



Order of Service

Rite I

The Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Thursday, December 24, 2020

Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Trinity welcomes you.

WELCOME TO TRINITY

Welcome to Trinity Episcopal Church. We hope that you will feel the presence of God in this holy space. We believe that you will also find God in the community of people who worship here. Trinity is rich in the traditions of the Episcopal Church, and it is our prayer that you will feel warmly welcomed.

May this place be to you a source of strength and spiritual renewal. May you also find it a place where all people are accepted. Wherever you are on your spiritual journey, Trinity welcomes you!

Clergy: The Reverend Dr. W. Lee Domenick, *Rector*; The Reverend Cheryl Harder, *Associate Rector*; The Reverend Chris Cole, *Curate*; The Reverend Deborah Underwood, *Deacon*; The Reverend Bert Bibens, *Deacon*; The Reverend Linda Paul, *Deacon*; The Reverend Noel Doherty, *Assisting Clergy*

Staff: Casey Cantwell, *Organist and Director of Music*; Karen Rich, *Associate Director of Music and Organist*; Chad Johnson, *Music Intern*; Barbara Harlas, *Printer*; Donnie Henderson, *Sexton*; Becky Moseman, *Director of Youth and Young Adults Ministry*; Hannah Middlebrook, *Director of Operations*; Jenny Robertson, *Financial Secretary*; Edward Roling, *Christian Formation*; Jan Schneider, *Front Office Coordinator*.

Technical Team: Jennifer Ratliff-Towner, *Lead*; Michael Towner, Philippe Beaudette, Lizzie Radford, Joshua Miller, Jeff Luke.

Vestry: Pat Woodrum, *Senior Warden*; Joe Wilkinson, *Junior Warden*; Harry Dandelles, *Treasurer*; Joe Woltz, *Clerk*; Bill Nay, *Chancellor*; Emily Bibens; Dale Billam; Caroline Crain; Jennifer Grassmeyer; Brad Morgan; Rusty Renfrow; Jessica Smith; Patti Smith; and George Walls.

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PROCLAMATION OF THE BIRTH OF CHRIST

Countless thousands of years having passed since the creation of the world, from the time when in the beginning God created the heavens and the earth; nearly three thousand years from the salvation of humankind, when the family of Noah was preserved from the flood; some nineteen centuries after the Lord made a covenant with Abraham, and made him father of the promise; fifteen hundred and ten years from the time when Moses led the people from their bondage in Egypt; a thousand years and thirty-two from David's anointing as king of the people of God; in the sixty-fifth prophetic week foreseen by Daniel; in the one hundred and ninety-third Olympiad; seven and a half centuries from the foundation of the city of Rome; at the mid-point of the reign of the Emperor Caesar Augustus, when the whole world was at peace; in the sixth and final age of the world: Desiring to sanctify creation by the means of his coming and his blessed presence, Jesus Christ the eternal God and Son of the eternal Father, conceived by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, nine months having passed as he grew in his mother's womb, was born of the Virgin Mary, and for our salvation was made man in Bethlehem of Judah. This is the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ according to the manner of all flesh.

THE WORD OF GOD

Hymn 83 O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fidelis

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —
 3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
 *4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —
 *5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;
 2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;
 3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;
 4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;
 5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;
 3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;
 4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;
 5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

Refrain

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -
 dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ the Lord.

6 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: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others
 Music: present form of melody att. John Francis Wade; harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906; desc. David Willcocks

Celebrant
People

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Collect for Purity

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high (stanzas 1 and 4)

Gloria

1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.

Refrain
Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French Carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.
Music: French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes (1887-1958)

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And with thy spirit.**
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, who hast given us thy only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him and as at this time to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, being regenerate and made thy children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by thy Holy Spirit; through the same our Lord Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Spirit ever, one God, world without end.
Amen.

The Lessons

First Reading

Isaiah 9:2-4,6-7

A Reading from the book of 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 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.**



1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
 2 The cat - tle are low - ing, the ba - by a - wakes,
 * 3 Be near me, Lord Je - sus; I ask thee to stay



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
 but lit - tle Lord Je - sus no cry - ing he makes.
 close by me for ev - er, and love me I pray.



The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
 I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look down from the sky,
 Bless all the dear chil - dren in thy ten - der care,



the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
 and stay by my side un - til morn - ing is nigh.
 and fit us for hea - ven to live with thee there.

Second Reading

Titus 2:11-14

A Reading from the letter to Titus.

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence

Hymn 110 The snow lay on the ground

Venite adoremus

1 The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright,
2 'Twas Ma - ry, daugh - ter pure of ho - ly Anne,
3 Saint Jo - seph, too, was by to tend the child;
4 And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne;
when Christ our Lord was born On Christ - mas night. Ve -
that brought in - to this world the God made man. She
to guard him, and pro - tect his mo - ther mild; the
for he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -
laid him in a stall at Beth - le - hem; the
an - gels hov - ered round, and sang this song, Ve -
come, then, let us join the heaven - ly host, to
Refrain
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
ass and ox - en shared the roof with them. Ve -
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.
praise the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num. Ve -
ni - te a - do - re - mus Do - mi - num.

Words: Source unknown, 19th cent.

Music: melody adapt. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944)

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

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

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!"

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Reverend Dr. W. Lee Domenick

We started this Christmas Eve service by singing, "O come, let us adore him. O Come, let us adore him. O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Let's face it, this year, this 2020 year, has been one hell of a year. No, seriously, this has been a year like no other. We have lived, breathed, worried, cried, smiled, laughed, and screamed our way through this horrendous year. I do not know about you; I, for one, am ready for this, all of this, what is left of this year to be done.

I have personally fought, cried, laughed, screamed, worried, tossed and turned with all the decisions I, with the parishioners' support, the wardens, the vestry, and staff, have had to make. The first year of a new rector's position is supposed to be the honeymoon where nothing goes wrong, and everything goes well and to plan. Well, let me tell you this was not the case, and yet here we are, and the ministry of Trinity Tulsa continues. Grace abounds, and in the midst of all of this chaos, I have found light, hope, compassion, and love.

Evie was trying to draw a picture of the family Christmas tree, which she deeply loved, to send to her grandparents. Tongue out, face contorted in sheer concentration, she tried and tried but could not seem to get it right. She could see the tree all right, but it did not suit her because what she drew did not quite catch her relationship to the tree, which made the tree what it was for her. She finally put down her green crayon and just sat quietly and stared and stared and stared. For the longest time, she did not flinch a bit.

Then all of a sudden, light shone out of her face; she broke into a huge smile, wiggled in excitement, chose one of the green trees she had drawn earlier, picked up a yellow crayon, drew two Christmas ornaments with smiley faces on them, and declared she had finished and could now send the picture off in the mail. When asked who the faces were, she jumped around in glee and said, "Nana and Papa – they are my Jesus!" Evie had managed to draw the magic of her tree – it expressed the message she had been *"reflecting on...in her heart."* Then she *"made known the message."*

The gospel's message and this whole festival are *"your savior comes!"* (from our first reading). We cannot know or recognize the Mystery of salvation by ourselves. God alone makes this Mystery known to us – reveals it when we take the time to reflect in our hearts and open ourselves to encounter the Mystery. Salvation is made known in the strangest means – God's means of communication might be heaven-sent (angels) or quiet earthbound (scruffy shepherds), or a picture drawn. No matter how strange the means, part of the Mystery of God's love is often the unexpected ways in which it is communicated.

The shepherds in the gospel model for us, openness to the Mystery of God's message of salvation. Sometimes we are the hearers of the Good News, and our response is to reflect on it in our hearts, to wait for God's message to well up within us a light that seeks to be expressed. At other times, like the shepherds, we are called to make *"known the message"* of salvation. Like Evie, we open ourselves to an encounter with the Mystery and send it along to everyone we meet. We, then, become bearers of the Good News.

Herein is the surprise of Christmas: Mary and Joseph's Son's life is given to us. The marriage of humanity and divinity that is the Son of Mary and Joseph is also a marriage of humanity to God. In our **"O come and let us adore him,"** we give glory to God because we have been made in God's image. Mary and Joseph's Son restores what was lost in the Garden of Eden and does even more than restore that lost relationship with God. Now we enjoy an even more intimate relationship, where we are given the very life of God. The Son, through the Spirit, dwells within each of us.

None of us will travel to Bethlehem to behold a newborn infant lying in a manger. But all of us travel the road of daily life. When we are called to see the newborn infant in the youngster who needs companionship, the teenager needs a listening ear, the parent who needs a helping hand, and the elder who needs someone to care. Through us, the Lord makes known the message of the divine love and care. So yes, this year has been trying, full of unexpected challenges and difficult situations. Yet amid the chaos, we, that is right Trinity, we continue the journey together. We make "*known the message.*" **"O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord."** Amen.

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

BCP 328

Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, especially Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael, our presiding Bishop, and Poulson, our own Bishop, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, for Donald our President, Joe, our President-elect, Kevin our Governor, and G.T. our Mayor, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor [_____] and all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear [especially_____,] beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of [_____]and of] all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate.
Amen.

The Deacon says

Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against thee
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved thee with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of thy Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in thy will,
and walk in thy ways,
to the glory of thy Name. Amen.**

The Priest stands and says.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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 Peace

*Celebrant
People*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

Offertory Anthem

John Rutter (b. 1945)

What sweeter music can we bring than a carol for to sing the birth of this our heav'nly King? Awake the voice! Awake the string! Dark and dull night, fly hence away, and give the honour to this day that sees December turn'd to May. Why does the chilling winter's morn smile, like a field beset with corn? Or smell like a meadow newly shorn thus on the sudden? Come and see the cause why things thus fragrant be: 'tis he is born, whose quick'ning birth gives life and lustre, public mirth, to heaven and the underearth. We see him come, and know him ours, who with his sunshine and his show'rs, turns all the patient ground to flow'rs. The darling of the world is come, and fit it is we find a room to welcome him. The nobler part of all the house here is the heart, which we will give him and bequeath this holly, and this ivy wreath, to do him honour; who's our King, and Lord of all this reveling.

The Doxology and Censing of the Altar

Lasst uns erfreuen

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise him all creatures here below; Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

Blessing

May Almighty God, who sent the 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 the 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 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.**

87 Hark! The herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

1 Hark! the her-ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!
 2 Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord;
 3 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

Peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!
 late in time be - hold him come, off - spring of the Vir - gin's womb.
 born to raise us from the earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God - head see; hail the in - car - nate De - i - ty.
 Risen with heal - ing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!
 Pleased as man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el!
 hail, the Sun of Right - eous - ness! hail, the heaven - born Prince of Peace!

Refrain

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new - born King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

Lighting of Candles

Hymn 111 Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Silent Night, Holy Night'. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system contains the first three lines of the hymn. The second system contains the next three lines. The third system contains the next three lines. The fourth system contains the final three lines, including the phrase 'peace. born! birth.' repeated at the end.

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.