

BETHESDA EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Washington Street near Broadway
Saratoga Springs, New York 12866



THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
CHRISTMAS EVE at 4:00 P.M.
24 DECEMBER 2017

Family Eucharist

Organ – *It Came Upon the Midnight Clear* David Maxwell (1944-2015)

The Entrance Rite

As the Procession enters the church, all stand and sing this

Hymn

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 scorned, and lowly,
lived on earth our Savior holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that Child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable,
with the oxen standing round,
we shall see him; but in heaven,
where his saints his throne surround:
Christ, revealed to faithful eye,
set at God's right hand on high.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), 1848
Music: Irby (Henry John Gauntlett, 1805-1876)

The Celebrant greets the people as follows

Welcome all wonders in one night!

Eternity shut in a span.

Summer in winter, day in night,
heaven to earth and God in man.

Great little one whose all-embracing birth
Brings earth to heaven, stoops heaven to earth.

All now sing this

Hymn

Angels we have heard on high
Singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their brave delight.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Words: Traditional French carol; trans. James [Chadwick](#), 1862.
Music: *Gloria*

The Collect of the Day

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And with thy spirit.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us pray.

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the illumination of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light on earth, so we may also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

The Liturgy of the Word

All sit.

The Lesson – A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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. (9:2-7)

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

All now stand and sing the

Sequence: Hymn

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.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King.

All now face the Book of Gospels.

The Holy Gospel – Luke 2:1-14

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People Glory be to thee, O Lord.

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!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord

People Praise be to thee, O Christ.

All now sing the

Response: Hymn

Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of the Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see:
hail, the incarnate Deity,
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark, the herald-angels sing
glory to the new-born King!

Words: Charles Wesley, alt. (1739)

Music: Mendelssohn; adopted from a chorus by Felix Mendelssohn (1840)

The Sermon

Dean Vang

Children now gather before the Rood Screen to learn of the Savior's birth.

The Blessing of the Crèche

Celebrant

Dear friends, as we gather to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this crèche, that all who worship his Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share his glory.

God our Father, on this night your Son Jesus Christ was born of the Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation: bless this crèche, which we have prepared to celebrate that holy birth; may all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life he came to bring, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Nicene Creed

All stand and say

I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of his Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father;
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation
came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried;
and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
and he shall come again, with glory,
 to judge both the quick and the dead;
 whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
 who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped
 and glorified;
 who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
and I look for the resurrection of the dead,
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Deacon Let us pray to our Incarnate Lord, who has brought us out of darkness and into his own marvelous light.

All kneel. The Deacon continues

Christ born for us, Son of God given for us: help us to know you, to worship you, and to serve you.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Wonderful Counselor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth.
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations, especially Donald, our President, and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Prince of Peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace.

Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The Celebrant concludes the Intercessions as follows

Father, in this holy night angels and shepherds worshiped at the manger throne. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with blessed Mary, Saint Joseph, and all the Saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says

This holy night the angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to all in whom he delights.”

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

All may exchange a sign of Christ’s peace.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.

Then all stand in sing this

Hymn

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.

God from God, Light from Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only begotten Son of the Father; *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, in the highest; *Refrain*

See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; *Refrain*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786), circa 1743;
stanzas 1-3 trans. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880), 1841;
stanzas 4 trans. William Thomas Brooke (1848-1917).

Music: *Adeste fideles* (18th century melody, probably John Francis Wade, 1711-1786); harmony mainly by William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

Eucharistic Prayer II

The people remain standing.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up unto the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

People It is meet and right so to do.

The Celebrant proceeds

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

Because thou didst give Jesus Christ, thine only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Ghost, was made very Man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become thy children.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

Sanctus & Benedictus qui venit

Celebrant People

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Words: Traditional
Music: Healy Willan (1928)

The people kneel, then the Celebrant continues

All glory be to thee, O Lord our God, for that thou didst create heaven and earth, and didst make us in thine own image; and, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption. He made there a full and perfect sacrifice for the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks to thee, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for this is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me."

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, we thy people do celebrate and make, with these thy holy gifts which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; and looking for his coming again with power and great glory.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us, and, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, to bless and sanctify these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be unto us the Body and Blood of thy dearly-beloved Son Jesus Christ.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, whereby we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies. Grant, we beseech thee, that all who partake of this Holy Communion may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, and be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; and also that we and all thy whole Church may be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord;

By whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. *AMEN.*

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

Celebrant, Choir, and People

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then is said

Pascha nostrum

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

The Sacred Ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately deliver it to the people

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. *Amen.*
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. *Amen.*

After the ministration of Communion, all sing the following

Hymn

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.

Words: Josef Möhr (1792-1848)

Music: Stille Nacht (Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863)

The Concluding Rite

Celebrant Let us pray.

All kneel. The Celebrant continues

God our Father, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: confirm our faith and fix our eyes on him until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts. To him be glory both now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Celebrant now bestows

The Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

All stand.

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

All now sing this

Hymn

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

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns;
let us their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), 1719
Music: *Antioch* (George Frederick Handel, (1685-1759),
arranged Lowell Mason, 1792-1872)

Organ – *On This Day, Earth Shall Ring*

David Maxwell (1944-2015)

The Very Reverend Marshall J. Vang
The Reverend Paul F. Evans
Landon Moore
Farrell Goehring

Interim Rector
Assisting Priest
Postulant for Holy Orders
Organist & Director of Music