



Silvery Light



Holy Cross EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Christmas Eve Worship
10:00am and 10:00pm
December 24, 2024

The Service of the Word

Opening Voluntary:

(10:00am) Rachel Augsburg, Stephen Bell,
Isabelle Areola, and Isabelle Peterson

(10:00pm) Stephanie Backes (*clarinet*) and Isabelle
Areola (*piano*)

Welcome!

Opening Hymn 83: "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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

*Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.*

Celebrant Alleluia! To us a child is born.
People ***Come let us adore him. Alleluia!***

The 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.*

Song of Praise 100: "Joy to the World"

*Joy to the world, the Lord has 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*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy*

*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*

The Collect of the Day – prayed by the Celebrant

The Old Testament: *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 (read responsively by whole verse)

- 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.

Sequence Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

*Away in a manger; no crib for a 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.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay.
Close by me forever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with Thee there.*

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14(15-20)

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus
Christ according to Luke.
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.

Reader The Holy Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Message: *The Rev. Rob Dixon*

Prayers of the People (Kneeling as you are able)

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God. *(Silence)*

In this time of Christmas celebration, we pray for all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone. (Silence)

For this community, the nation, and the world;
For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace. (Silence)

For the just and proper use of your creation;
For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression. (Silence)

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble, *For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy. (Silence)*

We pray especially for the peoples in impoverished and war-torn areas; *Move every heart to yearn for peace, justice, and kindness for all people. (Silence)*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation and for those on our church's prayer list – *(Pray aloud or silently).*

During this holiday season, we pray especially for all who have died and for those who miss them. – *Silence. Comfort and sustain us. Help us to trust in you and in the never-ending life you offer all people.*

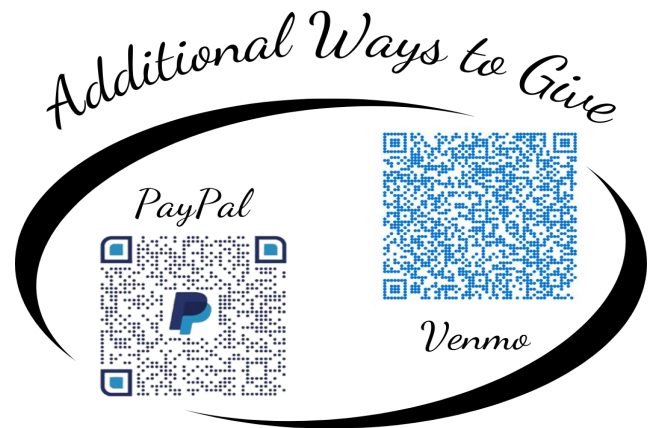
We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever!

You are our Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, The Everlasting Father and the Prince of Peace. *You shall reign forever and ever, amen!*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord
be always with you.

People **And also with you.**





The Holy Communion

This portion of the service begins on p. 361 in the BCP however, you are encouraged to give your attention to the altar.

The Communion. All who are seeking God through Jesus are invited and welcome to receive Communion. Anyone who does not wish to receive communion is invited come forward, cross their arms over their chest, and receive a blessing. If you would like the clergy to bring communion to someone in the pews, please notify the ushers at the door of the church. For bread only, no wine, put one arm across your chest. Gluten Free available.

10:00AM Offertory: “Now the Heavens Start to Whisper”

10:00PM Offertory: “Sussex Carol”

Sanctus: S-129 (in front section of blue hymnal)
*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
Celebrant and People

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

The Lord’s Prayer (p. 364 BCP)

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

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People **Therefore let us keep the feast.**
Alleluia.

CANDLE INSTRUCTIONS: When leaving the altar after communion, please pick up a candle! We will light your candle as we sing *Silent Night*.

Communion Hymn 87: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

*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 the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

*(Refrain) 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,
Off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.
Veiled in flesh the God-head see;
Hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with us to dwell;
Jesus our Emmanuel! (Refrain)*

*Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of righteousness.
Light and life to all He brings.
Risen with healing in His wings
Mild He lays His glory by.
Born that man no more may die
Born to raise the sons of earth,
born to give them second birth (Refrain)*

Communion Hymn: “Labor of Love” (10:00pm)

*It was not a silent night,
There was blood on the ground
You could hear a woman cry,
In the alleyways that night
On the streets of David's town
And the stable was not clean,
And the cobblestones were cold
And little Mary full of grace,
With the tears upon her face
Had no mother's hand to hold*

*(Refrain) It was a labor of pain
It was a cold sky above
But for the girl on the ground in the dark
With every beat of her beautiful heart
It was a labor of love*

Communion Hymn: “O Holy Night” (10:00pm)
Dasha Teelin (soprano)

*O Holy night! The stars are brightly shining
It is the night of our dear Savior's birth
Long lay the world in sin and error pining
'Til He appears and the soul felt its worth
A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
Fall on your knees; O hear the Angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born
O night, O Holy night, O night divine!*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
Here come the Wise Men from Orient land
The King of kings lay thus in lowly manger
In all our trials born to be our friend
He knows our need, to our weakness is no stranger
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend
Behold your King; before Him lowly bend*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His Gospel is Peace
Chains shall He break, for the slave is our brother
And in His name, all oppression shall cease
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
Let all within us Praise His Holy name
Christ is the Lord; O praise His name forever!
His power and glory evermore proclaim
His power and glory evermore proclaim*

Post Communion Prayer (p. 365 BCP)

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, grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Closing Hymn 111: “Silent Night”

(light your candle from the torch coming around)

**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.**

MINISTERS FOR TODAY'S SERVICE

Altar Guild: Linda Bish, Marguerite Byrd, Kaki Chambers, Margaret Heatherington, Pamela James, Howard Johnson, Carmen Kimmons, Nell Landrum, Jackie Lanier, Jan Lovett, Greer Mims, Mary Shontz, Sarah Tarkus, Linda Tillery, Pam Walker, Ruth Walker

Flower Guild: Olga Stone, Barbara Edwards, & Ed Austin

10:00am

Clergy: The Rev. Rob Dixon, Pastor
First Server: Ed Austin
Readers: Lavonne Thomas and Chip Lands
Chalice Bearers: Kathy Bleeker & D'Anna Entrekin

5:00pm

Clergy: The Rev. Rob Dixon & The Rev. Matt Dollhausen
First Server: Ed Austin
Chalice Bearers: Madeleine Hutchison & Miya May
Acolytes: Bella Rider, Stella Dixon, & Israel Entrekin
Pageant Characters: *Prophets* (Andrew & Houston), *Gabriel* (Owen), *Baby Jesus* (Aliana), *Manger* (Tiffa) *Mary* (Everleigh), *Donkey* (Axel), *Angel of the Lord* (Jett), *Shepherds & Sheep* (Mark, Nora, Grace, Bodhi, Maxwell, Jonathan, Piper, Noah, & other children) *Barn Animals* (Jaxson, Greyson, Rhys, Linkon, Millie, Elliana, Julian, & Lydia), *Angel of God* (Landree), *Heavenly Host* (Owyn & other children in attendance), plus *Angel holding Star of Bethlehem* (Sarah) *Stagehand* (Angelyn) *Extra roles* played by any additional children who attend tonight.

10:00pm

Clergy: The Rev. Rob Dixon & The Rev. Matt Dollhausen
First Server: Ed Austin
Readers: Sarah Tarkus & Stephen Bell
Chalice Bearers: Eden Ridgeway & Camille Lukow

Holy Cross Chancel Choir

Soprano	Alto	Tenor	Bass
Rachel Augsburger	Stefanie Hibschman	Diane Henehan	Stephen Bell
Margaret Mayes	Olga Stone	Erica Dake	Craig Iversen
Brandi Love-Spain	Dana Wimmers		Steve Lukow
Joy VanCaster			

Holy Cross Musicians

Minister of Music and Liturgy, Isabelle Peterson

Clarinet	Piano	Bass/Saxophone	Trumpet
Stephanie Backes	Isabelle Areola	Carlos Soriano	Philip Iversen

POINSETTIAS IN WORSHIP

In loving memory of...

- Mary and Harold Kent, Mary Kent Scullion, Edith Danson, & Dallas Adams—donated by Helen Stuebing
- Shelli Critchleg, sister of Jackie Rahn—donated by Jeff, Jackie, & Justin Rahn
- Mike Guidry—donated by Roslyn Guyette
- Jimmy & Karen Brand, Seal & Paul Krasnosky—donated by Katie and Dan Brand
- Richard Finch
- Nugget, a beloved pet—donated by Trisha McElfresh
- Adele F. Laherty & Emily Miller—donated by Andy & Evonne Woycitzky
- Helyn Chambers & Derek Maltby—donated by Larry and Kaki Chambers
- JD Rahn and JJ Rahn—donated by J. Rahn
- Tony Brown—donated by Pamela James
- Ann Jewett—donated by Susan Bell
- Timothy P. Gibbons & Donnie N. Gibbons—donated by Nancy Gibbons
- Ken & Ione Lott & Hazel & Laverne Underwood—donated by David Lott

In honor of...

- Robert J. Gaines & Lorraine A. Gaines—donated by Elaine Gaines
- Richard Coupture & Angela Wooten—donated by James Wooten
- Katherine Powell (mother), Ed Powell (grandfather), & Linda Powell (grandmother) - donated by Miya May
- David & Pete Schroeder—donated by Tina & Beth Marshall

In thanksgiving...

- In thanksgiving for our family and friends—donated by Jacqueline Lanier
- In thanksgiving—donated by E.R. & Audrey Westbrook
- In thanksgiving—donated by Linda Tillery

Plus, a few Anonymous Gifts



Wherever you are in your faith journey,
you are welcome here.

The people and clergy of Holy Cross wish you and your loved ones a most blessed and joyous Christmas. May the Lord guard your travels, give you rest with family and friends, and fill you with His love.

May peace always be yours. *Amen*