

CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTIANA HUNDRED

# WELCOME!

Tonight we celebrate the story of our Lord's birth and hear the sacred story of our salvation, told in passages of the Christian scriptures and in the carols of Christmas. We extend a warm welcome to you—our parish family and our guests, both new and returning. This bulletin will guide you through our worship. This service was first offered in the Chapel at King's College Cambridge in England, when soldiers who had survived the Great War were just coming home. Since 1919, the service has begun with the same carol and follows the same pattern of readings to reveal the saving love of God in Jesus, our Redeemer.

Worship includes a time of offering, when we give money as a sign that our life serves God's purposes and expresses gratitude for God's many blessings. Our entire Christmas Offering goes to support Christ Church's Outreach Ministry in the City of Wilmington and beyond. Each year, with funds from the Green Show, our ministry budget, and holiday worship offerings, we give over \$200,000 to support the good work of local social service agencies focused on alleviating the effects of poverty in our community. Please make an offering today so that we can continue that good work, both locally and with our companions in the Dominican Republic. For those who give online at <u>www.christchurchde.org/giving</u> or text a contribution to (302) 244-5368, a card is available in the pews to participate when the offering plate is passed.

Again, a warm welcome to you. If you are visiting for the first time, please make yourself known to the clergy as you leave. If you would like to get to know us better, fill out a welcome card found in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate so that we may contact you. May your Christmas be blessed and full of joy.

The Rev. Ruth L. Beresford Rector

# THE FEAST OF THE INCARNATION

## Voluntary

At the tolling of the bell please stand, as able, as the Choir sings verses 1-2 of

**Entrance Carol** Once in Royal David's City

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.

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, the scorned, the lowly, lived on earth our Savior holy.

#### All join in singing verses 3-6.

We, like Mary, rest confounded that a stable should display Heaven's Word, the world's creator, cradled there on Christmas Day, Yet this child, our Lord and brother, brought us love for one another.

For he is our lifelong pattern; daily, when on earth he grew, He was tempted, scorned, rejected, tears and smiles like us he knew. Thus he feels for all our sadness, and he shares in all our gladness.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love; For that child who seemed so helpless is our Lord in heaven above; And he leads his children on to the place where he is gone.

Not in that poor lowly stable, with the oxen standing round, We shall see him; but in heaven, where his saints his throne surround: Christ, revealed to faithful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

# **A Bidding Prayer**

*Officiant* Beloved in Christ, this day it is our duty and delight to prepare ourselves to hear again the message of the angels, and to go in heart and mind to Bethlehem, and see this thing which has come to pass, and the Babe lying in the manger. Therefore, let us hear again from Holy Scripture the tale of the loving purposes of God from the first days until the glorious redemption brought us by this holy Child; and let us make this house of prayer glad with our carols of praise.

But first, because this of all things would rejoice Jesus' heart, let us pray to him for the needs of the whole world, and all his people; for peace upon the earth he came to save, for love and unity within the one Church he did build; for good will among all peoples. And particularly at this time, let us remember those who are poor, cold, hungry, or oppressed; the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who know not our Lord Jesus, or who love him not, or who by sin have grieved his heart of love.

Lastly, let us remember all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude who no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in our Lord Jesus, we for evermore are one. These prayers and praises let us humbly offer up to the throne of heaven, in the words that Christ himself has taught us, saying

Festive Music for Harp and Organ

Hymn 102, (blue) Hymnal 1982

People 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.

OfficiantMay the almighty God bless us with divine grace, may Christ give us the joy of everlasting life,<br/>and unto the fellowship of the citizens above, may the Spirit of Love bring us all. Amen.

## Please be seated as the Choir sings

A Carol Up! Good Christen Folk from Piae Cantiones, 1582

Ding-dong, ding: Ding-a-dong-a-ding: Ding-dong, ding-dong: Ding-a-dong-ding.

Up! good Christen folk, and listen how the merry church bells ring,

And from steeple bid good people come adore the newborn King:

Tell the story how from glory God came down at Christmastide,

Bringing gladness, chasing sadness, showering blessings far and wide,

Born of mother, blest o'er other, *Ex Maria Virgine*, In the stable ('tis no fable), *Christus natus hodie*.

## The First Lesson

Reader: Ryan Hunter, Christ Church Choral Scholar

And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

At the conclusion the People respond, "Thanks be to God."

#### The Choir sings

A Carol Creator of the Stars of Night

Creator of the stars of night, thy people's everlasting light, Jesu, redeemer, save us all, and hear thy servants when they call. Malcolm Archer (b. 1952)

Genesis 3:8-15, 17-19

(English Standard Version)

arr. G. R. Woodward (1848-1934)

Thou cam'st, bridegroom of the bride, as drew the world to eveningtide, Proceeding from a virgin shrine, the Son of Man, yet all divine.

At thy great Name, exalted now, all knees must bend, all hearts must bow, And things in heaven and earth shall own that thou art Lord and King alone.

To God the Father, God the Son, and God the Spirit, Three in One, Laud, honor, might, and glory be from age to age eternally. Amen.

## The Second Lesson

Reader: Sue Hayes, Lector

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there will be no end, on the throne of David and over his kingdom, to establish it and to uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time forth and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

At the conclusion the People respond, "Thanks be to God."

#### The Choir sings

A Carol In dulci jubilo

*In dulci jubilo*, Let us our homage show; our heart's joy reclineth *in praesepio* And like a bright star shineth, *matris in gremio. Alpha es et O, Alpha es et O.* 

*O Jesu parvule!* I yearn for thee alway! Hear me, I beseech thee, *O Puer optime!* My prayer let it reach thee, *O Princeps gloriae! Trahe me post te! trahe me post te!* 

*O Patris caritas, O Nati lenitas!* Deeply were we stained, *per nostra criminal*; But thou hast for us gained, *coelorum gaudia*. O that we were there! O that we were there!

*Ubi sunt gaudia*, where, if they be not there? There are angels singing *nova cantica*, There the bells are ringing *in Regis curia*: O that we were there, O that we were there!

## The Third Lesson

Reader: Scott Nickle, Vestry Member and Eucharistic Minister

But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth.

At the conclusion the People respond, "Thanks be to God."

#### Please stand and sing

A Carol O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight. Hymn 78, Hymnal 1982

*Micah* 5:2-4 (English Standard Version)

# German, arr. R. L. Pearsall (1795-1856)

Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

(English Standard Version)

For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth! And praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given! So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven. No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin, Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child, Where misery cries out to thee, Son of the mother mild; Where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door, The dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray; Cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today. We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell; O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!

#### Please be seated for

#### The Fourth Lesson

Reader: Beth Duncan, Eucharistic Minister

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

At the conclusion the People respond, "Thanks be to God."

#### The Choir sings

A Carol Nova! Nova

Nova! Nova! "Ave" fit ex "Eva."

Gabriel of high degree, he came down from Trinity, To Nazareth in Galilee, *Nova! Nova! "Ave" fit ex "Eva.*"

He met a maiden in a place, he kneeled down afore her face. He said, "Hail, Mary, full of grace!" *Nova! Nova! "Ave" fit ex "Eva.*"

When the maid heard tell of this she was full sore abashed I-wys, And wened that she had done amiss. *Nova! Nova! "Ave" fit ex "Eva.*" Luke 1:26-35, 38

(English Standard Version)

Bob Chilcott (b. 1955)

Then said the angel, "Dread not you, you shall conceive in all virtue

A Child whose name shall be Jesu." Nova! Nova! "Ave" fit ex "Eva."

"It is not yet six months agone since Elizabeth conceived John, As it was prophesied before." Nova! Nova! "Ave" fit ex "Eva."

Then said the maiden verily: "I am your servant right truly, Ecce ancilla Domini." Nova! Nova! "Ave" fit ex "Eva."

Nova! Nova! "Ave" fit ex "Eva." = News! News! "Ave" is made from "Eva" I-wys = indeed wened = thought *Ecce ancilla Domini* = Behold the handmaid of the Lord

# The Fifth Lesson

Reader: Tom Conrad, Christ Church Choir Alumnus

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

At the conclusion the People respond, "Thanks be to God."

## The Choir sings

A Carol I Sing of a Maiden

I sing of a maiden that is makeless; King of all kings to her son she ches. He came all so still where his mother was, as dew in April that falleth on the grass. He came all so still to his mother's bower, as dew in April that falleth on the flower. He came all so still where his mother lay, as dew in April that falleth on the spray. Mother and maiden was never none but she; well may such a lady Godës mother be.

# The Sixth Lesson

## Reader: Bruce Barber, Director of Music

And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths 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, 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." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.

Setting: John Rutter (b. 1945)

Luke 2:8-16

# (English Standard Version)

Luke 2:1-7

(English Standard Version)

#### Please stand and sing

A Carol While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

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 The Savior, 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 on the earth be peace; Good will henceforth from heaven to men begin and never cease."

## Remain standing for

#### The Seventh Lesson

Reader: The Rev. Ruth Beresford, Rector

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

#### At the conclusion the People respond, "Thanks be to God."

#### Please be seated as the Choir sings

## A Carol New Prince, New Pomp

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, sing we with mirth! Christ is come well, with us to dwell, by his most noble birth. Behold a simple, tender babe, in freezing winter night, In homely manger trembling lies: alas! a piteous sight. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, sing we with mirth! Christ is come well, with us to dwell, by his most noble birth. The inns are full; no man will yield this little pilgrim bed; But forced he is with simple beasts in crib to shroud his head.

Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, sing we with mirth! Christ is come well, with us to dwell, by his most noble birth. Hymn 94, Hymnal 1982

John Ireland (1879-1962)

John 1:1-14

(New Revised Standard Version)

This stable is a prince's court, this crib his chair of state, The beasts are parcel of his pomp, the wooden dish, his plate; Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, sing we with mirth! Christ is come well, with us to dwell, by his most noble birth. With joy approach, O Christian wight, do homage to thy King; And highly praise this humble pomp, which he from heaven doth bring. Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, sing we with mirth! Christ is come well, with us to dwell, by his most humble birth.

# The Sermon

# The Offering

Giving money is a sign that our life serves God's purposes and expresses our gratitude for God's many blessings. Our entire Christmas Offering goes to support Christ Church's Outreach Ministry in the City of Wilmington and beyond. The ushers will receive the offering and present it on our behalf. Also, you may give online or text a contribution to (302) 244-5368. For those who give electronically, a card is available in the pews to participate in the act of offering. Newcomers and guests may place the welcome card in the offering plate.

## The Choir sings

## A Carol at the Offering Hodie Christus natus est

Hodie Christus natus est: Hodie Salvator apparuit: Hodie in terra canunt Angeli, Laetantur Archangeli Hodie exsultant justi, dicentes: Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluia.

## Please kneel, as able, for

# **The Closing Prayer**

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

- People And also with you.
- *Officiant* Let us pray. O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Remain kneeling, and as we sing, acolytes bring light to the congregation. Please keep your light burning until the dismissal and bring it to the narthex as you make your way out of the church.

A Carol Silent Night, Holy 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!

Jan Pieterzoon Sweelinck (1562-1621) Today Christ is born: Today the Savior appeared: Today on earth the Angels sing, Archangels rejoice: Today the righteous rejoice, saying: Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia.

# David Beresford

Hymn 111, Hymnal 1982

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 Christmas Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, grant you the fullness of inward peace and good will; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you this night and for evermore. *Amen.* 

## All stand and sing

Processional Carol 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. God from God, Light from Light eternal, Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; Only begotten Son of the Father; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord. Sing, choirs of 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. See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle, Leaving their flocks, draw nigh to gaze; We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord. Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger, We would embrace thee, with love and awe: Who would not love thee, loving us so dearly? 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.

Voluntary In dulci jubilo

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

Hymn 83, Hymnal 1982

Please take your bulletin with you or return it to the table in the narthex as you leave.

As we are sent forth to be Christ's blessing in the world, the vestry, clergy, and staff wish you a Merry Christmas. Our prayer is that tonight's worship has encouraged you in love, strengthened you for service, and filled you with peace. We look forward to your presence again in worship, in service to others, in learning and fellowship.

# JOIN US FOR WORSHIP IN THE COMING DAYS

**Christmas Day – December 25** 10:00 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church

#### The First Sunday after Christmas – December 29

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church 9:00 AM Holy Eucharist (combined service of The ARK and SANCTUARY) in the Church

10:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church

# The Second Sunday after Christmas – January 5

8:00 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church 9:00 AM The ARK Holy Eucharist in the Chapel 9:00 AM SANCTUARY Holy Eucharist in the Church 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist in the Church

## **CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS**

# The flowers and special music are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of:

William Robert Adair Lee and Helen Alexander Christopher Anderson Sandra Keyes Anderson Lillian T. Andrews Rand and Bess Appleby Stanley and Betty Arrowsmith Iane C. Ashford Mark and Janet Attix Tom and Emily Attix David and Bernadine Ayars Iane and John Bancroft III Steve and Ada Bartha Ruth and Randolph Barton James Bayard Jr. Horace and Martha Beale Helen Dodson Bennett Brian Beresford Charles and June Beresford Marjorie D. Bolton Debbie Bonkowski Charles A. Borda Calvin L. Bourgeault Elizabeth G. Brandt Robert S. Brandt Cathy Brock Evelyn and Donald Brown Mel Bryant Louise Buonassisi Lillian and Jack Burris Arlie K. and Margaret Butler Casey S. Butler John S. and Rita Butler Kathy Cain May Camp Dr. John C. Caris Elizabeth C. Carter Charles P. Cathcart Nicole Cerchio Helen M. and John Chabalko Sr. Bob and Carol Clark Eno and Mary Clark James Cleveland Max and Lucy Cluett

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