ST PAUL'S CHAPEL



A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS

CHRISTMAS EVE 2022

A SAMPLE SERVICE FROM MICHAELMILTON.ORG



WHY do you give the baby gold?
The guiding star foretold a king.
A little child shall lead you, bring
No metal rich and cold.

Who brings my boy this frankincense?
The star foretold a priestly role.
A little child shall save your soul,
Not gifts of great expense.

What is this myrrh? What do you see?
The star foretold a bitter cup.
'And I if I be lifted up
Shall draw all men to me.'

A child shall lead you from tonight.

The angel heralded his birth.

Our Saviour born to save the earth,

Our Way, our Truth, our Light.

Three gifts that far outweigh all gold
And gifts like frankincense and myrrh.
Sleep, child, my little comforter,
That no star has foretold.

MARY'S CAROL ©PETER DALE, 2006 Enitharmon Press

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

¶ The congregation stands as the choir and clergy Begin the processional. All join in singing the last four verses of the hymn.

Solo

Once in royal David's city
Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby
In a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

Choir

He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God and Lord of all, And his shelter was a stable, And his cradle was a stall; With the poor and mean and lowly, Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

All

And through all his wondrous childhood He would honour and obey, Love and watch the lowly maiden, In whose gentle arms he lay; Christian children all must be Mild, obedient, good as he.

All

For he is our childhood's pattern, Day by day like us he grew, He was little, weak, and helpless, Tears and smiles like us he knew; And he feeleth for our sadness, And he shareth in our gladness.

BIDDING PRAYER

¶ Then, all standing, this bidding prayer is said.

The Minister

BELOVED IN CHRIST, be it this Christmas Eve our care and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels: in heart and mind to go even unto Bethlehem and see this thing which is come to pass, and the Babe lying in a manger.

Let us read and mark in Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days of our disobedience unto the glorious Redemption brought us by this Holy Child; and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise:

But first let us pray for the needs of this world, where dictators and oppressors rule, may the peace of Christ Jesus break through and bring freedom and where there is spiritual oppression, let the power of the Gospel break through with heavenly power to free men and women and boys and girls.

And because this of all things would rejoice his heart, let us at this time remember in his name the poor and the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed; the sick in body and in mind and them that mourn; the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not the Lord Jesus.

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 man can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in this Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one.

These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words which Christ himself hath

taught us: Our Father ...

All

Our Father, which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

The Minister

The Almighty God bless us with his grace: Christ give us the joys of everlasting life: and bring us in this worship service into the very courts of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, whose birth we celebrate on this Christmas Eve!

All

Amen.

¶The congregation sits.

FIRST LESSON

READER: A CHORISTER

God tells sinful Adam that he has lost the life of Paradise and that his seed will bruise the serpent's head. GENESIS 3

AND they heard the voice of the LordGod walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou? And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself. And he said, Who

told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree. whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat. And the LordGod said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: and I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel. And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken; for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All. Thanks be to God.

CAROL

AWAY in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
I love thee Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky,
And stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay

Close by me for ever, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

Words, 19TH CENTURY Music, J. TAVENER

SECOND LESSON

READER: A REPRESENTATIVE OF ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL

The prophet foretells the coming of the Saviour. ISAIAH 9

THE people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined. For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All. Thanks be to God.

HYMN

¶ Sung by all, standing.

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.

God of God, Light of Light, Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Very God, Begotten, not created.

Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
'Glory to God
In the highest'.

Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning, Jesu, to thee be glory given; Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing:

ADESTE FIDELES
Words trans.,F. OAKELEY
Melody, J. F. WADE
Descant, S. J. CLEOBURY
Encore Publications

THIRD LESSON

READER: THE ASSISTANT MINISTER OF ST. PAUL'S

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. ST JOHN 1

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light

shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

All. Thanks be to God.

FOURTH LESSON

¶ All standing

READER: THE SENIOR MINISTER

The shepherds go to the manger. ST LUKE 2

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling

clothes, 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, good will toward men. And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

SENIOR MINISTER: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

All. Praise to Thee Lord Christ!

CAROLS

¶ Sung by all, standing.

WHILE shepherds watched their flocks by night, All seated on the ground, The angel of the Lord came down, And glory shone around.

'Fear not,' said he (for mighty dread Had seized their troubled mind); 'Glad tidings of great joy I bring To you and all mankind.'

'To you in David's town this day
Is born of David's line
A Saviour, who is Christ the Lord,
And this shall be the sign:'

'The heavenly Babe you there shall find To human view displayed, All meanly wrapped in swathing bands, And in a manger laid.'

Thus spake the Seraph; and forthwith Appeared a shining throng Of angels praising God, who thus Addressed their joyful song:

'All glory be to God on high,
And to the earth be peace;
Goodwill henceforth from heaven to men
Begin and never cease.'

Words, N. TATE Music, ESTE'S PSALTER, 1592 Descant, S. J. CLEOBURY Encore Publications

IT came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
'Peace on the earth, good-will to men,
From heaven's all gracious King!'
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come, With peaceful wings unfurled; And still their heavenly music floats O'er all the weary world; Above its sad and lowly plains They bend on hovering wing; And ever o'er its Babel sounds The bless'ed angels sing.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife The world has suffered long; Beneath the angel-strain have rolled Two thousand years of wrong; And man, at war with man, hears not The love-song which they bring:

O hush the noise, ye men of strife,
And hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When, with the ever-circling years,
Comes round the age of gold;
When peace shall over all the earth
Its ancient splendors fling,
And the whole world give back the song
Which now the angels sing.

Words,E. SEARS
ENGLISH TRADITIONAL MELODY
Arr.,A. SULLIVAN
Descant, S. J. CLEOBURY
Oxford University Press

HARK! the herald angels sing:
'Glory to the new-born 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 new-born King!'

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!

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 the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth.

Words, C. WESLEY AND G. WHITEFIELD

Music, J. L. F. MENDELSSOHN-BARTHOLDY

Descant, S. J. CLEOBURY

Encore Publications

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

¶ All seated.

SERMON

"The Angel's Song" (Luke 2.12-15)

Dr. Michael A. Milton

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 among those with whom he is pleased!" When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." Luke 2.12-15 (English Standard Version)

HOLY COMMUNION

¶ Then, all standing, Creed is recited.

APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord:

Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

He descended into hell;

The third day He arose again from the dead;

He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN AND AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Led by minister

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Hear the words of the institution of the Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ:
The Lord Jesus, on the night of his arrest, took bread, and after giving thanks to God, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood,

shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.

Whenever you drink it,
do it for the remembrance of me."

Holy God, 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.

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

-based on 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

SUMMARY OF SCRIPTURAL TEACHING

Christ calls the bread his body and the cup his blood. or the new covenant in his blood. Christ has good reason for these words. He wants to teach us that as bread and wine nourish our temporal life, so too his crucified body and poured-out blood truly nourish our souls for eternal life. But more important, he wants to assure us, by this visible sign and pledge, that we, through the Holy Spirit's work, share in his true body and blood as surely as our mouths receive these holy signs in his remembrance, and that all of his suffering and obedience are as definitely ours as if we personally had suffered and paid for our sins.

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A 79

INVITATION

O taste and see that the LORD is good; happy are those who take refuge in him.

—Psalm 34:8, ESV

FENCING OF THE TABLE

Professing and baptized members in good standing of a church in which Jesus Christ is professed as Lord and Savior are warmly invited to join with us in the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Minister and People Responsively

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Minister

It is right for us to give thanks and praise, O Lord, our God, sustainer of the universe. At your command all things came to be. By your will, the vast expanse of space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home, were all created and have their being. You brought forth the human race and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the stewards of creation, but we turned against you and betrayed your trust. Yet your mercy is like a spring that never fails. You yourself, in Christ your Son, come to deliver us: you redeem us in your love and pity; you create new heavens and a new earth where the cry of distress is heard no more. Therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus and with those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory in their unending hymn: [sung or spoken]

All

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Minister

Gracious God,
we recall the death of your Son, Jesus Christ,
we proclaim his resurrection and ascension,
and we look with expectation for his coming as Lord of all the nations.
We who have been redeemed by him
and made a new people by water and the Spirit
now bring you these gifts.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon this bread and cup, and help us by faith to know You and Your grace,
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

The elders serve the people; please take and eat and drink as you receive

COMMUNION PRAYER

BENEDICTION

HYMN OF RESPONSE WITH CANDLELIGHT

The ministers light the candles of the first row as the elders light the candles of congregants down the aisles; the lights are lowered

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.

> Stille Nacht! Heilige Nacht! Words: Joseph Mohr, 1816 Music: Franz Xaver Gruber, 1818

DISMISSAL

Minister: Go in the peace of our living Lord and King, Jesus Christ!

People: Praise the Lord!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas

"Nothing can save us that is possible; We who must die demand a miracle."

W.H. Auden, Collected Longer Poems, page 138

St. Paul's Chapel

Senior Minister
DR MICHAEL A MILTON

Assistant Minister
THE REVD KEVIN BROWN

Director of Music DR STEPHEN LILLY





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS FOR PLANNING THIS SERVICE

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