



Grace Episcopal Church

First Sunday after Christmas

December 29, 2019 | 8 and 9:30am

Ministers | All of Us

Rector | Wren Blessing

Celebrant | Kate Kinney

Music | Jim Friedrich

Tribe | Snowberry

Star Song

We have been having
epiphanies like stars
all this year long.
And now, at its close
when the planets
are shining through frost,
light runs like music
in the bones,
and the heart keeps rising
at the sound of any song.
An old magic flows
in the silver calling
of a bell,
rounding
high and clear,
flying, falling,
sounding
the death knell
of our old year,
telling the new appearing
of Christ, our Morning Star.

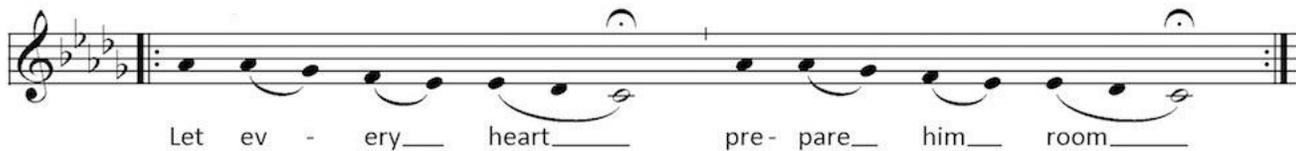
Now burst,
all our bell throats!
Toll,
every clapper tongue!
Stun the still night.
Jesus himself gleams through
our high heart notes
(it is no fable).
It is he whose light
glistens in each song sung
and in the true
coming together again
to the stable,
of all of us: shepherds,
sages, his women and men,
common and faithful,
wealthy and wise,
with carillon hearts
and suddenly, stars in our eyes

~ Luci Shaw from *A Widening Light, Poems of the Incarnation* ©1984.

Songs & readings omitted at the 8:00 service are marked with an *
A bell rings. We listen to the longing in our hearts. We remain seated.

Gathering Song | Let Every Heart Prepare

by Charles Rus



THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

A Call to Worship

After the gathering song, the Celebrant invites us to stand.

Celebrant In the beginning

People was the Word.

Celebrant The Word was with God,

People and the word was God.

Celebrant In the beginning was God.

People All things came into being with God. What has come into being is life,

Celebrant and that life is the light of all people.

People The light shines in the darkness,

Celebrant and the darkness did not

People will not

Celebrant can not

People overcome it.

We remain standing and sing together.

Opening Song | The First Nowell *

Text: English Carol, 17th C; Tune: The First Nowell, Irregular; English Melody;



1 The first No - well the an - gel did say
2 They look - ed up and saw a star
3 And by the light of that same star



1 was to cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay;
2 shin - ing in the east be - yond them far,
3 three wise men came from coun - try far;



1 in fields as they lay, keep - ing their sheep,
2 and to the earth it gave great light,
3 to seek for a king was their in - tent,



1 on a cold win - ter's night that was so deep,
2 and so it con - tin - ued both day and night,
3 and to fol - low the star wher - ev - er it went.



No - well, No - well, No - well, No - well,



born is the King of Is - ra - el.

The Collect

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

God with us, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. Make your light grow within us, illumine our steps, and shine through our lives, in the power of your Spirit.

Amen.

WE TELL THE STORY

We are seated for the reading.

The First Reading | Isaiah 61:10-62:3

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand and say the Psalm.

Psalm | 147:12-20

from the New Zealand Prayer Book

Praise the Lord, O Jerusalem
O holy city praise your God.

**For the Lord has strengthened the bars of your gates
he has blessed your children within you.**

The Lord has established peace within your borders
and fed you amply with the finest wheat.

**You O Lord send your word to the earth
and your command runs very swiftly.**

You give snow like wool
and sprinkle hoarfrost like ashes.

**You scatter hailstones like breadcrumbs;
you send the cold, and the waters stand frozen.**

You utter your word and the ice is melted
you blow with your wind and the waters flow.

**You make known your word to Jacob
your statutes and decrees to Israel.**

You have not done this for any other nation
nor have you taught them your laws.

O praise the Lord.

We are seated for the second reading.

The Second Reading | Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7 *

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

After the reading, the reader will say

The Word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

We stand together and sing

Gospel Songs | Quem pastores laudavere

Fourteenth century



Shep - herds sang their prai - ses o'er him, called_ by an - gels
Ea - stern sa - ges came_ to view him, Ju - dah's con-quer-ing
On this Child, re - joi - cing gaze we; led__ by Ma - ry,
Christ our King, from Ma - ry spring-ing, God__ made flesh,_ sal -



to a - dore him: "Have no fear, but
Li - on knew him, Gold, and myrrh, and
an - thems raise we; Re - v'rent - ly, with
va - tion bring - ing, Thee we wor - ship



come be - fore him: Born is now__ your glo - rious King!"
in - cense to him as their tri - bute of - fer - ing.
an - gels, praise we with the swee - test me - lo - dy.
e - ver sing - ing: "Ho - nor, praise_ and glo - ry be!"

Gaelic Alleluia



Al - le_ lu_ ia Al - le_ lu - ia



Al - le_ lu_ ia Al - le_ lu - ia

The Celebrant then introduces the Gospel by saying

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

The Gospel | John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

After the Gospel the Celebrant will say

The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The Homily

Affirmation of Faith

We stand and say

**We believe in God above us,
maker and sustainer of all life,
of sun and moon,
of water and earth,
of all humanity.**

**We believe in God beside us,
Jesus Christ, the Word made flesh,
Born of a woman's womb, servant of the poor,
he was tortured and nailed to a tree.
Knowing full passion and deep sorrow, he died forsaken.
He descended into the earth to the place of death.
On the third day he rose from the tomb.
He ascended into heaven to be everywhere present,
and his Kingdom will one day be known.**

**We believe in God within us,
the Holy Spirit of Pentecostal fire,
life-giving breath of the Church.
She is the Spirit of healing and forgiveness,
source of resurrection and of life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers of the People

Leader “In the beginning was the word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...”

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader To you, God of love,
All we raise our voices.

Leader We pray for this community, and for all who are vulnerable. Show each of us that we are loved from the beginning.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader To you, God of love,
All we raise our voices.

Leader We pray for our leaders in government, schools, and institutions. Make in us a new beginning of faithfulness and compassion

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader To you, God of love,
All we raise our voices.

Leader We pray for all who need a safe home, who are alone, or who are ill. We pray for a beginning of hope and comfort for those on our prayer list.

We pause for prayers to be spoken quietly and in our hearts.

Leader To you, God of love,
All we raise our voices.

The Peace

We conclude these prayers with the sharing of God’s peace.

Celebrant We turn to one another with outstretched arms, saying: the peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

After the peace, we are seated.

Offertory Song | In the Bleak Midwinter *

Words: Christina Rossetti | Music: Gustav Holst



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor — earth sus - tain;
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
4 What — can I give him, poor — as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:
cher - u - bim and se - ra - phim thron - ed the air;
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;



snow had fal - len, snow on snow, snow — on — snow,
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble - place suf - ficed
but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
if I were a wise — man, I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
yet what I can I give him — give my heart.

WE GATHER AROUND THE TABLE

We stand as the table is set with the gifts of our hearts and hands.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

The Celebrant continues

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon and stars; earth, wind and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away. And yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity lifting our voices to you as we sing:

Traditional Argentine | Translated by Jose Alvarez & Debi Tyree



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, My heart, my heart a - dores you. My
San - to, san - to, san - to, Mi cor - a - zon te/a - dor - a. Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, My heart, my heart a - dores you. My

heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly Lord.
cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to/e - res Se - nor.
heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly Lord.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus, the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them and said: "Drink this, all of you. And whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now, gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet of the world.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ. By him and with him and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **AMEN.**

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

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 Breaking of the Bread

We are now invited to share the gifts of Communion.

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ. Alleluia!

People **Therefore let us keep the feast! Alleluia!**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Please know that at Grace Church all are invited to receive the bread and wine. This sacrament is God's free gift. Assist the Chalice Bearers by tipping the cup from the base. Please tell your server if you prefer alcohol free wine, or a wafer that is free from gluten, soy, and dairy.

Music during Communion | Ecce nomen Domini *Emmanuel* *

Communion antiphon

Ecce nomen domini Emmanuel, quod annuntiatum est per Gabriel, hodie apparuit in Israel, per Mariam Virginem est natus Rex. Eia! Virgo Deum genuit, ut divina voluit clementia. In Bethlehem natus est, et in Jerusalem visus est, et in omni terram honorificatus est, Rex Israel.

Behold: the Lord, Emmanuel by name, announced by Gabriel, today has appeared in Israel. A king is born of a Virgin, through the mercy of divine will. Born in Bethlehem and seen in Jerusalem, the Ruler of God's people is worshipped throughout the world

I Wonder as I Wander *

by John Jacob Niles | Offered by Barbara Hume

*Following Communion we share silence with one another.
The quiet will last a few minutes and will begin and end with a bell.*

Song after Communion | See, Amid the Winter's Snow *

by John Goss

VERSE



1. See, a - mid the win - ter's snow, Born for us on earth be - low,
2. Lo! with-in a man - ger lies He who built the star - ry skies,



See, the ten - der Lamb ap - pears, Pro - mised from e - ter - nal years!
He who, throned in height sub - lime, Sits a - mid the Che - ru - bim.

REFRAIN



Hail, thou e - ver - bless - ed morn! Hail, Re - demp - tion's hap - py - dawn!



Sing through all Je - ru - sa - lem: 'Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!

3. Say, ye holy shepherds, say:
What your joyful news today?
Wherefore have ye left your sheep
On the lonely mountain steep?

4. As we watched in dead of night,
Lo! we saw a wondrous light;
Angels, singing "Peace on earth",
Told us of the Savior's birth.

5. Sacred Infant, all-divine,
What a tender love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss
Down to such a world as this!

GOING OUT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Our Prayer after Communion

We stand and say together

**Eternal God,
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.**

The Blessing

The Celebrant offers a blessing.

May God's light fill your heart, your home, your life today. And the blessing of God, who was and is and is to come, rest upon you and remain with you always

Closing Song | O Wise Women *

Words: Mark Harris | Music: Nettleton

O Wise Wo men, O Wise men, hold us close to you a - gain; bring us
In our tri - als, stand a - round us, like the trees that shade our day; cour - age
joy and bring us peace, songs of free dom and re - lease. Be for us signs of God's own
give us for the strug - gles we en - coun - ter on our way.
plea - sure be for us signs of love's own end. O Wise
Wo - men, O Wise Men, come be with us once a - gain.

Birthday and Anniversaries

Announcements

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**