

The Cathedral Church of St. James

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24, 2020

A Service of Prayer and the Story of the Nativity at 4:30pm



The Nativity – Arthur Hughes, 1832-1915

When is the time for love to be born?
The inn is full on the planet earth,
And by greed and pride the sky is torn—
Yet Love still takes the risk of birth.

- Madeleine L'Engle

4:30pm A Service of Prayer and the Story of the Nativity

Welcome

Hymn

Text: Cecil Frances Alexander; Tune: Irby

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor, and mean, and lowly, lived on earth our Saviour holy.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love,
For that Child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing by,
we shall see him; but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high;
when, like stars, his children crowned all in white shall wait around.

Opening Collect

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

One For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given!

All **And he shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.**

The Christ candle is lit

One Lord Jesus, we rejoice in your coming as the life of the world.

All **We welcome you into our hearts to live in us.**

The Nativity Story

Blessing of the Crèche

One The glory of the Lord has been revealed:

All **And all flesh shall see the salvation of our God.**

One Let us pray.

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Hymn

Text: Tr. from the Latin by Canon F. Oakeley,
W.T. Brooke, and others; Tune: Adeste Fideles

All 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.*

God of God, Light of Light,
lo, he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God, Begotten not created;
*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 in the highest;
*O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.*

Prayers of Intercession

Officiant In joy and humility, let us pray to the incarnate Word, born this night
in Bethlehem.

Hear us, O Lord.

People **Lord, grant us peace**

Officiant Almighty God, you have shed upon us the new light of your incarnate Word. May this light, enkindled in our hearts, shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

Hymn

Text: Charles Wesley, alt.; Tune: Mendelssohn

All Hark! The herald angels sing, glory to the new-born 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!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

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 we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born King."

Collect for Christmas Eve

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, who makes us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and ever.

People **Amen.**

The Blessing

Officiant Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and things heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.

People **Amen.**

Officiant: The Very Reverend Stephen Vail, Rector of St. James Cathedral & Dean of Toronto
Assisting: Claire Latimer-Dennis, Lay Pastoral Associate

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