

MORNING PRAYER

CHRISTMAS TWO

JANUARY 2, 2022

CHORAL PRELUDE: *New Year Carol*; Benjamin Britten (Sung by The Cambridge Singers, 2003)

OPENING SENTENCE

Behold, the dwelling of God is with mankind. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them, and be their God. *Revelation 21:3*

CONFESSION OF SIN

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.***

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

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

V: Lord, open our lips.

R: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

Alleluia

JUBILATE PSALM 100

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.

***Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.***

Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.

***For the Lord is good;
his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

THE PSALM APPOINTED: PSALM 84 *Quam dilecta!*

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 ***The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.***
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 ***Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.***
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 ***They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.***
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 ***Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.***
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 ***For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;***
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 ***O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!***

THE LESSONS

A READING FROM JEREMIAH 31:7-14

For thus says the LORD:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;
proclaim, give praise, and say,
'Save, O LORD, your people,
the remnant of Israel.'

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame,
those with child and those in labour, together;
a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,
and with consolations I will lead them back,
I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.

Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.'

For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.

Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE SONG OF ZECHARIAH BENEDICTUS DOMINUS DEUS; LUKE 1: 68-79

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; *
he has come to his people and set them free.

***He has raised up for us a mighty savior, *
born of the house of his servant David.***

Through his holy prophets he promised of old,
that he would save us from our enemies, *
from the hands of all who hate us.

***He promised to show mercy to our fathers *
and to remember his holy covenant.***

This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, *
to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

***Free to worship him without fear, *
holy and righteous in his sight
all the days of our life.***

You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, *
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,

***To give his people knowledge of salvation *
by the forgiveness of their sins.***

In the tender compassion of our God *
the dawn from on high shall break upon us,

***To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the
shadow of death, *
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.***

***Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.***

A READING FROM EPHESIANS 1:3-6, 15-19a

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love towards all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN #109: *The First Noel*

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 2:13-15, 19-23

After the wise men had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, "Out of Egypt I have called my son."

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead." Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, "He will be called a Nazorean."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE HOMILY

Liz Dowling-Sendor+

ANTHEM: *We Three Kings* (Sung by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge, 2009)

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God,

the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ,

his only son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

*I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.*

THE PRAYERS

V: The Lord be with you.

R: ***And also with you.***

Let us pray.

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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Sam and Anne our Bishops with all bishops, priests, and deacons. We pray for parishes in our Diocese, especially Church of the Ascension Fork, Advance, Christ Church, Albemarle, and All Souls', Ansonville. We also pray Dickerson Chapel AME.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray for our President, our Congress, and our State Government. We pray for an easing of violence and for the spirit of peace to prevail.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We pray for the poor, marginalized, and vulnerable.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray for those in our parish family, especially: Mildred, Lois, Tom, Molly, Jim, Rowen & Jan, Anne, Anne, Daisy, Tom, Champe, Keyon, Andy & Barrie, Laura, Sandra, Ludie, Robert, Carol, Janice, Kathy, Suzanne, Sandy, Ed & Mary Ann, Jim, Nancy & Don, and Glenn.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially Desmond Tutu with thanksgiving for his witness to peace, truth and reconciliation in this world. We pray that your will for them may be fulfilled, and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

COLLECT FOR THE DAY:

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, you Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN: *As with gladness men of old*

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

2 Corinthians 13:14

ORGAN POSTLUDE: Noël Suisse; Louis -Claude Daquin (Played by Andrew Adair, organist; Church of St. Mary Magdalene, Toronto; 2020)