

**ADVENT EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**3760 Dover Center Road**  
**Westlake, OH 44145**  
**440-871-6685**

**December 24, 2023**

**7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Eve**

**Holy Eucharist – Rite II – The Word of God**

**PRELUDE Brass Quartet**

**PROCESSIONAL Hymn #83 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

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

Sing, choirs or angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**STATION AT A CHRISTMAS CRECHE**

*Celebrant* The word was made flesh and dwelt among us:

*People* ***And we beheld his glory.***

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*The Celebrant says*

Almighty God and ever living God, you have given us a new revelation of your loving providence in the Coming of your Son Jesus Christ to be born of the Virgin Mary: Grant that as he shared our mortality, so we may share his eternity in the glory of your kingdom; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

**Hymn #96 Angels we have heard on high**

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

Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo. (Chorus)

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why these songs of happy cheer?

What great brightness did you see? What glad tidings did you hear?

**Refrain**

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

**Refrain**

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

**Refrain**

*The Celebrant says to the people*

The Lord be with you.

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

**THE COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**BCP 212**

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.**

**READING**

**Isaiah 9:2-4, 6-7**

**Pew Bible 722**

*Reader*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people sit*

**PSALM**

**96:1-4, 11-12**

**BCP 725**

- <sup>1</sup> Sing to the LORD a new song;\*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- <sup>2</sup> Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;\*  
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- <sup>3</sup> Declare his glory among the nations\*  
and his wonders among all peoples.
- <sup>4</sup> For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;\*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- <sup>11</sup> 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.
- <sup>12</sup> Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes,\*  
when he comes to judge the earth.

**Psalm Response (sing)**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost, as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

**READING**

**Titus 2:11-14**

**Pew Bible 1252**

*Reader*

The Word of the Lord.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL PROCESSION

What child is this, who, laid to rest,  
On Mary's lap is sleeping?  
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet,  
While shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King,  
whom shepherds guard and angels sing:  
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate  
Where ox and ass are feeding?  
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here  
The silent Word is pleading. *(Chorus)*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke.

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

**THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2:1-20 Pew Bible 1071**

*Celebrant* *The Gospel of the Lord.*

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

So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,  
Come, peasant, king, to own him;  
The King of kings salvation brings,  
Let loving hearts enthrone him. *(Chorus)*

## SERMON

**Pastor Paul Laursen**

**NICENE CREED (all standing)**

**BCP 358**

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**

**BCP 389, Form 5**

*Leader*

In peace, let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy".

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For Archbishop Welby; our Presiding Bishop Curry; our own Bishop Jolly; for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For all who fear God and believe in you, Lord Christ, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, have mercy***

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, have mercy.***

For those in positions of public trust, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, have mercy***

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, have mercy***

For this congregation (for those who are present, and for those who are absent), that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, have mercy***

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, have mercy***

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, O Lord.

***Lord, have mercy***

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.

***To you, O Lord our God.***

*Silence*

***Our Father in heaven,***

***We pray with open hearts and minds to know your will for us.***

***Reveal to us the initiatives we should take:***

***For nourishing ourselves with your Word; for supporting each other in Christian fellowship; for taking the Gospel to outside communities; and for loving and serving others in the power of your Spirit. We are grateful for the pastoral encouragement you have provided us in this season. We are grateful for our lay leadership in their shouldering of extra burdens. Lord, we ask that you lay bare the hearts of this congregation, and open each one of us to every new day. Open us to what you have for our future as a new church family in Christ.***

***Amen.***

O Lord, God of our fathers, your Advent people have stood steadfast in the truth of Your Word. We have strived to be the beacon of light in our corner of this world, guiding others to you. We search for the means to stay on this path together. We stand before you crying out to you. We know this battle belongs to You Lord. We cannot do this ourselves. As we walk on the path you have set before us, we sing your praises and give you thanks Lord! We know that you will show us the way. Amen

## **CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION**

**BCP 360**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Celebrant 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.

*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 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 Celebrant and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

### **THE HOLY COMMUNION**

#### **OFFERTORY O Little Town of Bethlehem #79**

*Celebrant* Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts.

#### **PRESENTATION OF ALMS & OBLATIONS**

#### **PREPARATION OF ELEMENTS**

#### **DOXOLOGY**

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

*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. Amen.*

#### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

##### **Eucharistic Prayer D**

BCP 372

*The people remain standing.*

*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 him thanks and praise.**

*The Celebrant continues*

It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks;  
for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light  
inaccessible from before time and for ever.

Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all  
things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to  
rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.

Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you  
night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence,  
they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and  
giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you,  
and glorify your Name, as we sing,

#### **The Sanctus (sing)**

O holy, holy, holy Lord,

O God of pow'r God of might!

The heav'ns and earth are filled with Your glory.

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, our God!

Blessed! Blessed is he who comes

Hosanna in the highest!

*The people stand or kneel.*

*Then the Celebrant continues*

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

*Celebrant and People say,*

*We praise you, we bless you,  
we give thanks to you,  
and we pray to you, Lord our God.*

*The Celebrant continues*

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

*Celebrant* *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.

### **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**BCP 364**

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

*People* ***Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.***

*Celebrant* 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.

\* *All baptized Christians are welcome to receive communion.*

*For those not yet baptized (or for baptized visitors who do not wish to receive the Sacrament), you may come to the altar rail and cross your arms; the priest will be happy to pray a prayer of blessings.\* Administration of Communion:*

- *Please follow usher's directions to altar rail.*

- *The consecrated bread is offered with the words,*

*"The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven." (Amen).*

- *The chalice and intinction cup are offered with the words,*

*"The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation," (Amen).*

\* *You may dip your bread in the intinction cup \* Intercessory Prayer is available at the back of the Sanctuary.*

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

**Hymn #101** **Away in a Manger**

**Hymn #105** **God Rest You Merry Gentlemen**

*The Celebrant says* Let us pray.

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER** *(said by all)*

**BCP 365**



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.

**CANDLE LIGHTING                  Hymn #111                  Silent Night**

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.  
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!  
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.

**THE BLESSING**

**RECESSIONAL    Hymn # 100                  Joy To The World**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come:  
Let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.  
Joy to the world! The Savior reigns, let us our songs  
employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains,  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.  
He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the  
nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and wonders  
of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders,  
wonders of his love.

**THE DISMISSAL**

BCP 366

**POSTLUDE    Hark! The Herald Angels Sing!**

*On Christmas Eve, all of the candles in the Advent Wreath are lighted. The white Christ Candle in the center, symbolizing Christ's coming into the world, is lighted last.*



**Christmas Poinsettia's**

**IN MEMORY FOR**

**Lamuel and Nita Ritchie - Our Parents**

**Ray Busony- Andrew and Pierrette Busony**

**Susan Boyce- Avril Carruth, James Carruth, Hazel Boyce, and Edward Boyce**

**Teddi Augustine- Ray Augustine**

**Max and Barbara Gage- Our Parents**

**John Urbas- Liz Urbas**

**Bruce Bunn- My Grandparents**

**Anne and John Crothall- Parents and Gordon Meldrum**

**THANKSGIVING FOR**

**Mindy Rothrock- Advent Church**

**Max and Barbara Gage- Our Loved One's**

**Dick McCormick- God's Provision**

**Beverly Cummings- Jesus the Greatest Gift**

**Bill Carangio- Joyce Carangio**

**Pat Perris- Family and Friends**

**Peter and Jennifer Meckes- Family and Friends**

**The Khoury Family- Family, Friends, and Faith**

**Kathryn and Paul Laursen-The Lord's Blessing on our Lives**

**The Nagy's- God's gifts to us**