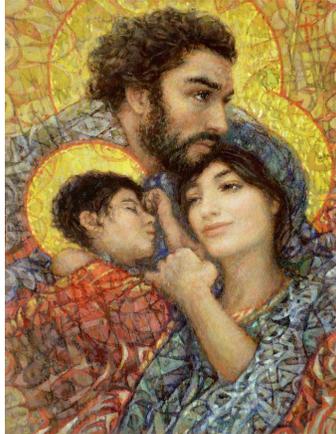


St. John's Episcopal Church
Wake Forest, North Carolina

Christmas Eve Worship for All Ages

4 PM & 5:30 PM

December 24, 2021



Presiding: The Rev. Sarah Phelps, Rector, & The Rev. Stephen Mazingo, Sr. Associate

Preaching: The Rev. Stephen Mazingo

Preludes

O come, all ye faithful, arr. David Lanz
What child is this, who, laid to rest, arr. David Lanz
Angels, we have heard on high, arr. David Lanz

Please stand at the ringing of the bell.

Processional Hymn

#83 vss. 1 & 3, The Hymnal 1982

Opening Acclamation

O come, all ye faithful

Music: John F. Wade

Words: Adeste fideles

p. 355 Book of Common Prayer

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;

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

Refrain:

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

Officiant Blessed be God: Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant 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.**

All are seated for

A Digital Christmas Pageant featuring the families of St. John's Parish

All are seated as invited by the preacher.

The Homily

The Rev. Stephen Mazingo

The Prayers of the People

Leader Let us pray to Jesus our Savior.

Leader Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless. Jesus, Savior,

People hear our prayer.

Leader Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep. Jesus, Savior,

People hear our prayer.

Leader Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed. Jesus, Savior,

People hear our prayer.

Leader Christ, before whom the wise men knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern. Jesus, Savior,

People hear our prayer.

Leader Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you.

Jesus, Savior,

People hear our prayer.

All Jesus, Savior, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to you for ever. Amen.

The Peace

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Please practice social distancing during the Peace.

Please be seated for

Welcome & Parish Announcements

The Holy Communion

If you are viewing our livestream, you may give online at www.stjohnswf.org/give

If you wish to make an offering in-person today, please use the offertory plate at the church entrance or scan the QR code below with your phone to give online with a credit card.



Please remain seated for

Offertory Music

“Jesus born in Bethlehem”
Intergenerational Family Choir

arr. Beth Mochink/
Jean A. Shafferman

Jesus born in Bethlehem...and in a manger lay.

Mary was his mother....

Jesus came to save us...

Offertory Response

#115 vss. 1 & 3, The Hymnal 1982

What child is this, who, laid to rest
Congregation

Words: W. C. Dix
Music: Greensleeves

1 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?

3 So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. **[Refrain]**

Refrain:

**This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.**

The Great Thanksgiving

A Eucharistic Prayer for Christmas Eve
by The Rev. Jennifer Phillips

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Officiant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Worship and praise belong to you, Holy God, our Source and Ending, Alpha and Omega. You have called all creation into being, setting the earth on its foundations. You have spread out the heavens like a curtain, filling the earth with goodness. As a mother gathers her children, so you gather your people to teach us the way of compassion and love. You sent Christ your son to dwell among us, by the message of an angel, to be born of the Virgin Mary. You send your Holy Spirit to draw us into deeper faith, to inspire us to greater works, and to sustain us in our calling. Now with all creation we raise our voices to proclaim your glory and sing your praise, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might. heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!**

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 helpless babe, cradled beside the beasts and warmed by their breath – human, as we are, in need of human love.

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 was made flesh and dwelt among us, And his flesh and blood were given to us, in his final gift of grace.

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. At supper with his disciples he took bread and offered you thanks. He broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, 'Take, eat. This is my Body: it is broken for you.'

After supper, he took the cup, he offered you thanks, and gave it to them saying: 'Drink this, all of you. This is my Blood of the new covenant; it is poured out for you, and for all, that sins may be forgiven. Do this in remembrance of me.'

We now obey your Son's command. We recall his blessed passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension; and we look for the coming of his Kingdom. Made one with him, we offer you these gifts and with them ourselves a single, holy, living sacrifice.

Hear us, most merciful God, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and this wine, that, overshadowed by his life-giving power, they may be the Body and Blood of your Son, and we may be kindled with the fire of your love and renewed for the service of your Kingdom.

Help us, who are baptized into the fellowship of Christ's Body, to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love until at last, in your new creation, we enter into our heritage, in the company of the Virgin Mary, the apostles and prophets, and of all our brothers and sisters living and departed.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be to you, Lord of all ages, world without end. **AMEN.**

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

**All 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 have trespassed 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 Breaking of the Bread

Officiant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Invitation to Communion

Communion Music

A Cradle for a Lamb, arr. Penny Rodriguez
Christmas Meditation, arr. Penny Rodriguez
Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, arr. Penny Rodriguez

***Acolytes will assist with candle lighting as you return to your seat.
Please help children turn on their battery-operated candles.***

All stand as able for

The Postcommunion Prayer (for those who have shared Communion in person)

Officiant Let us pray.

ALL 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 Candle Lighting

#111, The Hymnal 1982

Silent Night

1 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.

2 Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!

3 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.

A Blessing for Christmas

The Dismissal Hymn

#100, The Hymnal 1982

Joy to the world!

Words: Isaac Watts
Music: Antioch

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

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found.

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

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

The Dismissal

Officiant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All In the name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

“Joy to the world!”

arr. David Lanz