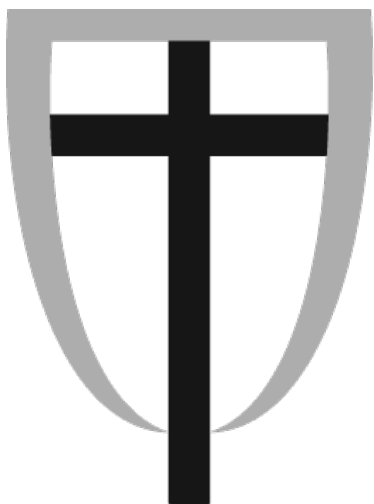


**CHRISTMAS EVE:
THE NATIVITY OF
OUR LORD**

**MINISTRY OF
THE WORD
RITE II**

Thursday, December 24, 2020
Online



**ST. JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH
BATON ROUGE**

Opening Anthem *Sussex Carol*

arr. David Willcocks (1919-2015)
Sung by the Chancel and Treble Choirs,
Christmas 2019

Opening Hymn

Adeste fideles



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;
*O come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord.*

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

2 God of God,
Light of Light,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Very God,
Begotten not created:
Refrain

4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
born this happy morning;
Jesu, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father,
now in flesh appearing;
Refrain

The Opening Acclamation

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

People **And blessed be his kindom, now and forever. Amen.**

Officiant 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,

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.

Refrain

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o. Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

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The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Celebrant 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*

Lector A reading from 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 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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96 *Cantate Domino*

- 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.

The Second Lesson *Titus 2:11-14*

Lector A reading from the 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.**

The Sequence Hymn

Hymn 101 (vs. 1), Cradle Song

1 A - way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.

The Gospel Lesson *Luke 2:1-20*

Preacher 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 an

Preacher The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Rev. Christopher R. Duncan

Hymn

Hymn 105 (vs. 1), God rest you merry

1 God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, let noth - ing you dis - may;

re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - vior was born on Christ - mas Day,

to save us all from Sa - tan's power when we were gone a - stray.

Refrain

O tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and

joy; O tid - ings of com - fort and joy!

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: *Form VI*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael the Presiding Bishop, Morris our bishop, and Robert our Bishop in residence; for our priests: Chris and Drew; for our Deacon: Pat; for our Seminarian Annie; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Absolution

Celebrant 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 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.

Hymn

Hymn 111, Stille nacht

Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake
Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,
love's pure light ra - dian beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.
born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!
birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn

Mendelssohn



1 Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim
Christ is born in Bethlehem!
*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings;
mild he lays his glory by,
born that man no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give them second birth.
Refrain

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored;
Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a Virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail the incarnate Deity.
Pleased as man with man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Refrain

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Voluntary

Carillon on a Ukrainian Bell Carol Gerald Near (b. 1942)
Recorded at First United Methodist Church, Baton Rouge

Christmas Dedications

- The Christmas Trees are given in memory of Cyril Ann Heroman McBride, and Billy and Janet Heroman by the Billy Heroman and McBride Families
- The Usher boutonnieres are given in loving memory of Chick and Ann Lynn Colvin by their family

Poinsettias Dedications

- In thanksgiving for our children Susan and Otey White, Linda and Ben Gibson and our grandchildren Benjamin, William and Emily White, and Abigail and Bennett Gibson by Rieta and Ben Reiser
- In thanksgiving for their many blessings by Buzzy and Susie Heroman, Ted and Cate Heroman, Pat McBride, Jan and Herb Sumrall, Amy and Christian Kurtz, Todd and Marcie McBride, Robert and Sarah Heroman, and Ben and Adria Heroman
- In thanksgiving for Martha Grant Adams, H. Grant Adams, Rev. Blount H. Grant, Jr., and Bahin Leonard by Julia Graham Adams
- In thanksgiving for the Richard Family, Randy, Deneen, Ryann, Kathryn, and Aunt Mary by D.J. and Martha Richard
- In thanksgiving for Martha Adams and Julie Adams
- In gratitude of happy times with Jack Sentell, by the Sentell and Mathison families
- In thanksgiving for Grant and Julie Adams and Blount Grant by Martha Adams
- In memory of their parents Mr. and Mrs. Paul Gant and Robert Libbers and Lois Johnson by David and Elizabeth Libbers
- In memory of Stanley and Charlye D'Armond by Bill and Margaret D'Armond
- In loving memory of our parents, Betty and O.B. Romero, by the Romero daughters, Clare Banwart, Cathy Muller, and Debbie Taylor
- In memory of Edward Middleton Adams and Frank Leonard by Julia Graham Adams
- In loving memory of Ron Zappe by Ann Zappe and Family
- In memory of my brother, Neal McNamara and father, Gordon P. Boutwell by Steve Boutwell
- In memory of my parents, Bob and Betty Lawrence by Rob Lawrence
- In loving memory of my husband Frank Leonard by Bahin Leonard
- With thankfulness, in loving memory of our dear friend, The Right Rev. James M. Coleman by Mary Sentell
- In thankful memory of wonderful times with dear friends, David Culbert, Margaret Shaffer Dickson, The Rev. M. Allen Dickson, Sallie Sunshine Rice, Leslie Sammons, and Ron Zappe by Mary Sentell
- In fond memory of well-loved members of our St. James family, Pat Bacot, Puddin and Walter Bankston, Annette and Martin Broderick, Carter Coleman, Edith and Fred Drew, Frank Leonard, Jane and Frank Middleton, Gay Middleton, Fielding

Phillips, Peggy Lou and Lenton Sartain, and Danie and Bill Singleton by Mary Sentell

- In memory of Betty Poirrier Stirling
- In loving memory of our parents Monica and Joe Broyles and Barbara Ann Faith Bennett and Don C. Faith, Jr. (Lt. Col. US ARMY) and Warren K. Bennett (Maj. Gen. US ARMY) by Bobbie Broyles
- In memory of Augustine Reynaud Randolph by Bill and Margaret D'Armond
- In memory of loved ones by the Ozier Family

Music Dedications

- In thanksgiving for our family by John and Virginia Noland
- In memory of John K. Carpenter by John Sykes

If you would like to donate toward the flowers as a memorial or offering throughout the year, please contact Monica Dugas, Office Administrator at MDugas@stjamesbr.org.