



The Second Sunday After Christmas *January 3, 2021*

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.

This Sunday morning, we welcome back the Rev. Todd Thomas as our preacher and celebrant. Todd is the Missioner for Revitalization and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese. Thanks for being with us and helping out at St. George's!

Prelude: 'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime arr. Michael Larkin (b. 1951)

Opening Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #92 *On This Day Earth Shall Ring*

Words: *Piae Caniones*, 15th Century trans. Jane M. Joseph. Music *Personent hodie*, 16th Century. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323

On this day earth shall ring with the song chil-dren sing to the Lord,
His the doom, ours the mirth; when he came down to earth Beth - le - hem
God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise Men three to him led; kneel they low
On this day an - gels sing; with their song earth shall ring, prais - ing Christ

Christ our King, born on earth to save us; him the Fa - ther gave us. Id-e-o-
saw his birth; ox and ass be-side him from the cold would hide him.
by his bed lay their gifts be-fore him, praise him and a - dore him.
hea-ven's King, born on earth to save us; peace and love he gave us.

- o-o, Id-e-o - o-o, Id-e-o glo-ri-a in ex-cel-sis De-o!

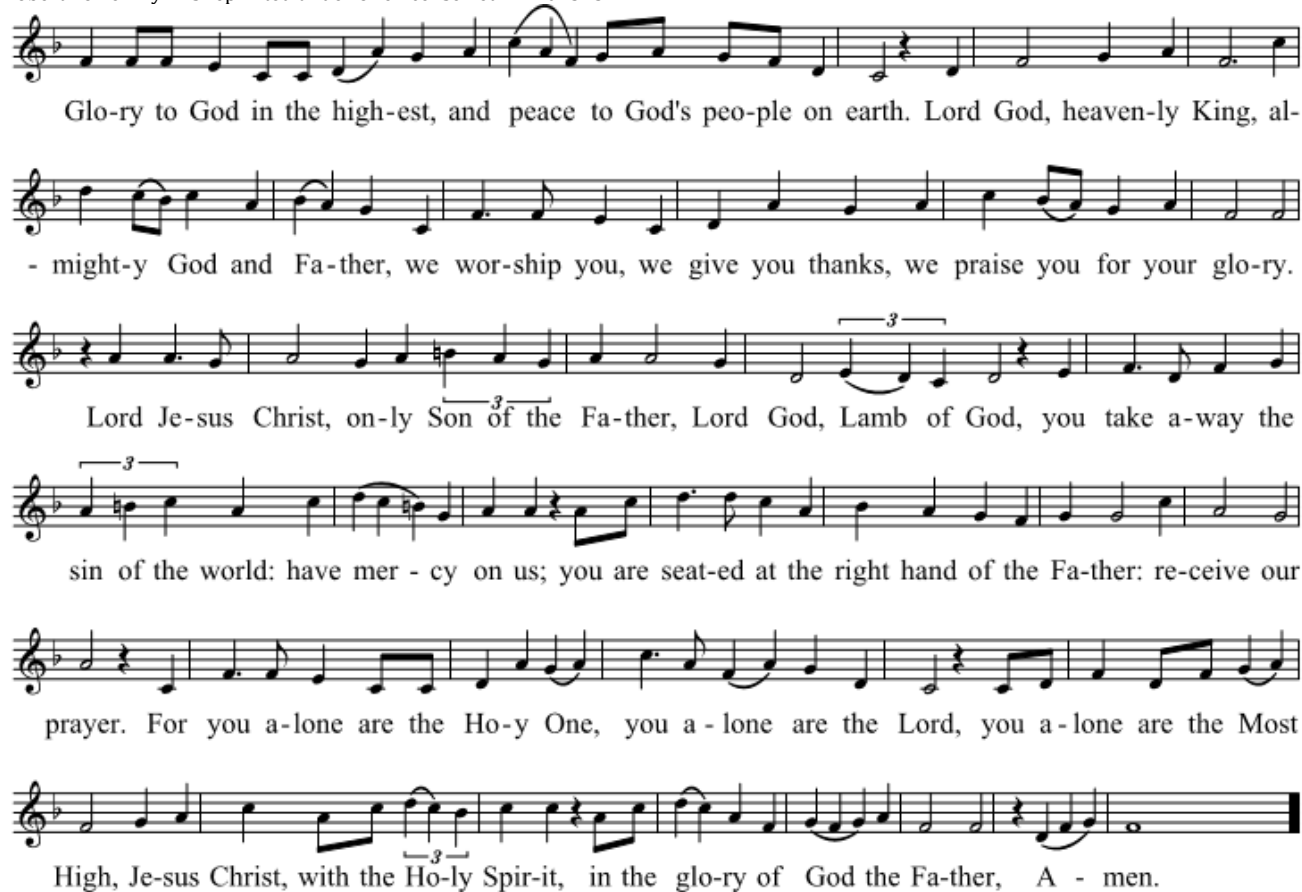
Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

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

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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: **O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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.**

Jeremiah 31:7-14

Read by William Bultman

Thus says the Lord: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O Lord, your people, the remnant of Israel." See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." For the Lord has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.

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

Psalm 84

How lovely is your dwelling place: **Lord God of power and might.**

My soul has a desire and longing to enter the courts of the Lord:

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow finds for herself a house:

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young.

Even so have the singers a home at your altars:

they stand always praising you my king and my God.

O Lord God of hosts: **blessed are those who dwell in your house.**

Blessed are those whose strength is in you: **who have set their hearts on pilgrimage.**

Going through the arid valley, they find a spring from which to drink:

the early rain covers it with pools of water.

They go from strength to strength: **and appear every one before God in Jerusalem.**

O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer: **give ear O God of Jacob.**

Show favor O God to the King our defender:

and look upon the face of your anointed prince.

Truly one day in your courts: **is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God:

than live in the homes of the wicked.

For the Lord God is a defense and shield, the Lord will give grace and honor:

and no good thing will be withheld from those who live a blameless life.

O Lord God of hosts: **blessed are those who put their trust in you.**

Gospel Hymn: LEVAS #24 *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow*

Traditional Spiritual. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



There's a star in the east on Christ-mas morn, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low, It will
If you take good heed to the an - gel's words, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low, You'll for-

lead to the place where the Christ was born, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low.
- get your flocks, you'll for - get your herds, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low.

Fol - low, fol - low, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low, Fol-low the Star of

Beth-le - hem, Rise up shep-herd and fol-low,

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

Matthew 2:13-15,19-23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son." When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon: The Rev. Todd Thomas

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 Ingrid Charlton*

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

The celebrant then offers the following prayer for those celebrating birthdays and 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 Hymn: Hymnal 1982 #96 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

Words: French carol, trans. James Chadwick. Music: *Gloria*, French carol, arr. Edward Shippen Barnes. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



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?
Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
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?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
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.

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 Anthem: Like Him We Rise by Tom Trenney

Due to safety concerns, the in person congregation is not permitted to sing at this time. We invite you to enjoy the offerings of the cantor or virtual St. George's choir.

He came down that we may have love, He came down that we may have love,
He came down that we may have love, He came down that we may rise.

“Come unto me,” our Savior said. “Ye weary, come, I’ll give you rest.”
From stable room and manger bed to paradise forever blessed.
Made like him, like him we rise. Ours the cross, the grave, the skies;
light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

“Come, all who thirst, be satisfied with water I alone can give”
Upon the cross, “I thirst,” he cried, conquering death that we might live!
Made like him, like him we rise. Ours the cross, the grave, the skies;
light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

“When in the shadow, do not fear. I am your light, your lamp, your sun.”
The sting of death shall disappear. The fight is fought! The battle won!
Made like him, like him we rise. Ours the cross, the grave, the skies;
light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

He came down that we may rise. We may rise.

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: Hymnal 1982 #105 *God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen*

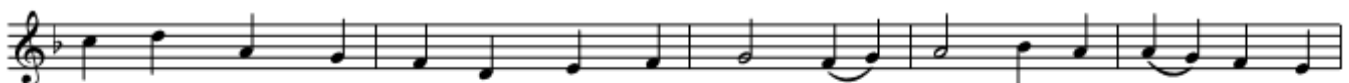
Words: London carol, 18th Century. Music: *God Rest You Merry* from *Little Book of Christmas Carols*. Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-701323



God rest you mer - ry, gentle - men, let no - thing you dis - may; re-
From God our heaven - ly Fa - ther a bless - ed an - gel came and
Fear not, then," said the an - gel, "Let no - thing you af - fright; this
Now to the Lord sing prai - ses, all you with - in this place, and



- mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day, to save us all from
un - to cer - tain shep - herds brought tid - ings of the same: how that in Beth - le-
day is born a Sa - vior of a pure vir - gin bright, to free all those who
with true love and char i - ty each oth - er now em - brace; this ho - ly tide of



Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray. O tid - ings of com - fort and
- hem was born the Son of God by name.
trust in him from Sa - tan's power and might."
Christ - mas doth bring re - deem - ing grace.



joy, com - fort and joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God!

Postlude: *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen* arr. Larry Shackley (b. 1956)