



A Service of Hope and Remembrance

Holy Eucharist Rite II

Wednesday, December 21, 2016

7:30 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Church

120 Sigourney St. ● Hartford ● CT ● 06105

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trinityhartford.org

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Please stand.

ENTRANCE HYMN #105: "God Rest You Merry"

God Rest You Merry

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay;
remember Christ our Savior
was born on Christmas Day,
to save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray.

Refrain O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy;
O tidings of comfort and joy!

2. From God our heavenly Father
a blessed angel came
and unto certain shepherds
brought tidings of the same:
how that in Bethlehem was born
the Son of God by name. *Refrain*

- “3. “Fear not, then,” said the angel,
“Let nothing you affright;
this day is born a Savior
of a pure virgin bright,
to free all those who trust in him
from Satan's power and might.” *Refrain*

4. Now to the Lord sing praises,
all you within this place,
and with true love and charity
each other now embrace;
this holy tide of Christmas
doth bring redeeming grace. *Refrain*

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Celebrant Welcome to this Service of Remembrance and Hope, a time when we can, with others, acknowledge the feelings we have at Christmas time, the reasons for them, and offer them to God. In two days, we will experience the shortest day and the longest night of the year. Certain memorable phrases come to mind at this time: “long dark night of the soul”, “the winter of our discontent,” in which memories of past experiences and the pain of present experiences can become overwhelming. For some, Christmas Day is the most difficult; for others, Christmas Eve, or New Year's Eve, or the beginning of another lonely New Year. In this service, we'll share in some singing appropriate to the Christmas season, recognizing that this is not a season of joy for everyone. We will invite you to reflect on the pain, the loneliness, and the sadness you may feel and offer it all to our great sign of hope, the Christ Child. We pray that you will find hope and comfort in knowing that you are not alone.

COLLECT FOR ADVENT

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray:

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

Please be seated.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

THE LESSON: 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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.
People Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE Q (from Enriching our Worship)

Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you;
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride,
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds,
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life;
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness;
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead,
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us;
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In you compassion, bring grace and forgiveness,
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

HYMN #89: "It came upon the midnight clear"

Carol

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 blessed angels sing.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 1: 1-18

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, "He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.")
From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

HOMILY

The Rev. Donald L. Hamer

LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE WITH CANDLE LIGHTING

Please stand.

Leader We light this candle confident that God will redeem our pain of loss: loss of relationships, loss of jobs, loss of health. I invite your own prayers, silently or aloud. *(Pause)*

We gather the pain of the past into our open hands, and offer it to you, O God, asking that you take it, and then, into our empty, open hands, place the gift of peace.

All Refresh, restore, renew us, O God, and Lead us into your future.

HYMN #111: "Silent night, holy night"

Stille nacht

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.'

Leader We light this second candle to remember those persons whom we have loved and see no longer. We pause to remember individual names, faces, voices. I invite your own prayers, silently or aloud. *(Pause)*
We give thanks for the memory that binds them to us in this season in which we anticipate Christmas.

All **May God's eternal love surround them.**

HYMN Silent night, holy night
griefs abound, now in sight,
Christ now comes in manger bare,
Holds our loved ones in holy care.
Joy, at last, to be ours.
Joy, at last, to be ours.

Leader We light this third candle to remember ourselves this Christmas time. We pause and remember the past weeks, months and for some of us, years of sad times.
(Silent Prayer)
We remember the poignancy of memories, the grief, the sadness, the hurts, the pain of reflecting on our own mortality.

All **Let us remember that dawn defeats darkness.**

HYMN 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!

Leader This fourth candle is lit to remember the gift of faith and hope that God offers us in the Christmas story. We remember that in Jesus, God shares our life completely, and promises us a place and time where there is no pain or grief, forever.

All **Let us remember the One who shows the way, the One who goes with us into our tomorrow, the One who walks with us always.**

HYMN 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.

Leader In the spirit of this season, let us now ask God for what we need for ourselves as people coping with loss, pain, suffering, loneliness, grief, or sadness during this season. *Pause for reflection and prayer, either silently or aloud*

All **God, we come to you as Christmas nears with the pain growing inside us. As the nights have been growing longer, so has the darkness wrapped itself around our hearts. In this season of our longest nights, we offer to you the pain in our hearts, the traumas that some of us cannot put into words.**

Celebrant The Christmas season reminds us of all that used to be and cannot be anymore.
The memories of what was, the fears of what may be, stifle us. All around us we
hear sounds of celebration that are often hard for us to share. Emmanuel,
All **be with us this night and through this season.**

PROCESSION TO THE ALTAR

People are invited to move to the illuminated Christmas tree, take a votive candle, symbolizing remembrance and hope, and place it on the stand in front of the altar. Those doing so are also invited to offer a petition either silently or aloud.

Following the Procession to the Altar the hymn is sung.

HYMN #56: "O come, O come, Emmanuel"

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree,
free them from Satan's tyranny
that trust thy mighty power to save,
and give them victory o'er the grave. | 3. O come, thou Dayspring from on high,
and cheer us by thy drawing nigh;
disperse the gloomy clouds of night,
and death's dark shadow put to flight. |
| 2. O come, thou Key of David, come,
and open wide our heavenly home;
make safe the way that leads on high,
and close the path to misery. | 4. O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here
until the Son of God appear. |

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY HYMN #115: "What child is this, who, laid to rest"

Greensleaves

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. 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? | 2. Why lies he in such mean estate
where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here
the silent Word is pleading. <i>Refrain</i> |
| <i>Refrain</i> This, this is Christ the King,
whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
haste, haste to bring him laud,
the babe, the son of Mary. | 3. So bring him incense, gold, and myrrh,
come, peasant, king, to own him;
the King of kings salvation brings,
let loving hearts enthrone him. <i>Refrain</i> |

Members of the congregation will present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING: Eucharistic Prayer 3

Enriching Our Worship 1

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS: Hymnal #S 130

Franz Peter Schubert

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and

might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,

God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Please stand, sit or kneel

Celebrant Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

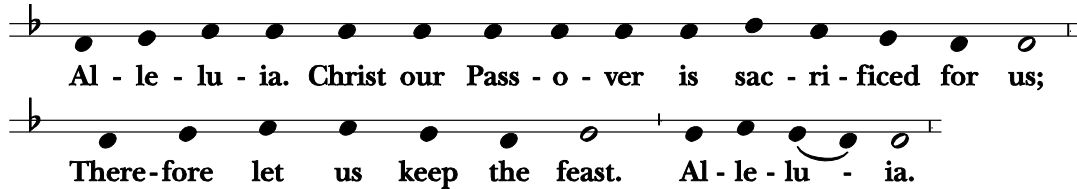
All Blessed are you now and for ever. **AMEN.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All 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



Celebrant The gifts of God for the People of God. Behold what you are.
People May we become what we receive.

THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

Gluten-free bread is available. Please speak to the priest when you come forward for Communion. For those who desire individual prayers for healing of body, mind or spirit, members of our Healing Team are available near the baptistery to pray with you.

COMMUNION MEDITATION: "I Wonder As I Wander"

John Jacob Niles

I wonder as I wander out under the sky
How Jesus the Saviour did come for to die
For poor on'ry people like you and like I;
I wonder as I wander out under the sky
When Mary birthed Jesus 'twas in a cow's stall
With wise men and farmers and shepherds and all
But high from God's heaven, a star's light did fall
And the promise of ages it then did recall.

If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing
A star in the sky or a bird on the wing
Or all of God's Angels in heaven to sing
He surely could have seen it,
'cause he was the King

Soloist: The Rev. George Chien

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A PEACEFUL NIGHT (*said together*)

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Lord,
It is night.

The night is for stillness.

Let us be still in the presence of God.

It is night after a long day.

What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.

The night is dark.

Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.

The night is quiet.

Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.

The night heralds the dawn.

Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.

In your name we pray.

Amen.

AN ADVENT BLESSING

Celebrant God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always.

People Amen.

DISMISSAL

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

A stable lamp is lighted whose glow shall wake the sky;
The stars shall bend their voices, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, and straw like gold shall shine;
A barn shall harbor heaven, a stall become a shrine.

Yet he shall be forsaken, and yielded up to die;
The sky shall groan and darken, and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry, for stony hearts of men:
God's blood upon the spearhead, God's love refused again.

But now, as at the ending, The low is lifted high;
The stars shall bend their voices, And every stone shall cry,
And every stone shall cry, In praises of the Child
by whose descent among us The worlds are reconciled.

† † †

We invite you to remain in the church for as long as you wish.

† † †

Officiants

The Reverend Donald L. Hamer
The Rev. George A. Chien

Reader

Mr. Robin D'Oyen

Altar Guild

Ms. Ernestine Weaver

Minister of Music

Mr. Jun Lee

Flower Guild

Ms. Jane Harris

Minister of Communion

Ms. Percy Williamson

Advent and Christmastide at Trinity

Saturday December 24

5:00 P.M. *Family Christmas Service and Christmas Pageant*

9:30 P.M. *Christmas Prelude with Choirs, Brass, Percussion and Strings*

10:00 P.M. *Festival Christmas Eucharist*

Sunday December 25

9:30 A.M. *Christmas Eucharist with Sermon and Hymns*

Sunday January 1

9:30 A.M. *Congregational Lessons and Carols with Eucharist*

Friday January 6

12:10 P.M. *The Feast of the Epiphany Holy Eucharist*

Staff

The Rev. Donald L. Hamer, *Rector*
Jun Lee, *Interim Director of Music Ministries*
Pamela Haddad, *Assistant to the Rector*
Fran Times-Mack, *Parish Financial Manager*
Vincent J. Pacileo, *Property Manager*
Johnson Ramsaur, *Seminarian Intern**
Clement Mogor and Kate Rousseau,
*Church School Coordinators**
Dante Tavolaro, *Associate for Digital Ministries*
Katherine Wilson, *Voice Editor**
Liz Kirkpatrick, *Archivist**

Assisting Clergy*

The Rev. Dr. Frank G. Kirkpatrick
The Rt. Rev. Andrew D. Smith
The Rev. William J. Eakins, *Rector Emeritus*
The Rev. George A. Chien

Ministry Quadrant Leaders*

Peter Green, *Worship*
Lily Miller, *Outreach*
Jo-Ann Sadosky, *Parish Care*
Clement Mogor, *Christian Formation*

Vestry*

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Kathleen Peterson, *Clerk*
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Ruth Rose, Jannel Thomas

The Episcopal Church in Connecticut

The Rt. Rev. Ian T. Douglas, Ph. D., *Bishop*
The Rt. Rev. Dr. Laura J. Ahrens, *Bishop Suffragan*

** Indicates non-stipended ministries*