

The Holy Eucharist: Rite II
Christmas Eve



*The Episcopal Church of The Holy Innocents
in the Borough of Beach Haven, New Jersey
24 December, 2023 ~ 6:00 PM*

Welcome! In The Episcopal Church all baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. BCP means The Book of Common Prayer (Red Book). You'll find the BCP and Hymnals in the pew rack in front of you.

** Indicates to stand as you are able*

5:30 PM Christmas Carols and Special Music

Prelude *Word of God, Come Down on Earth* John A. Behnke (b.1953)

Hymn #102 *One in Royal David's City* IRBY
vv. 1 ~ Mtr. Caroline; 2 ~ Choir; 3-6 ~ All

Hymn #115 *What Child is This?* GREENSLEEVES

Hymn LEVAS #24 *Rise Up, Shepherd, and Follow* Traditional Spiritual

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)
John Dondero, Johnny Dondero, trumpet

Hymn LEVAS #27 *Away in a Manger* James R. Murray (1841-1915)

There is a Flow'r Malcom Archer (b. 1952)
Chloe Dondero, soprano, Joan Melega, alto

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Hymn #83 *O Come, All Ye Faithful* ADESTE FIDELIS

STATION AT THE CRECHE

(Children may carry the Christ Child and Nativity figures into the church during the Processional Hymn and place them in the Creche.)

Celebrant The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

People **For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.**

Celebrant His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,

People **The Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Celebrant The word became flesh and dwells among us.

People **Glory to God in the highest and peace to God's people on earth.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. *All Amen.*

Song of Praise #96 (vv. 1&4) *Angels We Have Heard on High*

GLORIA

The Collect of the Day:

BCP, p. 212

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you**

Celebrant 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. **All Amen.**

The First Lesson

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.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

- 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.

The Epistle

Titus 2:11-14

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.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn #109 *The First Noel* (vv. 1, 2 & 6)

THE FIRST NOEL

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Celebrant 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.]

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.** (*All are seated*)

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson+

***The Nicene Creed**

BCP, p. 358

Litany for Christmas Eve (*The people may stand or kneel*)

Celebrant In peace let us pray for the church and the world.

Leader Creator God, on this holy night your Son our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader There was no room for your son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in our world. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Herod's rage brought weeping and lamentation to Bethlehem. Rid our world of violence and comfort those mourning lives lost to violence in our city and across the world. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader The angels sang, 'Peace to God's people on earth.' Strengthen those who work for peace and justice in the all the world. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Shepherds in the field heard good tidings of joy. Give each of us grace to preach the gospel of Christ's love. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Strangers found the Holy Family and saw the baby lying in a manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader In this holy night, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all those who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom. Holy God,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Holy God, angels and shepherds worshiped at your manger. Receive the worship we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph, and the saints, through him who is your Word made flesh, our Savior Jesus Christ.

People **Amen.**

***The Peace** (*All stand*)

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Anthem *In the Bleak Midwinter* arr. Catherine Bennett

***Presentation of the Gifts** (*All stand*)

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee

***The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer B** **BCP, p. 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 him 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. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. 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-129 (*all sing*) *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord* Robert Powell (1932)

(*The People may stand or kneel*)

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. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

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

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; 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. *All: AMEN.*

The Lord's Prayer

BCP, p. 364

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.**

Fraction Anthem: S-154 (All sing) *Christ Our Passover* David Hurd (b. 1950)

(All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion.)

Music During Communion

Some Children See Him

Alfred Burt (1920-1954)

Chloe Dondero, soprano

***Postcommunion Prayer** *(Please stand)*

Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Carol of the Holy Night #111 *(Sing Seated)*

STILLE NACHT

***A Christmas Blessing**

May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the wonder of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be with you this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Parish Notices

Hymn #100

Joy to the World!

ANTIOCH

Dismissal

BCP, p. 366

Postlude *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Lani Smith (1934-2015)

Serving this evening Crucifer ~ John Wall

Lectors ~ Bill Kehr 1st Reading, Leila Sullivan 2nd Reading, Kay DeCicco, Prayers of the People
Ushers ~ TBA Chalice Bearers ~

Parish Prayer List – December 24, 2023

PLEASE NOTE: *If you need to add or delete a name, please contact Lisa Halpin, our Parish Administrator by Wednesday, December 27th.*

Judy Contreras	Lara Sparks Deitz	Joan Connolly
Mary Ann Crewdson	Ann White	Jane Enos
Dennis	Dcn. Judy	Diane Carter
Anthony B.	Connie Anderson	Christian Balint
Barney H.	Susan F.	Cheryl
Diane D.	Dayton	Jason
Kirsten Angelozzi	Bob Hendricks	Christine Hendricks
Andy	Kathy & Walter	Ron & Kenny
Jeannine	Priscilla	Judy & Al
Joan & Linda Kelly	Chris C.	Pierro Family
David D'Ambrosia	Barry Longenbach	Robert
Mike	Tony	Aleen
Jan	Elliott	Anne
Karen & DJ	Dennis Hickey	Rosanne & Bob
Juli & Dave	Laura	Lovas Family
Debbie & Joe Reising	Rebecca	Marilyn Thomas
Tom Blake	Fiona	Graham
Bob	Sue	Hale Bailey
Melanie	Sophia	Joseph
Paris	Tom & Kathy Masilla	Jim Darling
Charles Sullivan	Warren Lamon	Greg Melega

Rachel
Louise Muth
Gia
Sanders Baby
Rick & Becky Johnson
Kay & Mike DeCicco

Marilyn Flagler
Debbie Lamon
Cora
Jean & Keith Aclin
Brian O'Sullivan
Frank M.

Mary Timmerman
Teri Keller
Hunter Gideon
Vic Hughes
Suzette Whiting
Ray M.

Those serving in the military and other dangerous professions:

Paul Bailey, Justin A. Dumhart, Joseph Alexander, Danny Melega, Andrew Wall
Brandan White

WEEKLY ONLINE CALENDAR - Dec 25-29

25 – Mon	Christmas Day Holy Eucharist	10:00 AM
28 – Thurs	Feast of the Holy Innocents' Evening Prayer (FB)	6:00 PM
	Compline	9:00 PM

*The Parish Office is closed from Christmas Day
until January 2 at 9:00 a.m.*

MERRY CHRISTMAS!



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS

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Mrs. Ellen J. Dondero, Minister of Music & Organist ~ ejdondero@comcast.net

The Rev. Dr. Judith S. Krom, Deacon ~ (732) 330-4949 jsk13@comcast.net

The Rev. Dr. Caroline Carson, Rector ~ (504) 390-5331 theparsoncarson@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS – Monday through Thursday 9 AM to 2 PM