

St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

Ocean City, Maryland



Christmas Eve

December 24, 2023

Holy Eucharist—Rite II

The Gospel of John 1:1-14

The statues of the Holy Family are brought to the stable by members of the congregation.

Processional Hymn

Hymnal 1982, #83

1 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,
O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.

2 God from God,
Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten
Son of the Father; [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels,
sing in exultation;
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God,
glory in the highest; [Refrain]

The Word of God

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant may say

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

The following hymn sung, all standing

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant says the Collect.

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.

The First Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. ³You 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For 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. ⁷His 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.

After each Reading, the Reader may say

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96

¹Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

²Sing 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 Second Reading: Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

After each Reading, the Reader may say
The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal 1982, #89

1. It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay,
to hear the angels sing.

2. Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Gospel

Then, all standing, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

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

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do

not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” [¹⁵When 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.” ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

After the Gospel, the Reader says

The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Gradual Hymn

Hymnal 1982, #89

3. Yet with the woes of sin and strife
the world has suffered long;
beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled
two thousand years of wrong;
and warring humankind hears not
the tidings which they bring;
O hush the noise and cease your strife
and hear the angels sing!

4. For lo! the days are hastening on,
by prophets seen of old,
when with the ever-circling years
shall come the time foretold,
when peace shall over all the earth
its ancient splendors fling,
and all the world give back the song
which now the angels sing.

The Sermon *Pastor Jill Williams*

On Sundays and other Major Feasts there follows, all standing

The 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.

The Prayers of the People

Welcome! Let your presence among us be reflected in our lives.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

With the gift of angel song and joyful spirits, we rejoice at your coming among us. Sustain us, your people, with joy deep in our hearts. Give our bishops, priests, deacons, and all our faithful leaders a renewed sense of purpose and direction, that they may lead us in the way you would have us go.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Give the leaders of the nations an urgency for peace and brotherhood, that the world you entered be blessed by good tidings.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Shower people throughout the world with your blessings of beauty and purpose, freedom and plenty.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Open our hearts to the needs of those around us who are hungry or lonely, who struggle with the burdens of living, whose spirits are restless for you.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Make whole those who suffer today with illness, with anxiety, with despair . May we care about them and care for them as our brothers and sisters.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

Gather to your heart those who have died, who are now welcomed into the eternal embrace and surrounded by your glory.

Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

Confession of Sin

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The people stand or kneel.

Minister and People

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.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins
through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all
goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in
eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says to the people

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Holy Communion

Offertory

The Celebrant says to the people

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant.

Everyone is welcome at the table of the Lord and is invited to communion! At the altar rail, you will be offered the host first, which will be placed in your hand. Please respond "Amen." Then the wine will be offered to you to drink from the common cup. [We no longer intinct.](#) If you are not yet comfortable returning to drinking from the common cup, you may either return to your seat after receiving the host, or you may choose to cross your arms over your chest when the chalice is offered and simply respond "Amen," therefore reverencing the sacrament. We believe that we are fully communed after receiving the sacrament in one form, so any of these choices would be fully acceptable. If you do not wish to receive communion, or you have not yet been baptized, you are still invited to come up to the altar rail for a blessing. Please cross your arms over your chest when offered the host and Pastor Jill will say a blessing over you. You may then return to your seat. If you are interested in learning more about baptism and full entrance into our worshipping community, please contact Pastor Jill at Pastorjill@stpaulsbythesea.org.

The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Alleluia, Alleluia

Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Alleluia, Alleluia

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says

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.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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:

Celebrant and People

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.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully

receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy,
and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints
into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.

The people say:
AMEN.

And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, let us say together
the Lord's Prayer, in whatever language you are most comfortable.

People and Celebrant
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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said
[Alleluia.] Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. [Alleluia.]

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for
you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament in both kinds, and then immediately
deliver it to the people.*

*Using the center aisle, proceed to the Altar rail. Once you have received communion,
return to your seat using the side aisles.*

The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]

Communion Hymn

Hymnal 1982, #79, 115, 101

Silent Night

Hymnal 1982, #111

1. 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.

2. 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!

3. 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.

After Communion, the Celebrant says
Let us pray.

Celebrant and People
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.

Blessing

Recessional Hymn:

Hymnal 1982, #96

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

Refrain:
Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

2. Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear? [Refrain]

3. Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. [Refrain]

4. See him in a manger laid,
whom the angels praise above;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while we raise our hearts in love. [Refrain]

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, Alleluia. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!



Poinsettia Dedications

In Memory of William Andrew and Janice Andrew *by Debbie Andrew*

In Memory of Paul Young and in Thanksgiving for Casey *by Billie Chambers*

In Memory of Francisco Candeloro and in Thanksgiving for my wonderful family *by Viola Candeloro & Family*

In thanksgiving for my family *by Amanda Cropper*

In Memory of Judith M. Elwell and our identical twin sons, Adam Robert & Benjamin Robert. In Thanksgiving for the blessings, we have received from the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit *by Robert H. Elwell*

In Memory of Elaine & Robert Farley and Jim Farley *by Jody Farley & Helena Russell*

In Memory of the Catchpole family and in Thanksgiving for St. Paul's by-the-Sea and Pastor Jill *by Lindsay Graham*

In Memory of Rex Hailey and Dee Toms *by Shirley Hailey*

In Memory of Curtis Hill (April 6, 2023 Plano, Texas) *by Scott V. Hill*

In Thanksgiving for our friends and family *by Nancy & John Knotts*

In Memory of Scoop Maginniss and Tom Maginniss and in Thanksgiving for James Maginniss *by Berta Maginniss*

In Memory of Ken MacMullin and in Thanksgiving for my many blessings
by *Elsie MacMullin*

In Memory of Sherry Lewis, Maurice & Betty Wilkins, Gordon & Martha
Wilkins, Dorthy Lee, and Joy Higbee by *Cheryl & Mike Nottingham*

In Memory of William Conn Scott by *Robert C. Scott*

In Memory of Charles & Mary Wright by *the Wright/Wimbish Family*

Welcome to St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church

All baptized Christians, of any age & denomination, are welcome to receive communion. ****Gluten Free Wafer** are available.

Prayer List

Robbie Whittington Joyce, Cindy Dreslin, Kyle Harmon, Shirley Connor, Jose Cabrera, Ryan Fischer, Katlyn, Letty Trimper Hurst, Connie Mayers, Doug Dryden, Brian Friedman, Grace, Randy Hastings, Frank Candeloro, Jr., John Seward, Stephanie Hill, Douglas Allan, Yvetta Henry Tull, Jean Charles, Jimmy Farley, Alex Hoffman, Jonathan Jones, Larry Lorton, The Lecates Family, The People of Ukraine, Michael Hallett, Hannah Johnson, Hugh Smith, Ralph Hastings, Frank Avallone, Mary Wright, Alan Farley, Liana Wallman, Susan Lewis, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry, Christine Zellner, Brian, Nicoyia, Tom Belle, Aaron Call, Christine Bauerdorf, Victims of the Hawaiian Wildfires, Lynn Anstatt, Peggy Hartman, Kathy Jersin, Mary Mitchell, Wendy O'Donoghue, Christina Hartman, Patrick O'Malley, Chris Ellis, David Twining, Corey Bowman, Roger Ballard, Beverly Cooper, Aniyah Adams, Levon Davis, Andy Hales, Roger Thomas

This Week We Pray For ...

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: We give thanks for the witness of God's people at All Faith Chapel, Tunis Mills, and for their Lay Leadership, and for their Priest-in-Charge, the Rev. Pat Kuhns, and her husband, Tom.

Birthdays: JB Bunting III & Shirley Hailey

Anniversaries: Penny Morrow & Ralph Hastings