



ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH
GREAT FALLS, VIRGINIA



**Feast of the Nativity
(Proper II)**

December 24, 2020

6:30 P.M.

FESTIVAL MUSIC PRELUDE: *Away in a Manger*

arr. Gary Schocker
Harp by Rebecca Smith

WELCOME AND INVITATION

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

(The peoples' responses are in bold)

OPENING, HYMN 83 (verses 1, 2, 3): O come all ye faithful
as recorded by the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra

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;

REFRAIN:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

2 God from God, Light from Light,
Lo! He abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God! Begotten not created!

REFRAIN:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

3 Sing choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing all ye citizens from heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest;

REFRAIN:

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP Page 355

Presider Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

Presider 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.**

SONG OF PRAISE, HYMN 96 (verses 1 & 2): Angels we have heard on high

Recording by the Prague Philharmonic Orchestra

Video by Amie Flowers Shakespeare and Lyn Beer

1 Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.

Glo - - - ri-a! In excelsis De-o.

Glo - - - ri-a! In excelsis De-o.

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your gladsome songs prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heavenly song?

Glo - - - ri-a! In excelsis De-o.

Glo - - - ri-a! In excelsis De-o.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

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.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 62:6-12

Reader A reading from Isaiah.

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,
I have posted sentinels;
all day and all night
they shall never be silent.
You who remind the LORD,
take no rest,
and give him no rest
until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.
The LORD has sworn by his right hand
and by his mighty arm:
I will not again give your grain
to be food for your enemies,
and foreigners shall not drink the wine
for which you have labored;
but those who garner it shall eat it
and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it
in my holy courts.

Go through, go through the gates,
prepare the way for the people;
build up, build up the highway,
clear it of stones,
lift up an ensign over the peoples.
The Lord has proclaimed
to the end of the earth:
Say to daughter Zion,
'See, your salvation comes;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.'
They shall be called, 'The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the Lord';

and you shall be called, 'Sought Out,
A City Not Forsaken.'

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people respond with the refrain.

RESPONSE: Psalm 97, *Dominus regnavit*

BCP Page 726

1 The LORD is King;

let the earth rejoice; *

let the multitude of the isles be glad.

2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *

righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.

3 A fire goes before him *

and burns up his enemies on every side.

Refrain: The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; *

let the multitude of the isles be glad

4 His lightnings light up the world; *

the earth sees it and is afraid.

5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *

at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.

6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *

and all the peoples see his glory.

Refrain: The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; *

let the multitude of the isles be glad

7 Confounded be all who worship carved images

and delight in false gods! *

Bow down before him, all you gods.

8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *

because of your judgments, O LORD.

9 For you are the LORD,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.

**Refrain: The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad**

10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

**Refrain: The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad**

SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14

Reader A reading from the letter to Titus.

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE, Harp Meditation: “What Child is this, who, laid to rest”

arr. Rhett Barnwell

Harp by Rebecca Smith

Video by Amie Flowers Shakespeare and Lyn Beer

GOSPEL: Luke 2:1-20

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

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

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 [kwai-RIHN-ih-uhs] 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.

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

HOMILY: David J. Lucey

NICENE CREED

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**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Reader The angel choir has proclaimed your glory, we praise your name and the gift of your presence with a joyful noise.

Reader We stand among the great cloud of witnesses who have come before and those lives yet untold who will witness here after, help the church to receive your Son in awe and wonder, and watch over the communities who proclaim your glory by their lives and their worship.

***People* May our lives reflect the joy of your good news.**

Reader We pray for our leaders, especially the men and women newly elected and re-elected to office, those who make laws, those who administer the laws, and those who judge; may their decisions, actions, and judgements reflect wisdom, justice, and peace.

***People* May our lives reflect the peace of your good news.**

Reader With your people throughout the world, we rejoice at your presence with creation, and we pray for the courage and energy to walk with those who are oppressed, hungry, alone, and living in fear.

***People* May our lives reflect the generosity of your good news.**

Reader We pray for those who live and work beside us; who hurry to our side when we are in crisis; who live among us in pain from illness, broken relationships, and loneliness; who are laboring in birth, and who are dying: we ask for your healing, wholeness, restoration, and care. Remembering this night: [*Prayer List*]

***People* May our prayers reflect the healing power of your good news.**

Reader We commend to you those who have died and entered more fully into your glory.

***People* May our lives reflect the hope of your good news.**

Presider Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

BCP Page 364

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.

***People* And also with you.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*A **spiritual communion** is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM: In the Bleak Midwinter sung by Virtual St. Francis Choir

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING (Prayer B)

BCP Page 367

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Presider It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and the People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Presider We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in

your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

Presider And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Francis of Assisi, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say,

**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.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP Page 364

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

COMMUNION OFFERING: Harp Meditation, "Noel"

Variations pastorales sur un vieux Noël arr. Marcel Samuel Rousseau
Harp by Rebecca Smith, accompanied by video

COMMUNION INVITATION

BCP Page 364

Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

PRAYER OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION, (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

Presider Let us pray.

Celebrant continues

**My Jesus,
I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.
As though you have already come,
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you;
never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.**

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

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Presider Let us pray.

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

POSTCOMMUNION, HYMN 111 (verses 1, 3): Silent night, holy night
Sung acapella by Amber Robinson

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild;
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace;
Jesus, Lord at thy birth. Jesus, Lord at thy birth.*

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

Presider May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

Presider May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

Presider May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

Presider And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

CLOSING, HYMN 87 (verses 1 & 2): Hark! the herald angels sing
with video of singing congregation

1 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!

REFRAIN: 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, off-spring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us/them to dwell; Jesus our Emmanuel!

REFRAIN: Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King!

DISMISSAL

BCP Page 366

***We invite the congregation to unmute themselves so that everyone might
proclaim the dismissal.***

Leader Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Citations for the videos

Gloria

Boucicaut Master and Workshop (French, active about 1390 - 1430)

The Annunciation to the Shepherds, about 1415 - 1420, Tempera colors, gold paint, gold leaf, and ink on parchment

Leaf: 20.5 × 14.8 cm (8 1/16 × 5 13/16 in.), Ms. 22 (86.ML.571), fol. 67

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Ms. 22, fol. 67

[Click here to view](#)

Simon Bening (Flemish, about 1483 - 1561)

The Adoration of the Magi, about 1525–1530, Tempera colors, gold paint, and gold leaf on parchment

Leaf: 16.8 × 11.4 cm (6 5/8 × 4 1/2 in.), Ms. Ludwig IX 19 (83.ML.115), fol. 36v

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles, Ms. Ludwig IX 19, fol. 36v

[Click here to view](#)

Ceiling Paper (USA), 1875–1900; Manufactured by Wilson and Fenimore ; machine-printed; 18.5 x 16.5 cm (7 5/16 x 6 1/2 in.); Gift of Donald B. Palmer; 1974-5-1

[Click here to view](#)

What Child is This

Gertrude Käsebier (American, 1852 - 1934)

The Manger (Ideal Motherhood), 1899, Platinum print

32.5 × 23.7 cm (12 13/16 × 9 5/16 in.), 84.XM.160.1

The J. Paul Getty Museum, Los Angeles

[Click here to view](#)

[And here for another perspective](#)

Helen Hyde, *A Japanese Madonna*, 1900, color woodcut on paper, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of Hyde Gillette in memory of Mabel Hyde Gillette and Edwin Fraser Gillette, 1992.13.16

[Click here to view](#)

A Christian subject: *The Madonna and Child*, Freer Gallery of Art

<https://asia.si.edu/object/F1907.155/>

(accessed 12/14/2020, 10:58:15 PM)

Opaque watercolor and gold on paper, H x W (overall): 16 x 11.1 cm (6 5/16 x 4 3/8 in)

[Click here to view](#)

Juan González, *The Nativity*, 1662, oil on wood inlaid with mother of pearl, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Gift of John Gellatly, 1929.6.48

[Click here to view](#)



2020

***Christmas Flower & Music
Thanksgivings and Memorials***

The Christmas poinsettias and greens and special music were lovingly donated by and for the following:

Odiorne Beebe

*In thanksgiving for Morning and Evening Prayer Services
and Bible Study*

Catherine Mathews

In thanksgiving for St. Francis Church

Jennifer & Ray Murphy

*In thanksgiving for St. Francis, Zoom, and the continuing
ability to say "Hello" to our Franciscan friends every week*

Molly & Joe Reynolds

In memory of my siblings, Neil and Barbara

Amber & Matt Robinson

In thanksgiving for the St. Francis Choir

Ginger Roll

In memory of Bob Roll



The mission of St. Francis Church is to follow Jesus Christ, to provide a spiritual home for worship and Christian growth, to encourage love and fellowship within the parish family, to promote harmony with God's creation in the spirit of St. Francis, and to serve the needs of the greater community."

St. Francis Episcopal Church

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Church Members please create your account and log in.

Pastoral Emergency: (703) 759-2082 x102

St. Francis Crèche Preschool Telephone: (703) 759-2522

OFFICE HOURS: Monday through Friday 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

SERVICE & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SCHEDULES

Friday, December 25

11:00 am Spiritual Communion, Rite II—with Music

Holy Days:

Contact the church office for the schedule

CLERGY AND STAFF:

The Rev. David Lucey, Rector - rector@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Mr. Timothy Rutherford; Seminarian - seminarian@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Ms. Lynn Fallon, Parish Administrator - admin@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Mr. Patrick Killoran, Communications & Technical Director

- patkilloran@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

Mr. Larry Vote, Music Director - levote@smcm.edu

Ms. Patricia Howell, Organist - patriciahowell67@gmail.com

Ms. Cristi Leslie, Preschool Director - creche@stfrancisgreatfalls.org

2020 VESTRY MEMBERS:

Jeffrey Wootton, Senior Warden

Betty Boutros

Gary Pan

Denny Sisson, Junior Warden

Dwight Chewning

Karen Shindhelm

Molly Reynolds, Treasurer

Brice Eldridge

Jennifer Murphy, Registrar