

The Nativity of Our Lord

St. George's Church, Glenn Dale Parish
Episcopal Diocese of Washington

December 24, 2023

9:00 pm



Welcome! We are glad to have you here with us this evening, as we celebrate the holy occasion of Jesus' birth. We hope you enjoy your experience at St. George's and that you will come again.

Our Sunday services are at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Zoom participants are welcome to leave your video camera on; at certain points during the service participants in the sanctuary will see the gallery view of those taking part in the service via Zoom.

The service begins with special music by St. George's Choir

Creator of the Stars of the Night – John Mason Neale, Solo – Edward Neuschler

Carol of the Bells – M. Leontovych

Ave Maria – Giulio Caccini, Solos – emma hadley, Julia Jackson

Lo, How a Rose – Craig Hella Johnson

A Christmas Carol – Norman Dello Joio, Solo – Ali Oliver-Krueger

Angel's Carol – John Rutter, Solos – Ali Oliver-Krueger, emma hadley, Ian Richardson, Edward Neuschler

O, Holy Night – Adolphe Adam, Solos – Laurie Lemieux, Annie Lemieux

Worship his Glory Worship The King – Mary McDonald

Please stand as you are able at the sound of the bell.

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #83 *O Come, All Ye Faithful*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786), tr. Frederick Oakley (1802-1880). Music: John Francis Wade (1711-1786) *Adeste fideles*
 Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant,
 God from God Light from Light e - ter - nal,
 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger,
 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

O come ye, O come ye to Beth - le - hem;
 lo he ab - hors not the Vir - gin's womb;
 sing, all ye ci ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 leav - ing their flocks draw nigh to gaze;
 we would em - brace thee, with love and awe;
 Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry given;

come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 on - ly be - got - ten Son of the Fa - ther;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry in the high - est;
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, O come, let us a-dore him, Christ, the Lord.

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People: **Glory to God forever and ever.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, and 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.**



Hymn of Praise: Hymnal 1982 #87 *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Words: Charles Wesley(1707-1788)y. Music: *Mendelssohn*. Felix Mendelssohn 1809-1847) Adapted by William H. Cummings (1831-1915).
Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Hark the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,
Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
Late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the vir - gin's womb,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us se - cond birth.
Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies:
Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail thein - car - nate De - i - ty.
Risen with heal - ing in his wings, Light and life to all he brings,
with thean - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
hail, the Sun of Right - cous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!
Hark the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray together:

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord. *People:* **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

Sing to the Lord a new song:

for the Lord has done marvelous things.

With your own right hand O Lord, and with your holy arm:

you have gained for yourself the victory.

You have made known your victory:

you have displayed your saving power to all nations.

You have remembered your faithfulness and your love to the house of Israel:

and all the ends of the earth have seen your victory.

Shout with joy to the Lord all the earth:

sing and rejoice with the sounds of melody.

Sing to the Lord with the harp:

with the harp and the voice of song.

With trumpets also and horns:

shout with joy before the Lord our king.

Let the sea roar and all that is in it:

the world and those who inhabit it.

Let the rivers clap their hands:

and let the hills rejoice together before the Lord.

For you O Lord are coming to judge the earth:

with righteousness you will judge the world and the peoples with equity.

Gospel Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #96 *Angels We Have Heard on High* (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

Words: French Carol Translated by James Chadwick (1813-1882). Music: *Gloria*, French Carol arranged by Edward Shippen Barnes (1997-1958)
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An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;
and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad ti - dings did you hear?
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.
Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o,
Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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

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

Luke 2:1-20

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.

The Gospel of the Lord. *People:* **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon: The Rev. Connie Reinhardt

The Secret of God

Even if I came to understand the tiniest fraction of the secret of God, I would not breathe a word of it out of sheer humility.

(You're wrong/arrogant/think again/start over)

If I came to understand the tiniest fraction of the secret of God, I would reveal it all, out of love.

The Prayers of the People

This holy night, we pray to the God who comes among us in the birth of Jesus:

Gracious God, as a star rose and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ child, draw us, your church, and all of your people to you, that we might be who you call us to be: **In the peace and joy of Christmas, we offer our prayers to you, Holy One of blessing.**

As your Holy Spirit came to Mary, who in grace and courage said yes to your call, may the Spirit also be with each one of us, challenging us, renewing our lives, and calling forth our own yes to you. **In the peace and joy of Christmas, we offer our prayers to you, Holy One of blessing.**

As angels sang praises to you and proclaimed peace on earth and goodwill among all peoples, may you bring our nation and all nations your peace, and bring an end to poverty and war, especially in the land of Jesus' birth. **In the peace and joy of Christmas, we offer our prayers to you, Holy One of blessing.**

As Jesus was born in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn, may we act on behalf of those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry. **In the peace and joy of Christmas, we offer our prayers to you, Holy One of blessing.**

As all who came to the Christ child at his birth celebrated in joy, may you also be present with those who celebrate and give thanks to you for the gifts in our own lives. **In the peace and joy of Christmas, we offer our prayers to you, Holy One of blessing.**

We remember this night all those who have died, and those who mourn, that you may offer them comfort and peace. **In the peace and joy of Christmas, we offer our prayers to you, Holy One of blessing.**

Celebrant: Holy Lord, God of hosts, heaven and earth are indeed full of your glory, this night of all nights. We thank you for sending us your beloved Son, come to us in human form. Help us, we pray, to make room for this beloved child in our hearts, that we may truly know the joy of this Christmas season, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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

People: **And also with you.**

The Offertory

Do good works and share what you have, for these are the sacrifices pleasing to God.

Offertory Hymn: LEVAS #21 *Go Tell it on the Mountain*

Words: Luke 2: 8-20 adapted by John W. Work, Jr. (1871-1925) Music: Negro Spiritual; adapted and arranged William Parley Smith (b. 1941). Words used by permission of Mrs. J. W. Work. © 1989 *United Methodist Hymnal*. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Go, tell it on the moun-tain, o-ver the hills and ev-ery-where;
go, tell it on the moun-tain, that Je-sus Christ is born.

While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si-lent flocks by night,
The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a-bove the earth,
Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

Be-hold through-out the heav-ens there shown a ho-ly light.
Rang out the an-gel chor-us that hailed the Sav-ior's birth.
And God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

Although St. George's no longer physically "passes the basket" everyone is invited and encouraged to make a financial offering to express your gratitude to God for the gifts we are given and in support of our mission and ministries. We encourage you to give electronically; you can text stgeodragon to 72356. (Messages and data rates may apply. Message frequency varies. Text HELP to 72356 for help. Text STOP to 72356 to cancel.) Or just use your web browser to go to www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give. You may also donate via Zelle to donations@stgeorgesglennedale.org. or Cash App to send your donation to \$StGeorgesGlennDale

The Great Thanksgiving

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 God thanks and praise.**

Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega, we give thanks to you! You have called all creation into being, setting the earth on its foundations. You have spread out the heavens like a tent, and set a boundary to the seas, you have filled the world with your creatures and called all things good. The heavenly beings are your messenger's night and day, and with them we sing and give glory to you:

Sanctus: Gather #144 *Holy, holy, holy*

Music: *Mass of Creation*, Marty Haugen (b. 1950) © 1964 G.I.A. Publications, Inc. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er, God of might, heav-en and earth are full of your



glo-ry. Ho-san-na in the high-est. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san-na in the high-est. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

In these latter days, God leaned toward the earth and spoke to us by a Son, Jesus the Beloved.

Born of our sister Mary and the Holy Spirit, guarded by our brother Joseph with fatherly care, Jesus came among us as a baby, humbly born, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath, human as we are, in need of human love.

Yet kings bowed down before him, bringing gifts and emperors were troubled by his reign—this Child in whom all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.

This Word of God made flesh and full of grace was sent to deliver us from our sin, from the power of evil and the fear of death.

As a servant, Jesus emptied himself of might upon the cross, and as the risen Anointed One is enthroned at God's right hand to bring mercy and justice to all the earth at the end of days.

And so, rejoicing in all God has done for us, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again!

Holy God, as you visited us in the birth of Jesus, visit us now by the power of your Spirit in these creatures of bread and wine, making them for us the Body and Blood of Christ, the banquet of heaven here on earth, as we remember how Jesus took bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We remember that after supper, he took a cup of wine and blessed and gave it to them, saying: "Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Blessed God, shed your grace brighter than starlight on us that we may bear your good tidings to all and renew the weary world in your name: the name of Emmanuel – God-With-Us, to whom we give honor and glory in joy, now and forever. Amen.

Celebrant: And now let us pray in the words that Christ has taught us:

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 Bread

The bread is broken and, after a period of silence, all sing together.

Fraction Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #S 155 *Christ our Passover*

Setting: Gerald R. Near (b. 1942) Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri - ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the feast

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The second staff contains the lyrics 'Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri - ficed for us; there-fore let us keep the feast'. The third staff contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

Celebrant: Mindful that not all are present physically to receive the sacrament, we pray with those who receive spiritual Holy Communion this day:

Lord Jesus, in union with your faithful people, we offer to you our praise and thanks. Since we cannot receive you today in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, we pray that you come spiritually into our hearts. Strengthen us with your grace, O Lord, and let us never be separated from you. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Celebrant: The gifts of God, for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Everyone present is invited to share in the Holy Communion. This is Christ's table, and all are welcome.



If you would prefer not to receive the Eucharist, you are welcome to come up for a blessing; cross your hands to your shoulders to indicate this to the priest.

Communion Hymn 1: Hymnal 1982 #89 *It came upon the midnight clear*

Words: Edmund H. Sears (1810-1870). Music: *Carol*, Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900). Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



It came up - on the mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
Still through the clov - en skies they come with peace ful - wings un - furled,
Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suf - fered long;
For lo! the days are haste - ning on, by pro - phets seen of old,



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
and still their heaven - ly mu - sic flows o'er all the wear - y world;
be - neath the heaven - ly hymn have rolled two thou - sand years of wrong;
when with the ev - er - cir - cling years shall come the time fore - told,



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, from heaven's all gra - cious King."
a - bove its sad and low - ly plains they bend on hov - ering wing,
and war - ing hu - man - kind hears not the tid - ings which they bring;
when peace shall o - ver all the earth its an - cient splen - dors fling,



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
and ev - er o'er its Ba - bel sounds the bless - ed an - gels sing.
O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the an - gels sing!
and all the world give back the song which now the an - gels sing.

Communion Hymn 2: Hymnal 1982 #115 *What Child Is This*

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898) Music *Greensleeves* English melody Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Ma-ry's lap is sleep-ing?
Why lies he in such mean es-tate where ox and ass are feed-ing?
So bring him in-cense, gold, and myrrh, come, pea-sant, king, to own him;



Whom an-gels greet with an-thems sweet, while shep-herds watch are keep-ing?
Good Chris-tians, fear: for sin-ners here the si-lent Word is plead-ing.
the King of kings sal-va-tion brings, let lov-ing hearts en-throne him.



This, this is Christ the King, whom shep-herds guard and an-gels sing;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma-ry.

Communion Hymn 3: Hymnal 1982 #111 *Silent Night*

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848) tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885). Music: *Stille Nacht*, Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863).

Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Si-lent night, ho-ly night, all is calm, all is bright
Si-lent night, ho-ly night, shep-herds quake at the sight,
Si-lent night, ho-ly night, Son of God, love's pure light



round yon vir-gin mo-ther and child. Ho-ly in-fant, so ten-der and mild,
glo-ries stream from hea-ven a-far, hea-ven-ly hosts sing al-le-lu-ia;
ra-diant beams from thy ho-ly face, with the dawn of re-deem-ing grace,



sleep in hea-ven-ly peace. Sleep in hea-ven-ly peace.
Christ, the Sa-rior, is born! Christ, the Sa-rior, is born!
Je-sus, Lord at thy birth. Je-sus, Lord at thy birth.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving

Celebrant: Let us pray together: **Mysterious God, we thank you for feeding us with yourself; and for making yourself known to us in the holy child Jesus, the Christ. Let us carry within our hearts your Holy Spirit, that same Spirit which was in Jesus, so that that we may help bring your peace to all the earth in Jesus' Name. Amen.**

The Blessing

May the God of the angels, who heralded Christ's birth,
bring joy to your hearts this night and always. **Amen.**

May the God of love, whose only Son to was born for you,
fill your life with love and peace. **Amen.**

May Emmanuel, God with us, be with you in all your doings and all your celebrations,
until he brings you into his eternal kingdom. **Amen.**

And may God Almighty, God who created us, Christ Jesus who brings us new life, and the Holy Spirit who guides and sustains us, be with you now and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Dismissal Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #100 *Joy to the World*

Words: Isaac Watts(1674-1748). Music: *Antioch*. George Frederick Handel (1685-1759) Arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)
Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re - ceive her King;
Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our songs em - ploy,
No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the ground;
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions prove



let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and heaven and na - ture sing,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains, re - peat the sound - ing joy,
he comes to make his bless - ings flow far as the curse is found,
the glor - ies of his right - eous - ness and won - ders of his love,



and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing,
re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.
and won - ders of his love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

Celebrant: Go forth in the spirit and power of Christ the Incarnate Word.

People: **Thanks be to God!**





Christmas Flowers 2023

Given for the glory of God and

In Memory of Joan Alexander

By Paul & Barb Arnold

In Memory of Keith Bruce

By Mary Frances Bruce

In Thanksgiving for St. George's, our family

By Marion DePriest & Family

In Memory of Teodoro Feliciano, William
Paul Alark, David R. Emge, Akemi Aubuchoro

By Olga D. Feliciano-Alark

In Memory of Stephen & Helen Haselton,
Kenneth & Carolyn Polglase

In Thanksgiving for David, Steven & Anne

By Randy & Donna Haselton

In Memory of Thomas R. Jones

By Judy Jones

In Memory of Muriel & George Lof

By Carol Lof

In Memory of Eula Dyson
In Thanksgiving for Britta Amalia Peterson,
Max Robert Peterson

By Billy McNeel & Roy Peterson

In Thanksgiving for our family – Karen,
Kathy, Eddie, Nancy, our 13 grandchildren,
and our great-grandchild

By Barbara & Ed Munro

In Memory of Eugene Ferrick Sr., Walter &
Rita Prosser, Walt Prosser Jr., Richard Atwell,
Sharon A. La Voy, Jeffrey Williams,
Hilda Nichol

In Thanksgiving for Lynn Ferrick

By Joann Prosser

In Memory of Margaret Crelling, Jack &
Betty Crelling, Jim Reinhardt, Karen Hadley,
Emma Limburgh

By Connie Reinhardt & emma hadley

In Memory of Eula Marie Dyson

*By Mary Rogers, Abner Wyatt, Nanette
Wyatt, Emma Wyatt*

In Memory of Jim Little

By Dan Ryan

In Memory of Carmen M. Lanzar, Maurice &
Helen Carmody

By Zulma Santiago

In Memory of Bob and John & Neille
In Honor of Friends & family including

Ellie, Gracie & Zoe

By Karen Mallon Sharp

In Memory of Lillie Soliz, Tommie Cruz, Joe
Cruz, Margaret Stodart, Tom Stodart, Mary
Stodart, Annie Brady

In Thanksgiving for St. George's Community

By Rosa Soliz & Germaine Stodart

In Memory of Chuck Ashurst

By Luella Tabor