

Christmas Eve

The Book of Alternative Services



24 December 2020

7:00 pm



St. George's Cathedral, Kingston

Setting: *Merbecke*

Prelude: *Joy to the World*, Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir, featuring Paul Halley, The Maritime Brass Quintet & Nick Halley

Gathering Hymn:

1 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:

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

O come, let us adore him,

Christ the Lord!

2 God of God,

Light of Light,

lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;

very God, begotten, not created:

3 See how the shepherds,

summoned to his cradle,

leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;

we too will tither

bend our joyful footsteps

4 Child, for us sinners

poor and in the manger,

fain we embrace thee, with awe and love;

who would not love thee,

loving us so dearly?

5 Lo! star-led chieftains,

magi, Christ adoring,

offer him frankincense and gold and myrrh;

we to the Christ-child bring our hearts' oblations:

6 Sing, choirs of angels,

sing in exultation,

sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;

glory to God

in the highest:

Adeste Fideles

Melody probably by J.F. Wade 1711-86

Latin 18th century

tr F Oakely 1802-80

The Gathering of the Community

All stand. The presiding celebrant greets the community

Celebrant The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,

and the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

People **And with thy spirit.**

Then may be said by the celebrant alone or with the people,

Almighty God,

unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known,

and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts

by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee,

and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Summary of the Law

Celebrant Our Lord Jesus Christ said: hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.
This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

Kyrie

Choristers Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us

Gloria in Excelsis

Glory be to God on high,
and in earth peace, good will towards men.
we praise thee, we bless thee,
we worship thee,
We glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly king, God the Father almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.

For thou only art holy;
thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ,
with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen

The Collect of the Day

Eternal God who made this most holy night to shine with the brightness of your one true light; bring us, who known the revelation of that light on earth, to see the radiance of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The Readings

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophecies of 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 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 onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

At the conclusion of the passage, the reader says,

The word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

- ¹ Sing unto the LORD a new song; / sing unto the LORD, all the whole earth.
- ² Sing unto the LORD, and praise his Name; / be telling of his salvation from day to day.
- ³ Declare his honour among the nations, / and his wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴ For the LORD is great, and cannot worthily be praised; / he is more to be feared than all gods.
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the peoples, they are but idols; / but it is the LORD that made the heavens.
- ⁶ Honour and majesty are before him: / strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
- ⁷ Ascribe unto the LORD, O ye kindreds of the peoples, / ascribe unto the LORD glory and power.
- ⁸ Give unto the LORD the honour due unto his Name; / bring presents and come into his courts.
- ⁹ O worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; / let the whole earth stand in awe of him.
- ¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations that the LORD is King; / he hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; he shall judge the peoples righteously.
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; / let the sea make a noise, and all that is therein.
- ¹² Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it; / then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the LORD;
- ¹³ For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth, / and with righteousness to judge the world, and the peoples with his truth.

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to 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 Saviour, 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.

At the conclusion of the passage, the reader says,

The word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down,
and glory shone around.

2 "Fear not," said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind;
"Glad tidings of great joy I bring
to you and all mankind.

3 To you, in David's town, this day
is born of David's line
a Savior, who is Christ the Lord;
and this shall be the sign:

The heavenly Babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swathing bands,
and in a manger laid."

Thus spake the seraph, and forthwith
appeared a shining throng
of angels praising God, who thus
addressed their joyful song:

"All glory be to God on high
and to the earth be peace;
good will henceforth from heaven to men
begin and never cease."

Winchester Old
Atr to G. Kirby 1565-1634

N. Kirby 1652-1715

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

People **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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 Saviour, 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 favours!'

(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 The Gospel of Christ.

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

Sermon – The Right Reverend Michael Oulton

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds,
God, of God; Light, of Light;
very God, of very God; begotten, not made;
being of one substance with the Father;
through whom all things were made:
who for us and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man,
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried,
and the third day he rose again
according to the scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory
to judge both the quick and the dead:
whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified,
who spake by the prophets.
And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church.
I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The Peace

All stand, and the presiding celebrant addresses the people.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Offertory Hymn (please stay seated while the Choristers sing)

Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born 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.'
*Hark, the herald angels sing
glory to the new-born King.*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,

offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
Hail, the incarnate Deity,
pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel.

3 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth.

Mendelssohn

From a chorus by F. Mendelssohn-Bartholdy 1809-1847

C. Wesley 1707-1788 and others

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour Christ hath 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, the power, and the glory, for ever
and ever. Amen.

The celebrant may bless the people.

Celebrant The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: And the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be amongst you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal

The celebrant may bless the people. The deacon, or other leader, dismisses the people, saying in these or similar words,

Leader Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (BWV 606), J.S. Bach 1685-1750*

Interim Dean: The Ven. David Selzer
Interim Director of Music: Brad Barbeau

Sunday December 27, at 10:00am, worship service via YouTube
Sunday January 3, at 10:00am, worship service via YouTube
St. George's office will be closed from December 24th to January 5th

Prayer List: The Very Rev Sharon Murdoch, The Rev Don Goodwin, Collin Stewart, Lynn Moore, John Bate, Dee Padfield, Kathy Anderson, Anne Kirkpatrick, John Weatherall, Sandy, Jason, Allie and Dev Kauenhofen, Paul Robertson, Richard, Brian English, Sue Kilpatrick, Steven Hurd and Jenn Hurd, Ayda Mora, Danielle Clarke; Barbara Watson and family; Barbara Fitsell and family.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Pray for St. George's Prayer Chain, James Anderson and team members; and we pray for the following households: The Rev Peter Case and Anne Case, The Ven Michael Caswell and Ruth Caswell, Judith Challis, Tim and Brenda Chance, and their families.

The flowers at the High Altar today are given to the glory of God
in loving memory of Ramona Redmond Dec 25/28 to Nov 15/16
from Carl Redmond

The flowers throughout the Cathedral are given in loving memory of:

George & Flo Youmatoff, Helen Owen and Margot Bruce, from the Bruce family

Tom and Carole Challis, from Judith Challis

Parents Irene and Bernard Forknall, Natalie and Frank Higgs, and sister Mary Jean from
Brian and Natalie and family

Kyle Stevens, from John and Valerie Jackson

Our loved family and friends, from Bill & Valerie McCready

Robert E. Johnson, Paul & Joyce McCulloch, from Ian & Susan McCulloch

Violet Lashley, mother of Marie McElvaine

John McNicholas, from Gillian McNicholas

Ron and Mae Stewart, Clayton Fuller, Marion Fuller, from Jim and Barbara Stewart

Alex Wakeling, for his birthday, from Patricia Wakeling

In gratitude for all who have made Christmas services happen (Anonymous)

Readings for Sunday, December 27– Second Sunday of Christmas

10:00am: Sirach 24:1-12; Cantic 11(Song of Wisdom); Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:1-18