

WELCOME TO ST. PETER'S CHURCH

The prayers and readings are found in this booklet. The Hymns are found in the Hymnal 1982. The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is the source of the prayers unless otherwise listed. If you need some help finding your place, please ask one of the parishioners to assist you.

THE WORD OF GOD

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come All Ye Faithful

Hymnal 83

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord

All: Thanks be to God

Leader: Tonight is Christmas Eve, and we light the Christ candle. It is white to symbolize that Jesus is the light of the world. We light again the candles of hope, peace, love and joy.

(Each candle is lit as the reader speaks)

First Candle: We speak of hope – because God keeps his promises to us.

Second Candle: We work for peace – because Jesus is the ‘Prince of Peace’ and he calls his children to work for peace in his name.

Third Candle: We show love – because Jesus gave everything for us and led us to know the forgiveness of God.

Fourth Candle: We share joy – because the Holy Spirit fills our hearts and minds with the presence of God.

Center Candle: Now we light our last candle to remember the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. As the prophets promised so long ago, you have come to us

once again; and with the shepherds, we are filled with wonder and amazement.

Leader: Lord, you come as a tiny, fragile baby; yet we know that you are God and you are with us. May the flame of this candle remind us that you are the light of the world and that if we follow you, we will never walk in darkness, but will have the true light of life.

All: Come, Lord Jesus, come. **Amen.**

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

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

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Celebrant 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.

People **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE Angels We Have Heard on High

Hymnal 96

THE 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.

People **Amen.**

The Lessons

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord .

***People* Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN

What Child Is This?

Hymnal 115

Titus 2:11-14

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord .

***People* Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Joy to the World

Hymnal 100

Deacon or Priest

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Luke 2:1-14?

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.]*

Deacon or Priest

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON *A period of silence is observed after the sermon.*

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

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh.

May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us.

On this holy night angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered Sun of righteousness. We pray for peace throughout the world, for world leaders that they seek and pursue peace, for those in the military defending our peace.
Strengthen all who work for peace and justice.

On this holy night you came to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed of straw as there was no room in the inn.
Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless, the unemployed and the hungry.

On this holy night shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Strengthen us all to be heralds of your Good News.
Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation.

On this holy night we rejoice at the coming of this time of re-creation.
Be with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us.

On this holy night Christians throughout the world are celebrating Christ's birth.
Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one light that scatters all our darkness.

On this holy night your living Word leaped down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. We pray for those who are sick especially the members of this community and those who care for them.
Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

On this holy night heaven and earth embrace and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Fulfill in your love all who have gone before us in the faith. We remember those in whose memory the poinsettias are given. We pray for all who mourn.

May we, like the faithful departed, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light.

Hear these prayers we bring to you and fulfill your purposes in us in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word. **Amen.**

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Celebrant: Christ the light of the world has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. Let us turn to the light and confess our sins.

The Congregation kneels as able and silence is kept.

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.**

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.**

THE PEACE

The Congregation stands as able .

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Offering of the Peace is concluded with the ringing of a bell.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

CHOIR

BORN TODAY IS THE HOLY CHILD

TRADITIONAL FRENCH CAROL

OFFERTORY HYMN

THE FIRST NOWELL

HYMNAL 109-2VV

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer B

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant: 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 forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant 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 Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, 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."

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph and 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.

Celebrant 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.

People **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Savior has taught us.

**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.**

**Padre nuestro que estás en el cielo, santificado sea tu Nombre, venga tu reino,
hágase tu voluntad, en la tierra como en el cielo. Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día.
Perdona nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. No
nos dejes caer en tentación y líbranos del mal. Porque tuyo es el reino, tuyo es el poder, y
tuya es la gloria, ahora y por siempre. Amén.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

FRACTION ANTHEM

HYMNAL S 161

COMMUNION HYMNS:

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

HYMNAL 102- 2VV

HOLY COMMUNION

The Bread is given to the communicants with these words.
The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. **Amen.**

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (*Common Worship alt.*)

After Communion, the Celebrant says:

Let us pray.

God our Creator, in this night you have made known to us again the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Confirm our faith and fix our eyes on the Lord Jesus until the day dawns and Christ the Morning Star rises in our hearts.

To Christ be glory both now and for ever. **Amen**

THE BLESSING

May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

People: Amen.

THE FINAL HYMN

HARK THE HERALD ANGELS SING

HYMNAL 87

During the Final Hymn the Ushers will assist the congregation in lighting their candles for the Meditation Hymn: Silent Night, Hymnal 111. Kneel or sit as able.

THE DISMISSAL

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Response **Thanks be to God!**

Service Participants for Christmas Eve

Celebrant

The Rev. Canon Dr. Kevin J. Moroney

Cross bearer

Tara Fueshko

Acolytes

Maggie Moroney

Caleigh Gaudet

Lector
Pamela Fueshko

Ushers
Diane Gagliostro
Janet Wells

Technical Assistant
Elsa Moroney



*The Priest, Vestry and Staff of St. Peter's
wish you and your loved ones
the blessings of Christ dwelling among us.*

