



CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL

Mobile, Alabama

The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Christmas Eve Family Service

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Three o'clock in the afternoon



A MESSAGE FROM DEAN GIBSON

Welcome to Christ Church Cathedral, the oldest Protestant church in the state of Alabama. Tonight, 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 on this holy night. 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 tonight. 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 tonight 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 tonight 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. For those of you worshipping in person, ushers wearing purple badges are here to assist you tonight; they can direct you to water and restrooms, or to hearing assistance devices available for your use. At the appropriate time, they will help to light the candle you will find in your pew. 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.

We will gather to worship again tomorrow morning at 10:00 a.m.. Christmas Day worship is a peaceful and joyous way to begin a holiday with friends and family. We will have music and will sing favorite Christmas hymns and carols.

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,

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 Eve Family Service

Thursday, December 24, 2020

The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

Three o'clock in the afternoon

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

Pastorale on "Adeste, fideles"

David Schelat
(b. 1955)

Welcome

Opening Hymn

O come, all ye faithful vs. 1, 3, 6
O come, all ye faithful,
joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him,
born the King of angels;
Refrain: O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.
Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest;
Refrain
Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;

Adeste fideles
Hymnal 83

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 212

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**

First Reading *Isaiah 9:2-7*

Reader: A Reading from the Book of 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 trampling 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.**

Acclamation

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



The Holy Gospel (*King James Version*)

Luke 2:1-20

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

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

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David): To be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, 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, and on earth peace, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Christmas Crèche

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

Adolphe Adam
(1803-1856)

O Holy Night

Mollie A. Adams, soprano

O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;

It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!

Long lay the world in sin and error pining,

Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.

A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,

For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.

Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices!

O night divine, O night when Christ was born!

O night, O holy night, O night divine!

Truly He taught us to love one another;

His law is love and His Gospel is peace.

Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother

And in His Name all oppression shall cease.

Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,

Let all within us praise His holy Name!

Christ is the Lord! O praise His name forever!

His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

His pow'r and glory evermore proclaim!

John Sullivan Dwight
(1813-1893)

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

Pietro A. Yon
(1886-1943)

Gesù bambino

Mollie A. Adams, *soprano*

Sasha Ferreira, *violinist* and Rebekah Atkinson, *harpist*

*When blossoms flowered 'mid the snows Upon a winter night,
Was born the Child, the Christmas Rose, the King of Love and Light.*

*The angels sang, the shepherds sang, the grateful earth rejoiced;
And at His blessed birth the stars Their exultation voiced.*

*O come let us adore Him,
Christ the Lord.*

*Again the heart with rapture glows To greet the holy night,
That gave the world its Christmas Rose, Its King of Love and Light.*

*Let ev'ry voice acclaim His name, The grateful chorus swell.
From paradise to earth He came That we with Him might dwell.*

Frederick H. Martens
(1874-1932)

Post Communion Prayer

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.**

BCP 365

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.**

Ushers will assist you in lighting your personal candles for "Silent Night." Please take your lighted candle with you, departing quietly at the end of the hymn and carrying the light of Christ with you into the world.

Hymn

Stille Nacht

Hymnal 111

Silent night, holy night
Silent night, holy night,
all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child.
Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
Silent night, holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
radiant beams from thy holy face,
with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

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 Milton



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
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The Right Reverend Charles F. Duval



Mrs. Rayford Lee Etherton, Sr.



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Myrtice Willson McClelland
Robison Clarendon McClure, Sr.



Mr. and Mrs. John Ritchie Macpherson
Julia Orme Martin
Justus Carlile Martin



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 Julia (JuJu) Hill Meador
 William Alexander Lewis Mitchell
 Mary Campbell Moore
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 Sally and John Morrisette
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Hetty Cunningham Newell
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Hymnal 87 Hark! The herald angels sing Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt. Music: *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 Reader Carolyn S. Jeffers
Organist.....Christopher W. Powell
Soloists.....Mollie A. Adams
Altar Guild..... Barbara Archer



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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