



The First Sunday After Christmas *December 27, 2020*

St. George's Church † Glenn Dale, Maryland
The Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Welcome to St. George's! We are glad to see you this morning, whether in person or virtually. This service booklet has everything you need to fully participate in today's worship service, including scripture readings as well as prayers and music.

Prelude: *Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head* arr. Gwyneth Walker (b. 1947)

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #107 *Good Christian Friends Rejoice*

Words: John Mason Neale. Music: *In dulci julilio* German carol, 14th century. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;



give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.



Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to-day!
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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

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

All pray together: **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.**

Gloria: Hymnal 1982 S280 Sung by St. George's Virtual Choir

Robert Powell Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-



- might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our



prayer. For you a-lone are the Ho-y One, you a - lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most



High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther, A - men.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray together the Collect of the day: **Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Prayer for Our Country

O God, we pray for your presence with our country and with our leaders, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves. To all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties. To those who make our laws give courage and wisdom; to our courts and judges give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and true justice served. May our leaders be trustworthy and act for the well-being of our society; that all may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. **Amen.**

Isaiah 61:10-62:3 *Read by Jen Matson*

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. **The Word of the Lord. People: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 147

Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God:

how pleasant it is to honor the Most High with praise.

You LORD are building Jerusalem: **and gathering the scattered exiles of Israel.**

You are healing the broken-hearted: **and binding up their wounds.**

You count the number of the stars: **and call them all by their names.**

Great are you O Lord, and mighty your power: **yes, and your wisdom is infinite.**

You raise up the lowly: **and bring down the wicked to dust.**

Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem: **O holy city praise your God.**

For the Lord has strengthened the bars of your gates;

and blessed your children within you.

The Lord has established peace within your borders:

and fed you amply with the finest of wheat.

You O Lord send your word to the earth: **and your command runs very swiftly.**

You give snow like wool: **and sprinkle hoar-frost like ashes.**

You scatter hailstones like breadcrumbs:

you send the cold, and the waters stand frozen.

You utter your word, and the ice is melted:

you blow with the wind, and the waters flow.

You make known your teaching to Jacob: **your statutes and decrees to Israel.**

You have not done this for any other nation: **nor have you taught them your law.**

O praise the LORD!

Gospel Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #82 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius; tr. John Mason Neale and Henry William Baker.

Music: Divinum mysterium, Sanctus trope, 11th Century. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be - gan to
O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin, full of
Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his prais - es



be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga, he the source, the end - ing
grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing, bore the Sa - vior of our
sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, and ex - tol our God and



be, of the things that are, that have been, and that fu - ture
race; and the Babe, the world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
King; let no tongue on earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in



years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according John. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

John 1:1-18

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.

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

The Sermon: Brother Ed Munro, BSG

Affirmation of Faith

We trust in God, Spirit of life, Creator of all that is and all that is to come; who surrounds us and fills us; who speaks the Word of life in us; and so we listen. We listen to Jesus, Revealer of God, our brother and teacher; who lived in prayer and in love. Listening to God's voice and doing God's will, he gave his life in love; but God raised him to life that is eternal; and so we follow him. We follow in the power of the Holy Spirit, God alive in us, for the sake of the healing of the world. We trust in the power of forgiveness, the reality of resurrection, the gift of the universal Church as the body of Christ, and the mystery of eternal life. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *Led by The Lawleys*

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this season by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us. We pray saying, **God of love, receive our prayer.**

At Christmas angels proclaim your peace and goodwill to all people. In this season, strengthen all who work for peace and justice, we pray: **God of love, receive our prayer.**

At Christmas you come to us as a child cradled in a borrowed bed of straw when there is no room in the inn. In this season, open our hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry, we pray: **God of love, receive our prayer.**

At Christmas we rejoice in this time of rest and re-creation. Enrich our rejoicing and strengthen the bonds between us, especially in this time of physical separation, we pray: **God of love, receive our prayer.**

At Christmas Christians throughout the world celebrate the birth of Jesus. Unite us in one family in Christ, that we may shine with the one light that scatters all our darkness, we pray: **God of love, receive our prayer.**

At Christmas your living Word leaps down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those suffering with Covid-19, and those who care for them. We pray: **God of love, receive our prayer.**

We remember this day all who have died. We grieve for the more than 330,000 lives lost to the pandemic in our country and for those around the world who have died, now in excess of 1.7 million. Bring peace for all who mourn, we pray: **God of love, receive our prayer.**

We pray in thanksgiving for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in this season, and for all of the blessings of our lives. Assist us with your grace, that we may live in true gratitude, we pray: **God of love, receive our prayer.**

Gracious God of love and light, hear these prayers we bring to you, and fulfill your purposes in us, in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

People: And also with you.

Announcements and Blessings for Birthdays & Anniversaries

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) and anyone celebrating their birthday or anniversary this week as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Offertory

The Celebrant says

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

Traditionally this would be the time for the basket to be passed to receive financial donations from those worshipping in person. For safety reasons, that practice has changed. We encourage you to give electronically wherever possible.

You can use your phone to text stgeodragon to 72356. Or just use your web browser to go to www.onrealm.org/StGeorgesChurch/Give. If your bank offers Zelle, you can use your banking app to send a donation via Zelle to donations@stgeo.comcastbiz.net. There are also baskets at the entrance and exit doors of the Sanctuary for donations of checks or cash. Many thanks for your financial support of St. George's.

Offertory Anthem: Arise Shine! by Marty Haugen Sung by St. George's Virtual Choir

Refrain: Arise, Shine! Your light has come:
the light that shatters the darkness,
and the glory of God is risen upon you!

1. The people who stumbled in the darkness, the people have seen the light of hope;
the ones who have dwelt beneath death's shadow, on them the light has shown! *(Refrain)*
2. The yoke of your suffering shall be lifted, the rod of oppression's weight shall break;
the weapons of hatred shall be shattered, and wars shall be no more! *(Refrain)*

3. For unto us a Child is born, the Holy One is given to be light for all the people in night,
to be hope for our hearts: Wonderful Counselor;
to be strength for our lives: Mighty God;
to be peace for our souls: God of all Mercy;
to be wisdom and joy; Light for the World;
to be hope for the poor: God of all Justice;
to be God for all time: Prince of Peace;
to be love that renews: Lover and Healer;
to be light for our eyes: Spirit of Truth! *(Refrain)*

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 messengers night and day, and with them we sing and give glory to you:

S 130 Holy, holy, holy Lord ~ Sanctus

from *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Peter Schubert; arr. Richard Prouls. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
hea-ven and earth are full, full of your glo - ry. Ho-
- san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-
- san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The Celebrant continues:

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 we remember how Jesus took bread, 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." After supper, Jesus took the 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."

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

Celebrant and People

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.

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 for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant: And now in the Light of Christ, we pray,

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. 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 Celebrant says

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.

The Breaking of the Bread

The bread is broken and silence is kept

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 lived, died, and rose again for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Communion

Wherever you are on your journey, whatever you believe or don't believe, know that you are welcome at this table. For this is Christ's table, and all are welcome.

Communion Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #112 *In the Bleak Midwinter*

Words: Christina Rossetti. Music *Cranham*. Gustav Theodore Holtz. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



In the bleak mid-win-ter, frost y wind make moan, earth stood hard as
Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain; heaven and earth shall
An - gels and arch-ang - els may have gath - ered there, cher - u - bim and
What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a



i - ron, wa - ter like a stone; snow had fall - en snow on snow,
flee a way when he comes to reign: in the bleak mid - win - ter a
ser - a - phim thron - ed the air; but his mo - ther on ly, in
shep - herd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man,



snow on snow, in the bleak mid-win-ter, long a - go.
sta ble place suf-ficed the Lord God in - car-nate, Je - sus Christ
her maid en bliss, wor shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
I would do my part; yet what I can I give him give my heart.

Post- Communion Prayer

Let us pray: **Holy and Eternal God, 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.**

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: LEVAS #21 *Go Tell It On the Mountain*

Music: Negro Spiritual, adapt. John W. Work, Jr. Music: William Farley Smith. © 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, Be-
The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo! a - bove the earth, Rang
Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum-ble Christ was born, And



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

Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the power and the spirit of the Incarnate Word.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: *Go Tell It on the Mountain* arr. Glenda Austin