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All Saints' Westboro



*Photo by Christopher Dunn
Mother and Child, the old St. Matthias, Ottawa*

December 24th, 2021

Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm

Zoom broadcast that will also be recorded

The Ven. Christopher Dunn

The Rev. Deacon Jarrett Carty

Music: Edith Troup

Children and Youth: Julie Newlands

Musical Preludes

Officiant: Dear friends, as we gather on the unceded and unsundered Territory of the Anishnaabeg Algonquin Nation, whose presence here reaches back to time immemorial,

All: May we walk gently together on this land, seeking renewed relationship based on honour, respect, and peace.

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

**God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
very God, begotten not created:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord**

Officiant: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel.

All: May all the earth be filled with God's glory.

Officiant: Glory to God in the highest,

All: And peace to God's people on earth.

*Lighting of the Christmas Candle
led by Lucy and Harry Wolfrain*

Lucy: The waiting is over.

Harry: The dreaming has given birth to a new reality.

Lucy: The source of our healing has come near.

Harry: God's promise has been fulfilled.

Lucy: The Advent candles are all lit, forming a circle of light that reminds us of God's never-ending love.

Harry: Now we light the Christ candle,

Lucy: remembering that Jesus is in our midst, today and always.

(The Christ candle is lit)

Harry: Thank you God, for coming to be with us in the form of Jesus.

Lucy: We rejoice that he lived as one of us, knew our joys and sorrows, our pains and hopes and dreams.

All: As Jesus came to show God's love to us, may he help us to show God's love to others all the year through. Amen

Officiant: Let us pray. Holy and loving God,

All: as we gather to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we thank you for the gift of new life and new beginnings. Just as a new birth brings out the tenderness in even the hardest heart, bring out a deeper tenderness and caring in us. Just as a new birth brings a whole family together, bring us together as your family. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson from the Prophet Isaiah (9:2-3b, 6-7, MSG)—Read by Sera Thomas

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light. For those who lived in a land of deep shadows—light! sunbursts of light! You repopulated the nation, you expanded its joy. Oh, they're so glad in your presence! Festival joy! The joy of a great celebration, sharing rich gifts and warm greetings. . . . For a child has been born—for us! He'll take over the running of the world, his names will be Amazing Counselor, Strong God, Eternal Father, Prince of Wholeness. His ruling authority will grow, and there'll be no limits to the wholeness he brings. He'll rule from the historic David throne over that promised kingdom. He'll put that kingdom on a firm footing and keep it going with fair dealing and right living, beginning now and lasting always.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel Story of the Nativity

Narrator: 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.

**Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.**

**He came down to earth from heaven
who is God and Lord of all,
and his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall.
With the poor and mean and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

Narrator: 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.

**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.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and, gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

**O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**

Narrator: While they were there, the time came for Mary 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.

**Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

**The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying he makes.
I love you, Lord Jesus—look down from on high
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.**

**Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay
close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in your tender care,
and fit us for heaven to live with you there.**

Narrator: In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night.

**While shepherds watched their flocks by night
all seated on the ground,
the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.**

**“Fear not,” said he, for mighty dread
had seized their troubled mind.**

“Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and humankind.

**To you in David’s town this day is born of David’s line
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord; and this shall be the sign:**

**the heavenly babe you there shall find
to human view displayed,
all meanly wrapped in swaddling bands, and in a manger laid.”**

Narrator: 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,

All: **“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 Saviour, 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.”**

Narrator: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

All: "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!"

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King, peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled." Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies; with angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!" Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity, pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel! Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Narrator: When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

All: "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

Narrator: So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,
while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

**Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the king,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

Narrator: 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.

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive the King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness and wonders of his love.**

Reflection

Prayers for God's World

(Led by Ayla Newlands-Taguchi and Margot Parham)

Ayla: Dear God, Christmas is an exciting time of year when we are happy to be with our families to celebrate. This year, things continue to be a little different. At this time, we remember the Holy Family who were tired and frightened as they searched for a place for the baby Jesus to be born.

Margot: We give thanks for mothers and fathers, stepparents, foster families, and all our relatives who love and care for us.

All: Thank you, God.

Ayla: We pray for babies and young children around the world, especially for those who are unwell, hungry, living in refugee camps or suffering in countries at war.

All: Help us to remember to do our best to help others.

Margot: The story tells us that Jesus was born in a place that he shared with cows, sheep, and donkeys. Thank you for farmers, ranchers, and pet owners who are kind to their animals.

All: Thank you, God.

Ayla: In every generation, people search for wisdom and peace.

Margot: Wise men from the East studied the stars, joined with each other to accomplish their goal, ignored bad advice, and brought their gifts to present to the baby.

Ayla: Help us to search for the good in people we meet and to take care of the planet earth that is our home.

Margot: May we remember to use our gifts for the benefit of others and give thanks for all your blessings.

All: Thank you for this Christmas season, a time of warmth and generosity in our community. May we enter 2022 refreshed and strengthened to serve you by serving others. Amen.

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

All: And also with you.

*Chorus: Go tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go tell it on the mountain,
that Jesus Christ is born!*

**While shepherds kept their watching
o'er the silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.** *(Repeat Chorus twice)*

**Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and brought us God's salvation,
that blessed Christmas morn.** *(Repeat Chorus twice)*

Officiant: Source of light and gladness,
All: accept all we offer on this joyful feast. May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord now and for ever. Amen.

Officiant: The Lord be with you.
All: And also with you.

Officiant: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them to the Lord.

Officiant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Officiant: We give you thanks and praise, almighty God, through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Redeemer. He is your living Word, through whom you have created all things. By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh of the Virgin Mary and shared our human nature. He lived and died as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God of all. In fulfillment of your will he stretched out his hands in suffering, to bring release to those who place their hope in you; and so he won for you a holy people. He chose to bear our griefs and sorrows, and to give up his life on the cross, that he might shatter the chains of evil and death, and banish the darkness of sin and despair. By his resurrection he brings us into the light of your presence. Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim the glory of your name.

All: 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.

Officiant: Holy and gracious God, accept our praise, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; who on the night he was handed over to suffering and death, took bread and gave you thanks, saying, "Take, and eat: this is my body which is broken for you." In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This is my blood which is shed for you. When you do this, you do it in memory of me." Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ. All glory and honour are

yours, Father and Son, with the Holy Spirit in the holy Church, now and for ever.

All: Amen.

Officiant And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we sing,

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Officiant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All: God here among us, light in the midst of us bring us to light and life.

Officiant The gifts of God for the People of God.

All: Thanks be to God.

Communion Music

Officiant Faithful God,

All: tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Officiant Glory to God,

All: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Leader: May Christ be born in every home.

All: May the Spirit's laughter lift every heart.

Leader: May God's everlasting arms embrace us all,

All: in grace and peace.

Leader: Tell out the good news:

All: Christ is born!

Leader: And the blessing . . .

People: Amen.

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

**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! Shepherds quake at the sight:
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia,
Christ the Saviour is born, Christ the Saviour is born.**

**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.**

A Big Thank You to the Hume Family (Joanne, Doug, Catharine, Sarah, Annie, Mary, and Jacqueline) and to Edith Troup for providing the music for our service today and to all of our young people for reading and leading the prayers!

The flowers decorating the Church for Christmas are given to the
Glory of God and in loving memory of:

Olwyn, Allan, Tim (and Arlo) Schoolr
by Helen, Mike, and Devin Norman

Ken and Gretha Cavanagh
by their daughter and son-in-law, Lillian and Jack Paul

Amo and Bern Taylor, Eleanor Stojanovich, Anne Fitt
by Carran Taylor

A beloved mother and aunt
by Elsie Bachinski

Etta Wiseman
by Dan, Beth, Pat, Jamie, Sarah, and Barb and Doug

Christmas And Epiphany at All Saints' Westboro
All Services will be broadcast on Zoom

Christmas Day, Saturday, December 25th

10:00 am Eucharist

First Sunday of Christmas, December 26th

9:30 am Zoom Service

Epiphany, Sunday, January 2nd

9:30 am Zoom Service

