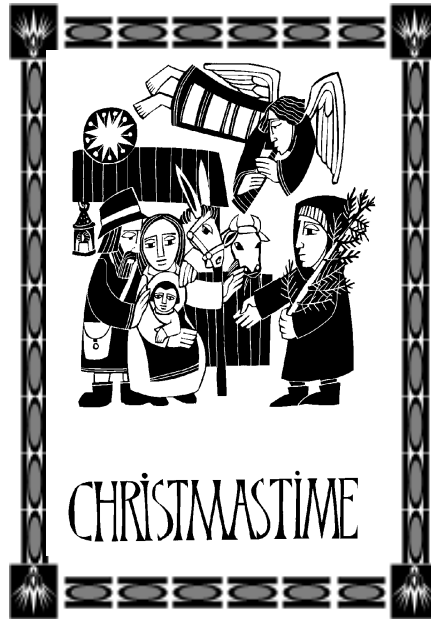


# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA



9:00 PM

**DECEMBER 24, 2011**

## THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD, JESUS CHRIST

### A WARM WELCOME TO ALL VISITORS!

If you are new to our church, please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate or give it to a member of our Welcoming Ministry.

Thank you for worshipping with us today.

The Rt. Rev. Clifton Daniel III, Bishop  
The Rt. Rev. Santosh Marray, Bishop Assisting  
The Rev. Randy Green, Transitional Rector  
The Rev. Richard Banks, Priest Assisting  
Dr. Larry Cook, Organist & Choirmaster

16 North 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
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# Holy Eucharist II

**Prelude** Trumpet Concerto in D

Giuseppe Torelli

**Hymn** "O come, all ye faithful"

Hymnal, 83

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Acclamation

*Celebrant* Alleluia, to us a child is born.

*People* Come let us adore him, Alleluia!

### Collect for Purity

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.*

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, Sovereign Lord,

*People* King of Peace: to you be praise and glory for ever!

The new light of your incarnate word

gives gladness in our sorrow,

and a presence in our isolation.

Fill our lives with your light,

until they overflow with gladness and praise.

*Celebrant* Jesus our Savior and King of the ages.

*People* Blessed be God forever.

*Priest* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People* And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

*Amen.*

*Priest* 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 in excelsis*

Hymnal S-278; BCP, 356

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you,  
we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. *Amen.*

### Collect of the Day

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Priest* 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 9:2-7

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.

*Reader*            The Word of the Lord.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

### Psalm 96



- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! \*  
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;  
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \*  
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

**Second Reading**

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Hymn** "Angels we have heard on high"

Hymnal, 94 (vv 1-2)

**Holy Gospel**

Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)

*Priest* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

*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 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. ]

*Priest* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**Gospel Hymn** "Angels we have heard on high"

Hymnal, 94 (vv 3-4)

**Sermon**

The Rev. Randy Green

**Nicene Creed**

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**

Leader Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:

Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you – that we might be the Church and the People who you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; Draw our nation, our President, and all in authority, to His brightness. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace, and bring an end to and terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; Draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; Be especially present with those who have nowhere to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem, and traveled together to far off lands; Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of Life Eternal; Give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them. Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

For those who are sick, especially

Bobby Luther	congestive heart failure
Elaine Francis	jaw issues
Larry Cook	cancer treatment
Mark Wagoner	health issues
Isabel Lehto	health issues
Lillian Odom	health issues
Ali Moseley	trigeminal neuralgia

Jack Ormond recovering from back issues  
Jo Ann Summey pneumonia  
Suzanne and Thom Joyce health issues

For those who are serving in our armed forces

Cary Ryninger Afghanistan

For those who have died especially those each of us remember on this holy night.

For thanksgivings and those who each of us remember this day either silently or aloud.

*Priest* O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this night, and of your Son's Incarnation reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth we pray. Amen.

### Confession

*Priest* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. (*stand or kneel*)

*All* 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.

*Priest* 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.

### Peace

*All stand.*

*Priest* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Then the Ministers and the People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## The Liturgy of the Table

### Offertory

*In dulci jubilo [In Sweet Rejoicing]*

Trad., arr. Michael Bedford

1. *In dulci jubilo*, let us our homage show.  
Our heart's joy reclineth, *In praesepio*  
And like a bright star shineth, *Matris in gremio*.  
*Alpha es et O, Alpha es et O.*

2. *O Jesu parvule!* I yearn for thee alway!  
Hear me, I beseech thee, *O Puer optime!*  
My prayer let it reach thee, *O Princeps gloriae!*  
*Trahe me post te! Trahe me post te!*

3. *O Patris caritas, O Nati lenitas!*  
Deeply were we stained, *Per nostra crimina;*  
But thou hast for us gained, *Coelorum gaudia*  
O that we were there! O that we were there!

4. *Ubi sunt gaudia?* O where, if that they be not there?  
There are angels singing *Nova cantica,*  
There the bells are ringing *In Regis curia.*  
O that we were there, O that we were there!

### Great Thanksgiving (*standing*)

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

*Priest* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Priest* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Priest* 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 sent your beloved Son to redeem us from sin and death,

and to make us heirs in him of everlasting life; that when he shall come again in power and great triumph to judge the world, we may without shame or fear rejoice to behold his appearing.

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:

*Sanctus*

S-128 Hymnal; BCP, 356

*All* 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.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Priest* Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All* Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

*Priest* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.*

*Priest* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*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.

### **Breaking of the Bread**

Hymn 91 "Break forth beautiful heavenly light"

Hymnal; BCP, 356

*Priest* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### **Communion of the People**

*All Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion at our altar.*

*How to receive the Bread and the Wine.*

*For the bread, place your right hand over your left and hold them up chest high so that the minister can easily place the bread on the palm of your hand. You may then consume it or hold it to dip (intinct) it in the wine and then place it in your mouth. If you wish to receive the chalice, please guide it to your lips. If you do not wish to receive the wine, cross your arms over your chest and the chalice bearer will pass by. After you have received the Bread and the Wine, it is appropriate to say "AMEN."*

## Communion Music

Motet *Let Every Heart* Cary Ratcliff  
Let every heart prepare his room and heaven and nature sing. Halleluja!  
Hymns "Once in royal David's city" Hymnal, 102 (vv 1-2, 4, 6)  
"In the bleak midwinter" Hymnal, 112

## Prayer of Thanksgiving

Priest Let us pray.  
All Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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.

Hymn (*kneeling*) "Silent Night" Hymnal, 111

## Christmas Blessing

Priest When He came to us as man, the Son of God scattered the darkness of this world, and filled this holy night with His glory. May the God of infinite goodness scatter the darkness of sin and brighten your hearts with holiness.

People Amen!

Priest God sent His angels to shepherds to herald the great joy of our Savior's birth. May He fill you with joy and make you heralds of His gospel.

People Amen!

Priest When the Word became man, earth was joined to heaven. May He give you His peace and good will, and fellowship with all the heavenly host.

People Amen!

Priest May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People Amen!

Recessional "Hark! the herald angels sing" Hymnal, 87

## Dismissal

Priest Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Voluntary *Toccata on "Savior of the Nations, Come"* Paul Manz

## Schedule following Christmas

### Sunday, December 25 *Nativity of Our Lord*

No breakfast or Sunday School  
10:30 AM; Eucharist (*No Nursery*)

### Wednesday, December 28

12:10 pm Eucharist

### Sunday, January 1, 2012

No breakfast or Sunday School  
10:30 AM; Eucharist

### Sunday, January 8, 2012

Regular Schedule Resumes