

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord

We welcome you to the Church of the Transfiguration this afternoon as we celebrate the miracle of the Incarnation and the birth of Jesus Christ. If you are visiting, we are honored to share the joy of this celebration with you. In our prayers, music, and holy meal, we hope you experience the presence of God. If you are looking for a community where you can nurture your relationship with the one whose birth we celebrate, we hope Transfiguration can become that for you. In all that we do we seek to support and encourage one another to become more faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. We are rich and poor, old and young, lifelong Christians and new to the faith. So whoever you are, there is a place for you in this community.

Ushers can guide you to the restrooms, and to our professionally staffed nursery, which is available during the 3 and 5 o'clock services.

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Nativity, remembering the entrance of God in the world, foretold by prophets and occurring in the most humble of circumstances. No story captures our imagination quite so readily as that of the Holy Family welcoming the newborn Jesus in a meager stable in Bethlehem, heralded only by shepherds and angels.

But Christmas is about far more than simply the celebration of Jesus' birth. At Christmas we recall the wonderful mystery of God's dwelling among us in the fullness of humanity — that God would leave the glories of heaven in order to “move into the neighborhood” (John 1:14, *The Message*). As Gregory of Nazianzus preached in the fourth century,

*Christ is born: let us glorify him.
Christ comes down from heaven:
let us go out to meet him.
Christ descends to earth:
let us be raised on high...
For the sake of my flesh he takes on flesh;
for the sake of my soul,
he is united to a rational soul.
...He shares in the poverty of my flesh
that I may share in the riches of his Godhead!*

RECEIVING COMMUNION

The sacrament of the Eucharist, also known as the Mass or Lord's Supper, strengthens our relationship with Christ and offers us mystical nourishment for our lives as his disciples. All baptized Christians, regardless of age or church affiliation, are welcome to partake of the consecrated bread and wine. When notified by the ushers, you may approach the altar rail and either kneel or stand. To receive communion please extend your hands, one palm beneath the other, and consume the host. When offered the chalice, please help by guiding it to your lips. Indicate your desire to intinct by continuing to hold the host in your hand, and the Eucharistic Minister will dip it in the chalice and place it on your tongue. Indicate your desire to receive a gluten-free Host by holding out your hands together palms-down. Those who do not desire to receive communion may instead receive a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms across your chest.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

In the spirit of Christmas, tonight's loose-plate offering (all donations not designated toward the fulfillment of a 2015 pledge) will be entirely given away. Inspired by the story of our Lord being born in vulnerable circumstances to a family who is forced to flee as refugees to Egypt, the Vestry has designated three recipient organizations that work with vulnerable orphans, refugees, and the sick. Your generosity will make a tremendous difference.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES (CASA)

CASA volunteers are appointed by judges to watch over and advocate for abused and neglected children, to make sure they don't get lost in the overburdened legal and social service system or languish in inappropriate group or foster homes. Volunteers stay with each case until it is closed and the child is placed in a safe, permanent home. For many abused children, their CASA volunteer will be the one constant adult presence in their lives.

GATEWAY OF GRACE

Gateway of Grace serves refugees moving to the Dallas area. Refugee families have typically fled violence or persecution in their native country, so Gateway seeks to assist them in starting over. In addition to providing basic necessities such as furniture, groceries, job assistance, and language-training, Gateway volunteers seek to offer compassion and love to help these hurting individuals and families heal from their past experiences.

AL AHLI ARAB HOSPITAL IN GAZA

Al Ahli Arab Hospital is operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem and the Middle East, and is one of the only medical centers serving the devastated Gaza region. It's mission is to provide the finest care possible under adverse circumstances, with special attention given to refugees and the poorest in the area.

Join Us in Celebrating the Twelve Days of Christmas

FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, December 26

Holy Eucharist at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 27

Christmas Lessons & Carols and Holy Eucharist at 10:00 a.m.

FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

Monday, December 28

Holy Eucharist at Noon

HOLY EUCHARIST

Wednesday, December 30

Holy Eucharist at 6:00 p.m.

FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME

Thursday, December 31

Eve of Holy Name, Holy Eucharist at Noon

Friday, January 1

Holy Name, Holy Eucharist at Noon

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY

Saturday, January 2

Holy Eucharist at 5:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 3

Children's Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist at 9:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist at 11:15 a.m.

THE EPIPHANY

Tuesday, January 6

Festival Eucharist at 7:00 p.m. with incense, followed by burning of the greens outside

The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration

www.transfiguration.net

CAROL PRELUDE

*By Anglican tradition, before worship we speak to God,
during worship we listen to God speak to us,
after worship we speak to each other.*

*Please prepare yourself for worship by listening to the music
which has been lovingly prepared for our celebration this afternoon.*

Carol settings for Harp & Organ

Rachel Lamb Mazzucco, *harp*
Joel Martinson, *organ*

Stand.

ENTRANCE HYMN

MENDELSSOHN
The Hymnal 87

Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
Join the triumph of the skies;
With th'angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!*

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, th'incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!*

Mild he lays his glory by,
 Born that we no more may die,
 Born to raise us from the earth,
 Born to give us second birth.
 Risen with healing in his wings,
 Light and life to all he brings,
 Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
 Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the newborn King!

THE BIDDING PRAYER

Be seated.

NARRATIVE GOSPEL & BUILDING OF THE CRÈCHE

Lesson Luke 2:1-5

Carol

IRBY

The Hymnal 102, Stanza 1

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.

Lesson Luke 2:6-7

Carol

ST. LOUIS

The Hymnal 79, Stanza 1

O little town of Bethlehem,
 How still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 The silent stars go by;
 Yet in thy dark streets shineth
 The everlasting Light;
 The hopes and fears of all the years
 Are met in thee tonight.

Lesson Luke 2:8-14

Carol

GLORIA

The Hymnal 96, Stanzas 1, 2 & 4

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

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

See him in a manger laid
Whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While we raise our hearts in love.

Lesson Luke 2:15-20

Carol

THE FIRST NOWELL

The Hymnal 109, Stanza 1

The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

THE BLESSING OF THE CRÈCHE

Carol

CRADLE SONG

The Hymnal 101, Stanza 1

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

THE HOMILY

Stand.

THE 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

The Intercessor invites the prayers of the congregation, and offers on the altar the prayers printed in the Parish Intercession Book.

Lector Let us pray to Jesus our Savior.

Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who have no home.
Jesus our Savior,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Christ, born to Mary and Joseph, give to our families the blessing of your presence. Jesus our Savior,
Hear our prayer.

Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the Kingdom
to all who weep. Jesus our Savior,
Hear our prayer.

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

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

Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of the
resurrection to all who rest in you. Jesus our Savior,
Hear our prayer.

Presider Jesus our Savior, you know us and love us, you share our lives
and hear our prayers. Glory to you for ever and ever.
People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

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

THE OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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. For a child has been
born for us, a son given to us, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty
God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

– Isaiah 9:2, 6

*A special Christmas offering is received for Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA),
Gateway of Grace Refugee Ministry, and the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza through Episcopal
Relief & Development. Details about each organization can be found on page two.*

Be seated.

THE OFFERTORY

ANTHEMS

Prepare a Way for the Lord!

Michael Bedford

A Song of Jesus' Birth

David Stocker

Sung by the Holy Family Choir

Stand.

HYMN

GREENSLEEVES

The Hymnal 115

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?
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

Why lies he in such mean estate
Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
The silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King,
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud,
The babe, the son of Mary.

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh,
Come, peasant, king to own him;
The King of kings salvation brings,
Let loving hearts enthrone him.
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

The musical score is written for two voices: Soprano and Tenor. It consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes.

Staff 1: The Soprano part begins with the lyrics "The Lord be with you." and the Tenor part begins with "And al - so with you."

Staff 2: The Soprano part continues with "Lift up your hearts." and the Tenor part continues with "We lift them to the Lord."

Staff 3: The Soprano part continues with "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God."

Staff 4: The Tenor part continues with "It is right to give him thanks and praise."

*The Presider prays in thanksgiving for God's mighty acts,
after which the people respond*

SANCTUS

Introduction

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Ho - san - na in the high-est.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Ho - san-na in the high-est.

Music: Sanctus from *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx, 1937- 2010.
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The Great Thanksgiving continues in The Book of Common Prayer on page 368.

In the midst of the prayer the Presider says

Presider Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

People We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Great Thanksgiving concludes

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.

People



A - men.

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Spoken*

The Book of Common Prayer 364

Following the breaking of the bread, silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Music: Christ Our Passover from *New Plainsong*, David Hurd, b. 1950.

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COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

The people may be seated. Please see page two for instructions regarding communion.

SOLO

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Sung by Laura Anne Ayres, *soprano*

VOLUNTARIES

HYMN

STILLE NACHT
The Hymnal 111

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,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
Christ, the Savior, is born!
Christ, the Savior, is born

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.

Stand.

THE POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.

And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds,
the perseverance of the wise men,
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas;
and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

ANTIOCH

The Hymnal **100**, Stanzas 1 & 4

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.

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.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen

English Carol
arr. Wilbur Held

Service Participants

3:00 p.m.

Presider & Homilist | Casey Shobe

Assistant Priest | Erin Jean Warde

Emcee | Chris Ayres

Eucharistic Ministers | Jodi Dalton, David Gillam, Kipton Moravec, Adam Wilson

Ushers | John Cicciarell, Oliver Cone, Brian Ferrell, Thomas Goranson, Richard Grant, Jeremy Teeple, James Wedding

Acolytes | Cannon McClure, Katie Mayfield, Bridget Beecham, Emma Coleman, Libby Cone

Sound Technician | George Gilliam

Director of Holy Family Choir | Kimberley Ahrens

Soloist | Laura Anne Ayres

Harpist | Rachel Lamb Mazzucco

Director of Music & Organist | Joel Martinson

