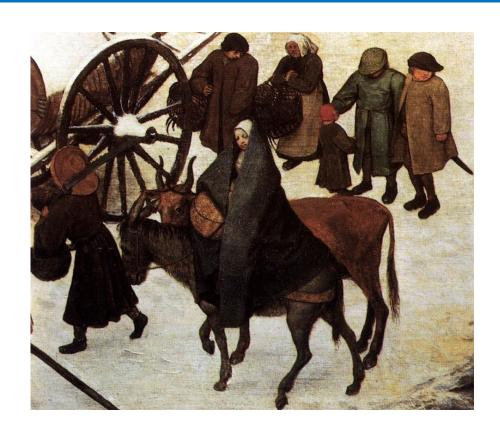
# THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

**DECEMBER 24, 2023** 



Christmas Eve Services

4:00 p.m. & 9:00 p.m.

Christ Church Parish - Kent Island, 830 Romancoke Rd., Stevensville, MD 21666 www.ccpki.org 410-643-5921

#### 24 December 2023

#### ...upon another shore and in a greater light...

I do not know if Eric Milner-White wrote the words himself or adapted them from a similar service first authorized at Truro in 1880. Whatever their provenance, the last full paragraph of the bidding in *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols* says:

"Lastly, let us remember before God all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore, and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom in the Lord Jesus we are for ever one."

"...upon another shore and in a greater light..." Dear God, that's beautiful. These are words of affectionate, generous breadth; they're spoken in a distinctly Anglican voice, filled with remembrance and hope.

One of the expected features of the Christmas holiday, or any holiday for that matter, is missing our beloved dead. The first year after a loved one's death brings every possible opportunity for renewed grief as we cycle that first year without them. The feast finds many images in our memory and imagination, but perhaps chief among them are the faces and voices of those whom we love. To be sure, the day is always kept for itself, but over time it is kept as well for the glad company that shares the feast with us. So when those faces and voices are absent, the feast is a bit more solemn. Some cultures try clinging to their missing friends and kin by setting a place for them at table or leaving a poured drink for them upon the sideboard; these are signs filled with rich sentiment, and though well-meant, they perpetuate anguish precisely to the same degree they strengthen remembered loyalties and affection.

As I contemplate those whom I love *upon another shore and in a greater light*, I pause and reflect, feeling the ache of their absences, whether recent or long-standing. Grief and longing become more manageable over time but I am not sure it ever goes away. Such is the nature of finite life, bounded as we are with flesh and a few years. And as evocative as I find *another shore and in a greater light*, it is elsewhere in the bidding that I find my greatest Christmas joy.

The bidding affirms that they "...rejoice with us..." and with them "...in the Lord Jesus we are forever one." That anchors and confirms my Incarnate joy and my Easter hope far more than any loss or sadness. So long as I have my mind and memory, and after that, when my mind is gone and all that is left is an old heart habituated in love, "...in the Lord Jesus we are forever one." Amen.

Even if from their perspective we are upon another shore and in a dimmer light, they *do* rejoice with us, and it is in our shared rejoicing that we are forever one. Miss them. Sniffle and get quiet for a bit as you need to do, and then celebrate. Celebrate not wanting them at our party, but in the hope of being at theirs.

Merry Christmas, and God bless you.

FBC3+

© 2023 Frank B Crumbaugh III

### THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

#### THE HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO

Prelude

"Divinum Mysterium" (Of the Father's Love Begotten)
"God Rest Ye, Merry Gentlemen"
"In Dulci Jubilo"

- Held - Wright

- Bach

Dave Hasek, organ

Welcome

The Rev. Frank B. Crumbaugh III

Introit

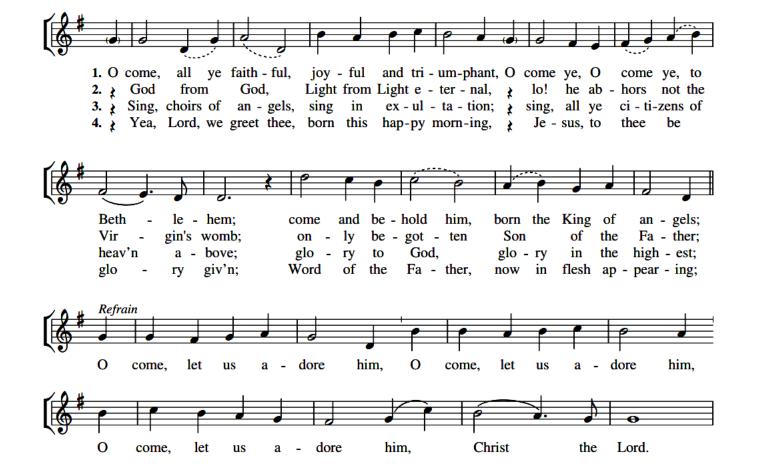
"Hodie Christus natus est" text from the Antiphon to the Magnificat

-D. A. White

Hodie Christus natus est: hodie in terra canunt Angeli: Gloria in excelsis Deo, alleluia! Today Christ is born: today the Angels sing: Glory to God in the highest, praise the Lord!

+Processional Hymn

O come, all ye faithful



#### <sup>+</sup>Opening Sentences

+The Gloria

The people remain standing, the Celebrant says

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

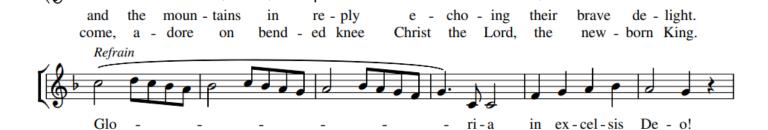
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

#### +Collect for Purity (said by all)

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.

# 1. An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night, 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;

Angels we have heard on high





#### +The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 Reading 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

People Thanks be to God

Hymn (4 p.m. only)

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed



<sup>+</sup>Please stand as able

Psalm 96

The Choir introduces the antiphon, all repeat it. The Cantor chants the psalm verses, all repeating the antiphon as indicated.



- 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. [ANT.]
- 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.
- 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." [ANT.]
- 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. [ANT.]

6

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

People Thanks be to God

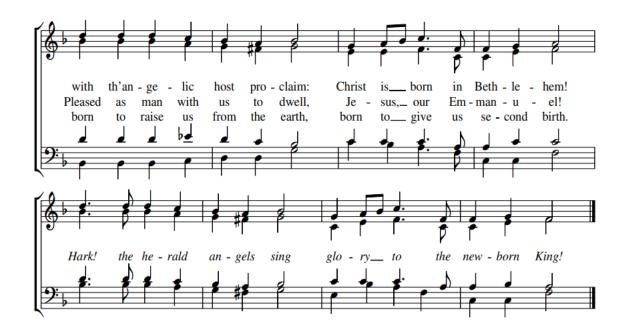
\*Sequence Hymn

"Hark! the herald angels sing" Vs. 1: all, Vs. 2: choir only, Vs. 3: all

(Congregation please stand as able)



Hymn continued on next page



\*The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

(Congregation please remain standing and face the Celebrant)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord 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

#### +The Nicene Creed

(Congregation please stand as able)

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.

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.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

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 Leader and People pray responsively

Sisters and Brothers, on this most holy night as we celebrate the feast of our Savior's birth, let us pray for all those in need and for ourselves, saying:

#### Loving God, hear our prayer.

For the Universal Church in all places, that it may faithfully proclaim the good news of salvation and offer care for our neighbors in need in all corners of the world, we pray to you, O God.

#### Loving God, hear our prayer.

For peace in our troubled world, especially in Israel/Palestine and in those places in our nation where violence and pain are felt daily, that the darkness of injustice and violence may be replaced by the light of your righteousness and peace, we pray to you, O God.

#### Loving God, hear our prayer.

For all who will be born today and all who will die today, those in any need or trouble: the homeless; the unemployed; the hungry and those in prison; that they may know God's love, we pray to you, O God.

#### Loving God, hear our prayer.

For the sick and all those who care for them, that our skill may be used to banish fear and relieve pain, and by your grace wholeness may be restored, we pray to you O God.

#### Loving God, hear our prayer.

For those who labor this night on behalf of others: emergency responders and medical personnel; police officers and firefighters, for servicemen and women deployed far from home, and all those whose work prevents them from sharing this evening with those they love, we pray to you, O God.

#### Loving God, hear our prayer.

For the Leaders of the Church throughout the world, especially those in Jerusalem and Canterbury; for Michael our Presiding Bishop and Santosh our Bishop; for Frank, our Rector; and most especially the congregation of Christ Church Parish that we may do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God, we pray to you, O God.

#### Loving God, hear our prayer.

For those who have gone before us in the faith, especially those in whose memory the Christmas Flowers are given, that the light of God's eternal glory may shine on them, we pray to you, O God.

#### Loving God, hear our prayer.

Creative and Merciful God, you loved the world so much that you gave us your Beloved Son, hear the prayers of the people you have chosen as your own. Give us zeal for your mission and joy in our service, through Jesus Christ our Brother and Friend. **Amen**.

#### Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Leader 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 Celebrant 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.

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

#### The Holy Communion

#### The Offertory Anthem

"He is Born"

-Talley

Noel! He is born, the holy child. Play the music, sing your songs. He is born, the holy child, let us rejoice and sing praise.

Through the ages of the past, prophets have foretold His coming. Share the story of His birth. Born is a babe, born is a child, born our Heavenly King! Hallelujah!

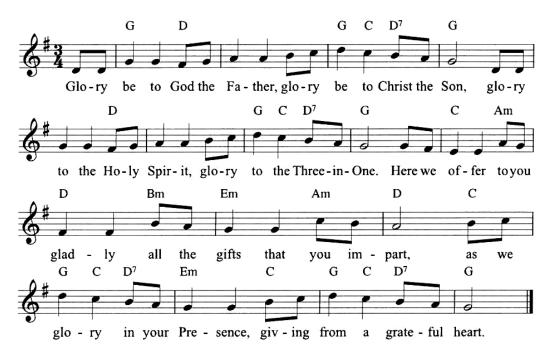
Now is born the holy child. Son of God and son of man. Now is born the holy child. Let us rejoice on this day.

Coming as a child among us. O how lovely, O how pure, This precious gift, sent from above. Worship Him in praise. Hallelujah!

He is born the holy child. Earth and heav'n rejoice and sing. He is born the holy child. Born just a man. Born to be King. Born to set us free! Hallelujah!

Noel! Rejoice and sing. Noel! (text adapted from a trad. French carol)

#### +Offertory Response



Offertory response words copyright © 2003 Brenda J. Heard. Permission to copy and use in local church worship and music is granted with the inclusion of this entire copyright citation on every copy. Source: The United Methodist General Board of Discipleship, Center for Worship Resourcing, PO Box 340003, Nashville, Tennessee 37203-0003. Telephone (615) 340-7070; Websitehttp://www.umcworship.org; Email Address: WorshipCenter@gbod.org.

#### +The Great Thanksgiving

(Congregation please stand as able)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

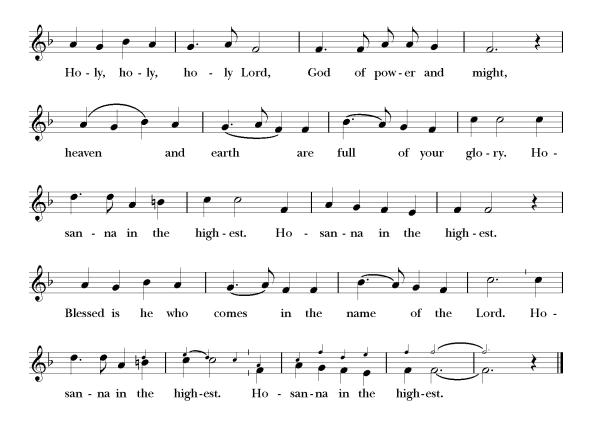
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant sings

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 of the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

<sup>+</sup>Please stand as able



The people stand or kneel as able. Then the Celebrant continues

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,

Celebrant and People

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

#### The Celebrant continues

And we offer this 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.

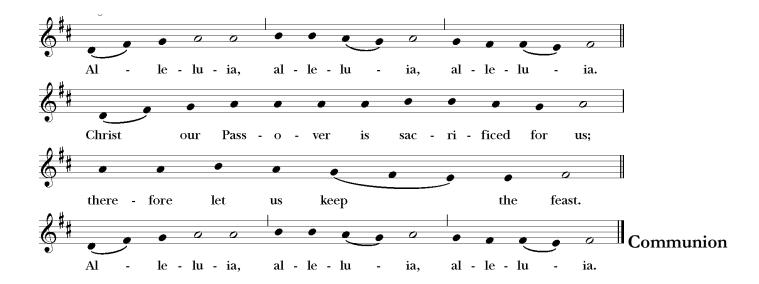
By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen**.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.

#### <sup>+</sup>The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread, a period of silence is kept, and the Celebrant sings





Where shepherds lately knelt and kept the angel's word, I come in half belief, a pilgrim strangely stirred, but there is room and welcome there for me.

In that unlikely place I find him as they said: sweet newborn babe, how frail, and in a manger bed, a still, small voice to cry one day for me.

How should I not have known Isaiah would be there, his prophecies fulfilled? With pounding heart, I stare: a child, a son, the Prince of Peace for me.

Can I, will I, forget how love was born, and burned its way into my heart unasked, unforced, unearned, to die, to live, and not alone for me? (text by Jaroslav J. Vajda)

#### \*Post-Communion Prayer

(Congregation please stand as able)

Celebrant and People

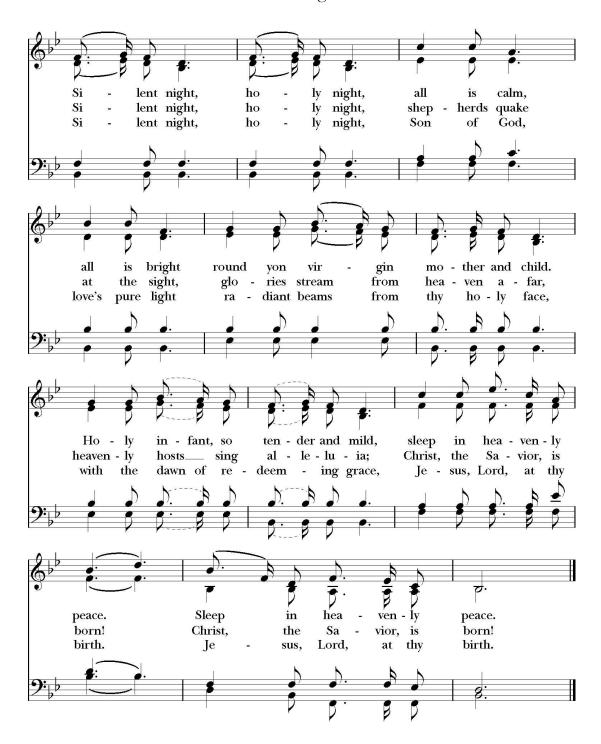
Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness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

The lights will be dimmed as the acolytes light the candles in the congregation. (9 p.m. only)

All kneel or sit for the singing of "Silent Night"

#### Hymn of Meditation

#### "Silent Night"



#### <sup>+</sup>The Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen**.

(Please extinguish candles)



#### +The Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go forth in peace,

rejoicing that God has come to dwell among us.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.

**\*Postlude** "Join the Triumph of the Skies"

-arr. Wagner

Hymns reprinted under OneLicense.net, A709795 © 1985 Church Pension Fund

Cover Art-Census at Bethlehem by Bruegel

#### Serving at 4:00 PM

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Frank B. Crumbaugh III

Deacon: The Rev. Melody Sutherland

Musicians: Gary Van Essen (director), Dave Hasek (organ), Kate Fachet (Flute)

Eucharistic Ministers: Lois Vanderbok, Leslie Schneider

Lectors: Beverly Cooper, Becky Myers Ushers: Charlie Schwan, Bob Rosekrans

Acolytes: Izzy Slavin (crucifer), Samuel Radley- Taylor, Avery Miller

**Greeters:** Connie Clark, Becky Myers

#### Serving at 9:00 PM

Tonight's service will be Live Streamed on YouTube

Celebrant & Preacher: The Rev. Frank B. Crumbaugh III

Musicians: Gary Van Essen (director), Dave Hasek (organ), Lucas White (cantor)

Eucharistic Ministers: Liza Hamill, Jeff Pike

Lectors: Donna Guilford, Betsy Sipes

Ushers: Bernie Gast, Dan Starsoneck, Marguerite Starsoneck

**Acolytes:** Katie Schaefer, Emily Schaefer (crucifer), Landon Rosekrans

**Greeters:** Caroline Aland, Susie Reckord **Counters:** Bob Thompson, Dottie Wilson

Video Tech: Dottie Wilson



## **Christmas Memorials**



Given by: In Memory of:

Bluette Blinoff & Laurie Kolbeins Henry & Rosa Kolbeins

Nancy & Stan Link Betty & Alois Link, Audrey & Anthony Maczis

Becky Myers Paul Mason Johns

Mike Parmer & Leslie Schneider Charles & Joan Cammarata, Harold & Jeanne Parmer,

Irving & Betty Schneider

Judy & Al Peppel Departed Loved Ones

Bud & Lynne Shand Loved Ones

Betsy Sipes Allan Sipes, Thelma Boffen

Patti Snyder Bruce Stewart
Felicia Rosekrans Dawn Raynor
Gary & Emily Van Essen Our Grandparents

Goldey & Helen Vansant Marie Vansant, Goldey Vansant, Sr., Arthur & Helen Perkins,

Stanley & Pearl Vansant, Loved Ones, Janet Thompson

Given by: In Honor of:

Liza Hamill Wallace, Marigold, Christopher, Kaitlin, Harriet,

my great-nephews and great-nieces

Bud & Lynne Shand Our Children & Our Grandson
Carole Tulip Thankful for family & friends
Gary & Emily Van Essen The CCPKI Choir & Praise Band

Rev Ken & Cheryl Valentine Josh & Taylor Valentine, Rachel & Lotfy, Little Aria

Goldey & Helen Vansant Our Grandchildren, Gavreel & River Vansant

Please join us for these Upcoming Events

December 25th—10:00 am Worship Service

December 31st - 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist |

May you all have a blessed Christmas and a very Healthy and Happy New Year!