

The Nativity of Our Lord
December 24, 2022, 4:30pm



The Adoration of the Shepherds, Catena (Vincenzo di Biagio)

Prelude "Sussex Carol"

Call to Worship

Celebrant Joy to the world!
People **The Lord has come!**

all stand and join in singing

Opening Carol , #83 O Come all ye faithful (vs. 1, 2, 3, 6) *The Hymnal 1982*

Opening Words

Celebrant Blessed be the one holy and living God.
People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Shout for joy the whole earth,
and everything within rejoice!
People **For hope has come into the world!**

Celebrant The mountains sing, the seas resound
to the praise of your name.
People **Salvation is here on earth!**

Celebrant The angels' song rings in the air,
a child has been born!
People **Hallelujah! The Savior of the world is here!**

Gloria, #96 Angels we have heard on high (vs. 1 and 4 only) *The Hymnal 1982*

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.
People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.
O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Children's Message *The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson*

The Lessons

First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 *Laurie Hyndman*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Carol, #101

Away in a manger

The Hymnal 1982

Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Luke
People **Glory to you, O God.**

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.

Deacon The Gospel of our Lord.
People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

The Rev. Amanda Gerken-Nelson

Carol, #110

The snow lay on the ground

The Hymnal 1982

Prayers of the People

Michele Johns

Leader Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: make joyful our hearts. Strengthen your Church with humility and faith that we might triumph over the power of evil. God of mercy,
People **Grant us your peace.**

Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: you abhor neither the simple nor the lowly. Shine your light on all the world that the nations may look upon your truth and find their salvation. God of hope,
Grant us your peace.

Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: may all of creation burst forth in songs of praise. May all the works of your hand glorify you. God of joy,
Grant us your peace.

Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: summon the people of the city to yourself. May all of the distractions and heartache of our lives fade away in the joy of your presence. God of possibility,
Grant us your peace.

Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: you love us so dearly. Grant your healing grace to sinners, to the poor, to those in need of love. Open your arms to the sick and the lonely. God of healing,
Grant us your peace.

Christ our Sovereign, we humbly adore you: all glory be given to you. You blessed our earthly bodies with your birth; and you promise to raise us to new life by your death and resurrection. God of grace,
Grant us your peace.

Concluding Collect

Celebrant God our Savior: Meet us in this time and place; focus our hearts on your love, feed the hungry places of our souls, release us from all that resists your grace, and renew our bodies to serve your world.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with those around them.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant "O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power; because you have created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being." – Revelation 4:11

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

At this time, the bread and wine are brought forward. The ushers will collect the offerings of our community gathered.

Offertory Carol, #99

Go tell it on the mountain

The Hymnal 1982

The offering is brought forward

Offertory Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray,

People **All things come of Thee, O God, and of Thine own have we given Thee. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving & Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to our God.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to Christ our Sovereign.

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

Celebrant It is indeed right to give you our thanks and praise, O God, for your Word has become flesh among us. Though the world did not know him, he bears the imprint of your very being. Though his own people turned him away, in him we have seen your glory, full of grace and truth.

Therefore, with the whole realm of nature around us,
With earth, sea and sky,
With the angels and archangels,
With all the saints before us and beside us,
we sing the hymn of unending praise:

People

**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 our God.
Hosanna in the highest!**

Celebrant

Holy God, creator and giver of all life,
from the beginning of time your Spirit breathed over the cosmos.
You scattered stars in the heavens and raised up the mountains
You poured out great rivers and blessed the earth with life.
You made humankind in your image, and loved us in our weakness,
promising to stay with us wherever we go.

In the winter of our longing, you came to the prophet Mary offering your Spirit to
make creation whole. You gave her a child, Jesus, your beloved son to turn the
broken world upside down.

Jesus stayed with us, healing the sick and feeding the hungry unbinding prisoners
and raising the dead. He ate with strangers, showed mercy to sinners, and taught
us to follow him in love without fear.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave
thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat; this is my body,
given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink,
saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Therefore, Eternal One, of all the things that are yours we offer you these, which
are yours especially. We offer them gladly, as he told us, remembering his death
and resurrection, his birth in Bethlehem, and rest in the manger.

Now pour out your Spirit on this bread and wine to make them the body and
blood of Christ for your waiting people. Come among us and abide with us that
we may be the body of Christ for the world you love.

Shine upon us tonight as you shone upon your servant Mary, as you shine upon your people in the most troubling times and places that, lit by your love, we may raise our voices with saints and angels in a living song of praise.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and forever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant
People

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

The Fraction

Celebrant
People

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

The Invitation

Celebrant
People

Come! For all is now ready. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Holy Communion

Everyone is welcome to receive communion at St. Bart's! The ushers will invite you to come forward down the center aisle where there are two bread stations – one for each side of the sanctuary. Each station has both bread and gluten-free bread: presenting your hands facing upward indicates you'd like bread with gluten, hands facing down will indicate you'd like gluten free bread. Once you receive the bread, you may proceed to the Chalice station on your side. You are invited to sip from the chalice but not to dip. If you prefer not to sip from the cup, you may place your hands across your chest to receive a blessing. If you prefer to receive neither the bread nor the wine, but would like to come forward for a blessing, please come forward as described above and simply cross your arms at your chest and the Priest or Deacon will offer a blessing. Hand sanitizer is available in the aisle. Please use the side aisles to return to your seat once you have received.

Music at Communion

#115 What child is this?

The Hymnal 1982

#78 O little town of Bethlehem

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant
People

Let us pray. God of abundance,
**with this bread of life and cup of salvation
you have united us with Christ,
making us one with all your people.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,**

that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue forever
in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Ushers will assist in lighting candles.

Post Communion Carol, #111 Silent Night

The Hymnal 1982

The Blessing

Celebrant The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit

People The God of all grace bless you now and forever.
Amen.

Closing Carol, #87

Hark! The herald angels sing

The Hymnal 1982

The Dismissal

Deacon Arise, shine, for our Savior has come! Alleluia, alleluia!
People Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

“Noel Etranger” by Louis-Claude Daquin

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Celebrant: The Rev Amanda Gerken-Nelson
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Corey Walmer
Intern: Mary Curlew
Music Director: Dr. Christina Edelen
Chalice Bearers: Michele Johns, Mary Curlew
Lector: Laurie Hyndman

Ushers: Ann Donaghy, Nancy Gunzelmann, Rachel Groves, Alfredo Vitika
Altar Guild: Mary Ann Hodsdon
Flower Arranger: Imelda Schaefer
A/V: Laurie Hyndman
Bread Baker: Mary Ann Hodsdon
Counter: Pamela Trudo

WORSHIP RESOURCES

Cover Image: The Adoration of the Shepherds, Catena (Vincenzo di Biagio the Metropolitan Museum of art

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**There will be no Sunday morning services on December 25 and January 1.
The next Sunday morning service will be January 8.**