



Christmas Eve 2020
8 p.m.

Texts for Worship – 8:00pm Christmas Eve 2020

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Gladstone, NJ

Rev. Dr. Kent R. Walley, Rector

**St. Luke's Church
The Nativity of Our Lord**

*In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God....
and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.*

John 1:1, 14

Festive Music, Carols, and Hymns

Fugue on the Magnificat Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Shepherd's Carol William Billings (1746-1800)

There Is No Rose Anonymous, c. 1420
Nadine Robinson, soprano, Jennifer Forte-Flynn, mezzo-soprano, and Tim Bozack, tenor

Torches John Joubert (1927-2019)

The Lamb Lee Hoiby (1926-2011)
Stephen Walley, baritone

Star Carol John Rutter (b. 1945)
The Concert Chorus of the Newark Boys Chorus School
Donald Morris, director; Brian Harlow, accompanist

Come Sing and Dance Herbert Howells (1892-1983)
Nadine Robinson, soprano

+ + + + +

Introit *A Sound of Angels* Christopher Tye

Welcome and Introduction Rev. Dr. Kent R. Walley

Ringing of the Tower Bells

Opening Hymn *O Come All Ye Faithful*

Hymn in Procession *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.

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, 3x, Christ the Lord!

God of God, Light of Light! Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;

Very God, begotten, not created. [Refrain]

Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation, Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above;

'Glory to God In the highest.' [Refrain]

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be glory given;

Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing. [Refrain]

Words, *Adeste fideles*, 18th century Latin, trans, Fredrick Oakeley (1802-1880) Music, John Francis Wade (1711-1786)
harm. William H. Monk (1823-1889) Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-734697

Opening Salutation

Celebrant: Behold I bring you good news of great joy! For to you is born this night a Savior.

People: *And His Name is Christ the Lord. Amen.*

The Christmas Collect – The Lord be with you. *And also with you.* Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Hymn #96 *Angels We Have Heard on High*

*Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.*

Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo, gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?

What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear? [Refrain]

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing.

Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

See him in a manger laid whom the angels praise above.

Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love. [Refrain]

Text: Angels we have heard on high Translator: James Chadwick 1813-1882 Tune: GLORIA Arranger: Edward Shippen Barnes, 1887-1958
Used with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-734697

Today's Reading Can be found at: <https://episcopalchurch.org/lectionary/christmas-day-i>

Isaiah 9:2-7 Read by Lector, Pam Nardone

The Gospel: Luke 2:1-20

Previously Recorded by Rev. Karen Burke Lewis, Dcn

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke. ***Glory to You, Lord Christ.***

After the reading: The Gospel of the Lord. ***Praise to You, Lord Christ.***

Sermon

Rev. Dr. Kent R. Walley

A Christmas Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight as we hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed the story of God's loving purpose to rescue us from our rebellion against him in the redemption brought to us by his holy Child, Jesus, and let us with joyful hearts offer him our worship this day.

Let us now pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this area of the Somerset Hills. And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore. And we give thanks with those who have given Christmas flowers in memory of Frederick Dunlap Maull & Helen Jordan Maullthose they love but see no longer.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

Confession of Sin

*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.*

Absolution

The Peace and Announcements Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you. **People** *And also with you.*

Offertory *Songs of Praise the Angels Sang*

by John Bertalot

(Recorded by St. Luke's Choir for this service)

The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B

BCP page 367

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.*

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of

heaven and earth....Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus S-130

Franz Schubert

***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.***

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you...Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People *We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;*
And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, ... through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation. 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. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

The Fraction

BCP page 364

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

Music during Communion *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

by H. Walford Davies

Nadine Robinson, soprano

Hymn Silent Night

***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!***

Author: Joseph Mohr, 1792-1848 Translator: John Freeman Young, 1820-1885 Tune: STILLE NACHT

Composer (melody): Franz Xaver Gruber, 1787-1863 Harmonizer: Carl H. Reinecke, 1824-1910 Used with permission ONE LICENSE #A-734697

Post Communion Prayer

BCP page 366

***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 Christmas Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

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

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the Name of our Savior, Jesus, the Word made flesh. **People:** *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude Carillon-Sortie

Henri Mulet (1878-1967)

Unless otherwise noted, all music was recorded by members of St. Luke's Choir, directed by Brian Harlow Organist & Choirmaster, for today's webcast.