

# ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A PLACE TO BELONG - A PLACE TO BECOME



## LESSONS *and* CAROLS

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# ST. NICHOLAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## We Gather for Worship

### Prelude

*Please stand as you are able*

Opening Hymn: H-117 | **Brightest and best of the stars of the morning**

**Celebrant** Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

**People** **You come to your people and set them free.**

The Collect of the Day: *See Insert*

## We Tell God's Story

Dear People of God: In this [Christmas/ Epiphany] Season, let it be our responsibility and joy to 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 in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our songs of praise.

But first, let us 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 community.

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.

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.**

*Please be seated*

## Lesson 1: The Fall (Gen 3:1-15)

*A reading from the Book of Genesis*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loin cloths for themselves. They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: H-60 | Creator of the stars of night

## Lesson 2: A Child Foretold (Isaiah 35:1-10)

*A reading from the book of Isaiah*

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom; like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly, and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart, "Be strong, do not fear! Here is your God. He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense. He will come and save you." Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy. For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. A highway shall be there, and it

shall be called the Holy Way; the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people; no traveler, not even fools, shall go astray. No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: H-79 | O little town of Bethlehem (omit v. 4)

### Lesson 3: A Child is born (Luke 2:1-20)

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

And it came to pass in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This census first took place while Quirinius was governing Syria. So all went to be registered, everyone to his own city. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed wife, who was with child. So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son, and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. Now there were in the same country shepherds living out in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were greatly afraid. Then the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be the sign to you: You will find a Babe wrapped in swaddling cloths, 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, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men! So it was, when the angels had gone away from them into heaven, that the shepherds said to one another, "Let us now go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to pass, which the Lord has made known to us." And they came with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the Babe lying in a manger. Now when they had seen Him, they made widely[d] known the saying which was told them concerning this Child. And all those who heard it marveled at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things and pondered them in her heart. Then the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told them.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: H-265 The angel Gabriel from heaven came

## Lesson 4: Jesus is named (Luke 2:21-35)

*A reading from the Gospel of Luke*

After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel." And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: H-81 | Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming

## Lesson 5: The Wise Men Visit (Matthew 2:1-12)

*A reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 'And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.' Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage." When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they

were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

Carol: H-128 | We three kings of Orient are

Lesson 6: Jesus begins his ministry (Matthew 3:13-17)

*A reading from the Gospel of Matthew*

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

*People:* **Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand as you are able*

Hymn: H-135 | Songs of thankfulness and praise

The Nicene Creed - *All say together*

**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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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

**Leader** God of light and life our prayers rise before you this day in hope and faith.

**People** **We pray for your church, for our diocese, bishops, clergy and all people.**

**Leader** Flame of abundant love, be our Joy in proclaiming your Good News to the world.

**People** **We pray for all who are coming to faith, all who wonder about faith, and all who are struggling with faith.**

**Leader** Light of all creation, guide us to lead, teach and nurture your disciples.

**People** **We pray for those in need of food, shelter, clothing, and of God's healing touch, especially the people served at Germantown Help and Nourish Now.**

**Leader** And those for whom our prayers are especially desired ... (petitions may be added) Comforter of the suffering, warm our hands to loving service.

**People** **We pray for the world, especially where there is trouble and suffering, far away or nearby. We pray for the students at El Hogar, the people of Shady Grove Rehabilitation Center, for whom we provide a regular communion service, and for all those on our prayer list.**

**Leader** Ember of steadfast care, fuel our passion to challenge injustice and violence and to pursue peace and reconciliation.

**People** **We pray for the land on which we stand, the peoples, creatures, plants and waters around us.**

**Leader** Creator of all, lead us to care for this fragile earth, our island home, and to heal the circle of creation

**People** **God of radiant light, your love illumines our hopes before we know them, and our needs before we ask.**

**Leader** Kindle your flame within us, that in our prayers and service, we may know your transforming presence at work in the world around us.

**People** **All this we ask through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

## **The Peace**

**Celebrant**      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People**          **And also with you.**

*We exchange a sign of Christ's peace before we gather at the Lord's Table: a handshake, a nod and a smile, an embrace, a kiss on the cheek, whatever way is most comfortable for you.*

*Please be seated*

## **The Offertory**

*We remember Christ's offering and offer ourselves in return. Offerings of food placed in the basket by our entrance are distributed to the hungry by Germantown HELP.*

## **We Share the Body and Blood of Christ**

*All who love God and seek a deeper relationship with Christ are welcome at Christ's table.*

*Please stand as you are able*

**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 our thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**



Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole creation, and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Nicholas and all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN.*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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**

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

*The Priest invites the people to Communion*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

## **Communion**

*The Altar Party receives Communion first, then the Choir, then the Children (with Parents, if desired), then the Congregation. Approach the altar by the center aisle. Gather in a semicircle around the altar. Hold out your hands to receive the bread. If you want sip from the Common Cup, eat the bread. If you want to dip in the Common Cup hold the bread out in front of you. If you want only a blessing, cross your arms over your chest. If you desire a gluten free wafer please hold up two fingers. Wait until the Celebrant says, "Go in peace." then return to your seat.*

**Communion Hymn: H-247 | Lully, lullay, thou little tiny child**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

**Closing Hymn: H-92 | On this day earth shall ring**

*Please be seated*

## **Announcements**

*Please stand as you are able*

## **Dismissal**

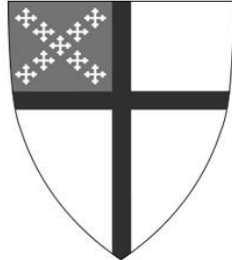
**Celebrant** Let us go forth bearing the light of Christ.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



WELCOMES YOU

OUR STAFF

The Rev. Beth O'Callaghan | *Rector*  
Carolyn Deibel | *Director of Music*

**Worship Sundays at 10 AM**  
**Sunday School at 10:15 AM**

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