. Hymn numbers refer to The Hymnal 1982. Page numbers refer to the Prayer Book for those wishing to use it. Lesson and Gospel texts are taken from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted. Service music not otherwise credited is composed by Christopher W. Powell.



*A gentle reminder: please turn off all wireless devices before the service.
Sound enhancement receivers for the hearing impaired are available in the west vestibule.*

Prelude

Cantilena on "Mendelssohn"

James Biery
(b. 1956)

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn
Hymnal 87

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!

Refrain

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

The Word of God

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

People: **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Collect for Purity

BCP 355

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.**

Collect of the Day

BCP 213

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 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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

Reader: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Acclamation

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"



The Holy Gospel

John 1:1-14

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: **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.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

Sermon

The Very Reverend Beverly Findley Gibson

The Nicene Creed

BCP 358

**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—Form IV

BCP 388

The leader and people pray responsively.

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

We pray especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Russell, our Bishop, Beverly, our priest, and for all bishops, priests, and deacons.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

We pray for Donald, our President, Joe, our President-Elect, Kay, our Governor, Sandy, our Mayor, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People:

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution.

Celebrant: 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

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

All baptized Christians are invited to receive Holy Communion.

The Offertory

Solo

The Stars Looked Down

Mollie A. Adams, *soprano*

The Christ-child lay on Mary's lap, his hair was like a light.

(O weary, weary were the world, but here is all aright.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's breast, his hair was like a star.

(O stern and cunning are the kings, but here the true hearts are.)

The Christ-child lay on Mary's heart, his hair was like a fire.

(O weary, weary is the world, but here the world's desire.)

The Christ-child stood at Mary's knee, his hair was like a crown.

And all the flowers looked up at Him, and all the stars looked down.

Mark Schweizer
(1956-2019)

G. K. Chesterton
(1874-1936)

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.**

The Celebrant continues: 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:

Sanctus

S-130

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant:

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."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People: **We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant:

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,

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

**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

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Music at Communion

Solo

In dulci jubilo
Hymnal 107

Good Christian friends, rejoice
Mollie A. Adams, *soprano*

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this!
He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ is born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant 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.**

Christmas Blessing

BOS 23

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. And, the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Postlude

In dulci jubilo

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750)

CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS AND THANK OFFERINGS

The wreaths on the front doors are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of
Lauda Eleanor Leak Corwin, Paul Charleton Corwin, junior, Corinna Herndon McCafferty,
E. L. McCafferty, junior, Marion McCafferty Sparkman, Edwin Brandoa Sparkman.



IN THANKSGIVING FOR THE CATHEDRAL FAMILY AND OUR MANY BLESSINGS THE CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL CHOIR



Will, Helen, and Elizabeth Babb



The Carr Grandchildren
Lewis Beecham Carter
William Creary Carter

The Children and Grandchildren
of Johnny and Mary Cook
Mr. and Mrs. David Jones Cooper



Dylan and Elinor Gibson
The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson
and Mr. J. Michael Gibson



Walter Charles Haffner
Jeffrey Edward Halley and
Leslie Stanton-Halley



Mr. and Mrs. Edward Bradford Ladd
The Edward Ladd Grandchildren:
Caroline, Benton, Ann, Campbell, Edward, Louise, Sarah
Jerod Lance Lucas
Virginia Hamilton Behlen Lucas
Mr. and Mrs. Jex Ransom Luce, Jr.



Louise McClelland McClure



Charlie, Mary Burton, and Virginia Merchant
Anna Robison McClure Middleton
Theo Frank Middleton, III
Tucker, Clarke, and Beverly Milteer



Forrest Louise Pritchard
Louise Vass McClure Pritchard
William Shelton Pritchard IV



Joan Rockstad
Ileana Molina Rodriguez



James Heming Hawk Sindel
Laura Campbell Behlen Sindel
Catherine Fay Snider
Mary Rose Snider
Tiny and John Spottswood



Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Watkins, Austin and William
Mr. and Mrs. James F. Watkins,
Kate and Mary Mac
Dr. and Mrs. Paul A. M. Watkins,
Francis and Macpherson



IN LOVING MEMORY OF:



Dr. and Mrs. P. J. M. Acker
Leighton P. Arsnault



Charles Henry Behlen II
Walton Avery Biggs, Jr.
Betty Wright Bolt
Donald Spencer Boughton
Anzell and Roy Bradford
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Julia Knox Brantley
Amiel Word Brinkley
Amiel Word Brinkley, Jr.
Katharine Hamilton Brinkley
Myrtice Willson Brinkley
Vivian Cooper Brister
Becky Brantley Broadwell
Effie Lou Brown
Donald Elmore Brutkiewicz
Elizabeth Cook Brutkiewicz
Wilbur M. (Sonny) Burchfield



Laura Manning Campbell
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The Right Reverend Charles F. Duval



Mrs. Rayford Lee Etherton, Sr.



Grover Waltha Findley
Merle Jordan Findley
Frank Pierce Folmar
Frank Pierce Folmar, Jr.
Nettie Jones Folmar



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1st Lt. USAAF Homer L. McClelland, Jr.
John Stephenson McClelland
Myrtice Willson McClelland
Robison Clarendon McClure, Sr.



Mr. and Mrs. John Ritchie Macpherson
Julia Orme Martin
Justus Carlile Martin
Mr. and Mrs. O. H. (Happy) May
Julia (JuJu) Hill Meador
William Alexander Lewis Mitchell
Mary Campbell Moore
Randolph Benjamin Moore, Jr.



Sally and John Morrisette
 Gladys Campbell Moss
 Walter William Moss, Jr.
 The Right Reverend George Murray



Hetty Cunningham Newell
 Lyon Cunningham Newell
 Shelley Carr Nightingale
 Carol Lynn Nicol



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Fredrick Williams Taul
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 Used by permission requested from Church Publishing Incorporated, New York, NY.
Hymnal 87 Hark! the herald angels sing Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *Mendelssohn*, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)
The Stars Looked Down Words: G. K. Chesterton (1874-1936) Music: Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)
Hymnal S-130 Sanctus Setting: From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert (1797-1828); arr. Richard Proulx (b. 1937)
Hymnal 107 Good Christian friends, rejoice Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).



MINISTERS FOR TODAY

Celebrant.....The Very Reverend Beverly F. Gibson
Lay ReaderCarolyn S. Jeffers
Organist.....Christopher W. Powell
Soloists.....Mollie A. Adams,
Altar Guild.....Barbara Archer, Robbie Lynn Irvine



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

The Right Reverend J. Russell Kendrick, *Bishop*

The Very Reverend Beverly Findley Gibson, Ph.D., *Dean and Rector*

The Very Reverend Johnny W. Cook, *Dean Emeritus*

Christopher William Powell, *Organist and Music Director*

Corner of Saint Emanuel & Church Streets

115 South Conception Street

Mobile, Alabama

Established 1822

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