

Christmas Worship

The Book of Alternative Services



27 December 2020
First Sunday of Christmas
10:00 am



St. George's Cathedral, Kingston

Gathering Hymn:

O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by:
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.

2 O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to men on earth.
For Christ is born of Mary;
and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.

3 How silently, how silently,
the wondrous gift is given!
so God imparts to human hearts
the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.

4 O holy Child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in:
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell:
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.

Forest Green

English Traditional Melody

P. Brooks 1835-93

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.

People Lord, have mercy upon us, and write both these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.

Kyrie

Chorister 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

Gracious God, you have redeemed us through Jesus Christ, the first-born of all creation, whose birth we celebrate in the child of Bethlehem. Grant us every spiritual blessing, so that we may live as your adopted children and witness to your glory with praise and thanksgiving, now and for ever. Amen.

The Proclamation of the Word

The Readings

Reader A reading from the Book of Sirach 24:1-12

Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people.

In the assembly of the Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells of her glory:

“I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist.

I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was in a pillar of cloud.
Alone I compassed the vault of heaven and traversed the depths of the abyss.
Over waves of the sea, over all the earth, and over every people and nation I have held sway.
Among all these I sought a resting place; in whose territory should I abide?
“Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent.
He said, ‘Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance.’
Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all the ages I shall not cease to be.
In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion.
Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain.
I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage.

At the conclusion of the passage, the reader says,

The word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 78, 1-14

Give the king thy judgments, O God, and thy righteousness unto the king's son.
He shall judge thy people with righteousness, and thy poor with judgment.
The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness.
He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.
They shall fear thee as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations.
He shall come down like rain upon the mown grass: as showers that water the earth.
In his days shall the righteous flourish; and abundance of peace so long as the moon endureth.
He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, and from the river unto the ends of the earth.
They that dwell in the wilderness shall bow before him; and his enemies shall lick the dust.
The kings of Tarshish and of the isles shall bring presents: the kings of Sheba and Seba shall offer gifts.
Yea, all kings shall fall down before him: all nations shall serve him.
For he shall deliver the needy when he crieth; the poor also, and him that hath no helper.
He shall spare the poor and needy, and shall save the souls of the needy.
He shall redeem their soul from deceit and violence: and precious shall their blood be in his sight.

Reader

A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. In

him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

At the conclusion of the passage, the reader says,

The word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Personent hodie
voces puerulae,
laudantes iucunde
qui nobis est natus,
summo Deo datus,
et de vir, vir, vir
et de virgineo ventre procreatus.

In mundo nascitur,
pannis involvitur
praesepe ponitur
stabulo brutorum,
rector supernorum.
Perdidit, dit, dit,
perdidit spolia princeps infernorum.

Magi tres venerunt,
parvulum inquirunt,
Bethlehem adeunt
stellulam sequendo,
ipsum adorando,
aurum, thus, thus, thus,
aurum, thus, et myrrham ei offerendo.

Let resound today
the voices of children,
joyfully praising
Him who is born to us,
given by most high God,
and conceived in a virginal womb.

He was born into the world,
wrapped in swaddling clothes,
and laid in a manger
in a stable for animals,
the master of the heavens.
The prince of Hell has lost his spoils.

Three Magi came,
they were bearing gifts,
and sought the little one,
following a star,
to worship him,
and offer him gold, frankincense, and
myrrh.

Omnes clericuli,
pariter pueri,
cantent ut angeli:
advenisti mundo,
laudes tibi fundo.
Ideo, o, o,
ideo gloria in excelsis Deo.

Let all the junior clerics
and also the boys
sing like angels:
"You have come to the world,
I pour out praises to you.
Therefore, glory to God in the highest!"

Personent hodie 1552

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And with thy spirit.**

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

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

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon – The Rev Canon Barbara Stewart

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 also with you.

Offertory Hymn

Good King Wenceslas looked out

on the feast of Stephen,

when the snow lay round about,
deep, and crisp, and even;
brightly shone the moon that night,
though the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight,
gath'ring winter fuel.

2 'Hither, page, and stand by me,
if thou know'st it, telling:
yonder peasant, who is he,
where and what his dwelling?'
'Sire, he lives a good league hence,
underneath the mountain,
right against the forest fence,
by St. Agnes' fountain.'

3 'Bring me flesh and bring me wine,
bring me pine logs hither;
thou and I will see him dine,
when we bear them thither.'
Page and monarch, forth they went,

forth they went together;
through the rude wind's wild lament,
and the bitter weather.

4 'Sire, the night is darker now,
and the wind blows stronger;
fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.'
'Mark my footsteps, my good page;
tread thou in them boldly:
thou shalt find the winter's rage
freeze your blood less coldly.'

5 In his master's steps he trod,
where the snow lay dinted;
heat was in the very sod
which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
ye who now will bless the poor,
shall yourselves find blessing.

Tempest Adest Floridum
Piae Cantiones, 1582

J.M. Neale 1818-66

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.**

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

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 Fittsell 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)