



The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

Vigil and Holy Eucharist

December 24, 2024
4:30 p.m.



MERRY CHRISTMAS!

We're so glad you chose to be here at Resurrection today.

Whether you're here for the first time, or are a life-long member, Resurrection is a hopeful, healing, transformation-minded kind of place, a place where everyone is welcome and can grow their relationship with God and with one another.

If you *are* here for the first time (or if you just haven't gotten around to it yet), please fill out a pew card and put it in the offering plate or scan the QR code to let us know you were here. To receive our weekly email bulletin, be sure to include your email address. And let us know if you would like to connect with our parish life and ministries; we're happy to help you find your spot!



Online
Visitor Card

Our services follow *The Book of Common Prayer*, the red book in your pew rack. If you'd like to use the book to follow the service, we begin on page 355. Unless otherwise marked, our hymns are from the *Hymnal 1982*, the blue books in the pew rack.

Select annotations taken from *Annotations* © 2001 Frank Logue

To learn more about Resurrection, check out www.episcopalloudon.com, email us at office@episcopalloudon.com, or find us on Facebook or Instagram.

Fill out a pew card or email office@episcopalloudon.com to be placed on on the weekly email, *Parish Tidings*, for the latest information from Resurrection.

If you can't make it here in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook!

facebook.com/episcopalloudon



instagram.com/episcopalloudon

GLORIFYING GOD BY

REFRESHING SOULS | BRIDGING COMMUNITIES | ENGAGING PEOPLE IN SERVICE

A Note on Tonight's Service

Welcome to our parish! Tonight Christians throughout the world celebrate the birth of our Savior. We welcome people of every race and tongue and faith to this celebration. We invite you to participate fully and to join us in rejoicing at the birth of him who is the fulfillment of the deepest and best hopes of all people and all faiths.

We begin with lighting the Christ candle, and from it, our candles. We listen to the ancient prophecies and sing our hope as we wait in vigil (watching) for the Christ child. Then we begin our celebration of Immanuel, God-with-us, in a service of Holy Eucharist.

In the birth of Christ we celebrate more than an idea, more than a philosophical truth. We celebrate that, at a specific time and place, he through whom all was created came to be part of his own creation and began his life among us as one of us. "In the days of Caesar Augustus . . . when Quirinius was governor of Syria . . . in the city of David, which is called Bethlehem."

What Isaiah had hoped for in the seventh century B.C. came, bringing light to the nations. "Unto us a child is born . . . his name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Paul, in writing to Titus, reminds him that the coming of Christ into the world calls us to a new life, a life of uprightness and godliness as we prepare for Christ's return.

In story, song, Word, and Sacrament, we celebrate this coming and answer to God's call to be his people—to return to him who is the source of our life and salvation.

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST VIGIL AND HOLY EUCHARIST

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

All stand as the ministers enter, and the Officiant says

People Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Lesson of Scripture

2 Corinthians 4:5-6

We do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Collect for Light

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may 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. **Amen.**

Hymn at the Candlelighting

Of the Father's love begotten

Hymnal 82

As the hymn is sung, the congregation's candles are lighted with fire from the Christ candle.

VIGIL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

The people are seated for the readings and stand to sing.

1. Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-25

God creates man and woman to live in obedience to him in the Garden of Eden

Hymn

I sing the almighty power of God

Hymnal 398

2. Genesis 3:1-23

Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden

Hymn

Creator of the stars of night

Hymnal 60

3. Luke 1:5-25

An angel announces to Zechariah that his wife Elizabeth will bear a son.

Hymn

On Jordan's bank

Hymnal 76

4. Luke 1:26-38

The Angel Gabriel announces to the Virgin Mary that she will bear the Son of the Most High.

Hymn

The angel Gabriel from heaven came

Hymnal 265

5. Luke 1:39-46

The Virgin Mary is greeted by Elizabeth and proclaims her joy.

Hymn

Sing of Mary, pure and lowly

Hymnal 277

A few moments of quiet and a musical interlude are observed as latecomers are seated and we prepare prayerfully for our Holy Eucharist. Please extinguish your candles and save them to use at the end of the service.

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Procession Hymn *All stand.*
Hark! The herald angels sing

Hymnal 87

The Celebrant says

People Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
**And blessed be his kingdom, now and for
ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant says the Collect for Purity

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 is sung, all standing

Hymn of Praise
Angels we have heard on high

Hymnal 96

Collect of the Day

Celebrant 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 congregation may be seated.

THE LESSONS

First Reading Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7

Lector: A Reading from the Book of the prophet Isaiah

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 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.

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96

Lector We will read the Psalm in unison.

- 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.

Second Reading Titus 2:11-14

Lector: A Reading from Paul's Letter to Titus.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn *All stand*

Good Christian friends, rejoice

Hymnal 107

The Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:1-20

Priest 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.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Marc Strong

Nicene Creed

All stand and together say

**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.**

Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

The Leader and People pray responsively

Gracious and Loving God, in Jesus you have filled all humanity with your divine life: Hear our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as we offer our supplications to you, saying: Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth.

You have entrusted the church with good news of great joy for all people: Inspire our witness that we may spread the light of Jesus' love to all humanity.

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

Let your power and compassion guide those who exercise authority on earth, that they may be servants of peace, bringing comfort and security to all who are vulnerable.

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

Embrace with your eternal protection all who are poor: refugees and the displaced, those threatened by violence, and families with no place to call their home.

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

Fill this community with hospitality and generosity, that we may care for one another and celebrate the joy of your presence in our humanity.

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

We entrust to your divine grace all for whom we pray, especially **Aaron; Sarah; Killian; Frances & Becky; Stephen; the Hentchel family; and for victims of weather, war, poverty, disease and violence.**

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

We entrust into your eternal arms those who have died.

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

Loving God, the joyful message of the angels fills us with gladness as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child to live among us in vulnerable humility: Let your divine light so dwell within us, that we may treasure your words, ponder them in our hearts, and continue the work of Christ's incarnation in our day, through Jesus our Savior, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says to the people

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant and People together, all kneeling

**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 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.**

Peace

Celebrant 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.

Welcome

HOLY COMMUNION

The Celebrant says

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory

O Holy Night

Solo, Lisa Amelse

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

Eucharistic Prayer B

The Celebrant says

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

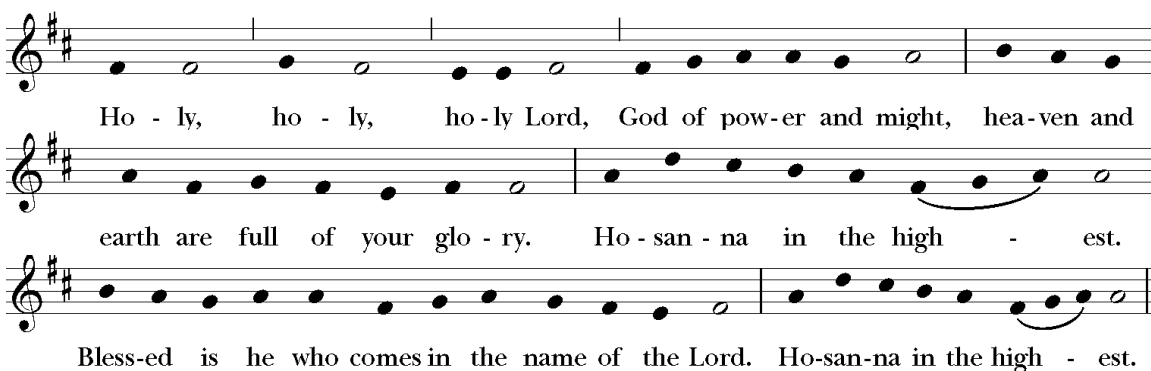
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

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:

Sanctus

Hymnal S-124



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

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."

Memorial Acclamation

Hymnal S138

Celebrant

Therefore, according to his com - mand, O Fa - ther,

Celebrant and People

We re - mem - ber his death, We pro - claim his re - sur -

rec - tion, We a - wait his com - ing in glo - ry.

The Celebrant continues

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.

Hymnal S-147



The Celebrant then continues

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

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.

Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.
A period of silence is kept.*

This setting is not used in Lent.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
 there - fore let us keep the feast.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We encourage you to come forward to receive Holy Communion as you feel comfortable. Remain seated, and the usher will direct you forward to the communion rail. After receiving communion, please return to your seat by the side aisle, so that traffic flows one way.

If you would prefer communion be brought to you at your seat, please let an usher know and, as always, we will be happy to do so. If you prefer not to receive communion, please cross your arms over your chest as a sign that you prefer a blessing.

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

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal 79

As you return to your seat, light your candle from the usher's candle or your neighbor's candle.

Post Communion Prayer

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

The Celebrant and People together say

**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.**

Postcommunion Hymn

Silent night, holy night (kneeling)

Hymnal 111

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen**

Hymn in procession

Go tell it on the mountain

Hymnal 99

Dismissal

Priest

Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.

People

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Today's Art



The Adoration of Jesus

1505/1510

Giorgione (Venetian, 1477/1478-1510)

Oil on panel

National Gallery of Art, Washington D.C.



The Adoration of the Shepherds, or the Allendale Nativity, as it is commonly known after one of its previous owners, is now almost unanimously accepted as Giorgione's work. This important painting had an immediate impact on Venetian artists. The composition is divided into two parts, with a dark cave on the right and a luminous Venetian landscape on the left. The shimmering draperies of Joseph and Mary are set off by the darkness behind them and contrast with the tattered dress of the shepherds. The scene is one of intense meditation; the rustic, yet dignified, shepherds are the first to recognize Christ's divinity and they kneel accordingly. Mary and Joseph also participate in the adoration, creating an atmosphere of intimacy.

Giorgione has always been considered one of the greatest artists of the Renaissance, and one whose influence on following generations of painters was considerable. For all his fame, very little is known about his short life (he may have died during a plague epidemic in 1510 at age 32 or 33), and only a few paintings can be definitively attributed to him. He initially studied with Giovanni Bellini, seems to have been influenced by Leonardo, and could claim Titian and Sebastiano del Piombo as his pupils.

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Thank you for joining us today! We hope to see you again soon.

We invite you to join us for worship at 8:00 or 10:30 am each Sunday.

If you can't make it in person, join us at 10:30, live on Facebook!

facebook.com/episcopalloudon

- ? Curious about the Episcopal Church?
 - Wonder why we do what we do?
 - Questions about what we believe and how we worship?

Great information is available at episcopalchurch.org.

- ? Questions about our service?
 - Curious about Church of the Resurrection?
 - Wondering how we're being the church in these days?

We welcome you to visit us at our website or call us at the number below.

