

# Christmas Eve



**The Holy Eucharist**  
**December 24, 2024 ~ 10:30 p.m.**

**Church of the Redeemer**  
**Sarasota, Florida**



## FROM THE RECTOR

Dear Friends in Christ,

Charles Cooley was an important social theorist who died just before the Great Depression. I recently learned about him and about a theory he developed called “the looking-glass self,” in which he claimed an individual’s sense of self-worth is based on how the most important person in his or her life sees the individual. Put less clinically, the person I want to impress — the one I want to please the most — has the most power over how I see myself and actually live my life. For toddlers, a parent is this person. For most teenagers, a parent is usually replaced by some other audience or peer pressure. For many adults, it is a spouse or boss or social construct we seek to please most. Of course, the trouble is that I will never be able to perform quite well enough to feel truly comfortable in my own skin. “There is always room for improvement,” as my piano teacher used to insist!

The message of Christmas — what the Church calls the Incarnation — begs us to stop looking inside for love, satisfaction, and peace. The message of Christmas is that the peace and inner-security for which you and I so deeply long comes only from the outside — from God in Jesus Christ. This is because unlike the rest of us, Jesus never bases relationships on performance.

So, since the need to impress is off the menu permanently, there really should be “dancing in the street” (Martha and the Vandellas). What is on offer today, then, is our great need to respond with glad hearts for the gift and grace of a savior. The angel said it best: “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 Savior, which is Christ the Lord” (St. Luke 2:10-14).

I wish you a very happy Christmas!

Your servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. D. Wilson', followed by a horizontal line and a small cross symbol.

The Reverend Charleston David Wilson, Rector, Church of the Redeemer

*Please silence your cell phone.*

## **Pre-Service Music**

*The people stand as the choir enters.*

### **Hymn 96 (verses 1 and 3)**

*Gloria*

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

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

*The people sit.*

*Make We Joy Now in This Fest* – 15th-century Old English Carol, arr. William Walton  
*Make we joy now in this fest, In quo Christus natus est. (in which Christ is born) Eya, eya. A Patre Unigenitus, (the Only-begotten of the Father) Is through a maiden come to us: Sing we of Him and say 'Welcome' Veni, Redemptor gentium. (come, Redeemer of the nations) Agnoscat omne seculum, (let every age perceive [that]) A bright star made three kings to come, Him for to seek with their presen's, Verbum supertum prodiens. (the high Word coming forth) A solis ortus cardine, (from the rising of the sun) So mighty a Lord is none as He: And to our kind He hath Him knit, Adam parens quod polluit. (which our father Adam defiled) Maria ventre concepit, (Mary conceived in her womb) The Holy Ghost was aye her with, Of her in Bethlem born He is, Consors paterni luminis. (sharing in the light of his Father) O Lux beata Trinitas, (O Light of the Holy Trinity) He lay between an ox and ass, Beside His mother maiden free, Gloria Tibi Domine! (Glory to thee, O Lord!)*

### *Sir Christèmas* – William Mathias

*Nowell, nowell. Who is there that singeth so, I am here, Sir Christèmas. Welcome, my lord Sir Christèmas! Welcome to all, both more and less! Come near, come near, come near, Nowell, nowell. Dieu vous garde, beaux sieurs, Tidings I you bring: A maid hath borne a child full young, Witch causeth you to sing: Nowell, nowell. Christ is now born of a pure maid, Born of a pure maid; In an ox-stall he is laid, Wherefore sing we at a brayde: Nowell, nowell. Buvez bien, buvez bien Par toute la compagnie. Make good cheer and be right merry, And sing with us now joyfully Nowell, nowell*

*A Spotless Rose* – Herbert Howells

*A spotless Rose is blowing Sprung from a tender root Of ancient seers' foreshowing Of Jesse promis'd fruit; Its fairest bud unfolds to light Amid the cold, cold winter And in the dark midnight The Rose which I am singing Whereof Isaiah said Is from its sweet root springing In Mary, purest Maid; For through our God's great love and might The Blessed Babe she bare us In a cold, cold winter's night*

*A Babe is Born* – William Mathais

*A babe is born all of a may, to bring salvation unto us. To him we sing both night and day, Veni Creator Spiritus (Come O creating spirit). At Bethlehem that blessed place, the child of bliss now born he was. And him to serve God give us grace, O lux beata trinitas (O light of the blessed Trinity). There came three kings out of the east, to worship the king that is so free. With gold and myrrh and frankincense, a solis ortus cardine (from lands that see the sun arise). The angels came down with one cry, a fair song that night sung they, In worship of that child, Gloria tibi Domine (Glory be to thee O Lord).*

*Peace on Earth* – Amy Beach

*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.*

*O ye, beneath life's crushing load,  
whose forms are bending low,  
who toil along the climbing way  
with painful steps and slow,*

*look now! for golden hours  
come swiftly on the wing.  
O rest beside the weary road,  
and hear the angels sing!*

*For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
when with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold.  
When the new heaven and earth  
shall own The Prince of Peace their King,  
and the whole world send back the song  
which now the angels sing.*

*Concerto in E Flat Major* – Jan Křtitel Jiří Neruda

Ansel Norris, trumpet  
Thomas Suta, timpani

*The congregation stands as the procession enters the nave.*

**Processional Hymn and Blessing of the Crèche: Hymn 83**

*Adeste fideles*

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, Christ, the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light eternal, lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb; only-begotten Son of God the Father; O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.

*As the Altar Party arrives at the Crèche, the Hymn is paused, and the Celebrant says:*

Dear friends in Christ, as we meet this night to celebrate the birth of Christ, let us pray that God will bless this Crèche, that all who worship His Son, born of the Virgin Mary, may come to share His life in glory.

*The Celebrant blesses the Crèche.*

*Celebrant:* God our Father, on this night your son Jesus Christ was born of Blessed Virgin Mary for us and for our salvation, bless this Crèche which we have prepared to celebrate His holy birth. May all who see it be strengthened in faith and receive the fullness of life He came to bring, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

*After the blessing of the Crèche, the Hymn continues.*

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, 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, 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, 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, Christ, the  
Lord.

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

*People:* And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from  
whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy  
Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy  
heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great  
commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as  
thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

### ***Gloria in excelsis: Hymn S202***

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee,  
we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great  
glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only  
begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that  
takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sins  
of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the  
Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou  
only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.

### **The Collect of the Day**

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

O God, who makest us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of thy only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that as we joyfully receive him for our Redeemer, so we may with sure confidence behold him when he shall come to be our Judge; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

## **The Lessons**

*The people sit.*

*Reader:* A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. (*Isaiah 9:2-7*)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined. Thou hast multiplied the nation, thou hast increased its joy; they rejoice before thee as with joy at the harvest, as men rejoice when they divide the spoil. For the yoke of his burden, and the staff for his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, thou hast broken as on the day of Mid'ian. For every boot of the tramping warrior in battle tumult and every garment rolled in blood will be burned as fuel for the fire. For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will 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, upon 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 for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

*Reader:* The Word of the Lord.

*People:* *Thanks be to God.*

## **Sequence Hymn 94**

*Winchester Old*

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.”

*The people sit.*

*Deacon:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. (*Luke 2:1-20*)

*People:* *Glory be to thee, O Lord.*

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled. This was the first enrollment, when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, each to his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city 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 enrolled with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to be delivered. And she gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. And in that 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 fear. And the angel said to them, “Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to 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 babe 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 men 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 babe lying in a manger. And when they saw it they made known the saying which had been told them concerning this child; and all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary kept all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People Praise be to thee, O Christ.*

**The Sermon:** Father Charleston Wilson, Rector, Church of the Redeemer

## **The Nicene Creed**

*The people stand.*

*Celebrant:* I believe in one God, ...

*All:* . . . the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried; and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of the Father; and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life, who proceedeth from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified; who spake by the Prophets. And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church; I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **The Prayers of the People**

*Intercessor:* Let us pray for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world.

Almighty and everliving God, who in thy holy Word hast taught us to make prayers, and supplications, and to give thanks for all men: Receive these our prayers which we offer unto thy divine Majesty, beseeching thee to inspire continually the Universal Church with the spirit of truth, unity, and concord; and grant that all those who do confess thy holy Name may agree in the truth of thy holy Word, and live in unity and godly love.

Give grace, O heavenly Father, to all bishops and other ministers, that they may, both by their life and doctrine, set forth thy true and lively Word, and rightly and duly administer thy holy Sacraments. And to all thy people give thy heavenly grace, and especially to this congregation here present; that, with meek heart and due reverence, they may hear and receive thy holy Word, truly serving thee in holiness and righteousness all the days of their life.

We beseech thee also so to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.

Open, O Lord, the eyes of all people to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works, that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, they may honor thee with their substance, and be faithful stewards of thy bounty.

And we most humbly beseech thee, of thy goodness, O Lord, to comfort and succor all those who, in this transitory life, are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity.

And we also bless thy holy Name for all thy servants departed this life in thy faith and fear, beseeching thee to grant them continual growth in thy love and service; and to grant us grace so to follow the good examples of the ever Blessed Virgin Mary and of all thy saints, that with them we may be partakers of thy heavenly kingdom.

Grant these our prayers, O Father, for Jesus Christ's sake, our only Mediator and Advocate. *Amen.*

## Confession of Sin

*Deacon:* Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

*The people kneel.*

*Deacon:* Almighty God, ...

*All:* . . . Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*Celebrant:* Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

Come unto me, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you.

*Matthew 11:28*

God so loved the world, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3:16*

This is a true saying, and worthy of all men to be received, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. *1 Timothy 1:15*

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and he is the perfect offering for our sins, and not for ours only, but for the sins of the whole world. *1 John 2:1-2*

## **The Peace and Welcome**

*All stand.*

*Celebrant:* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People:* *And with thy spirit.*

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **The Holy Communion**

### **The Offertory**

*The Celebrant begins the Offertory with a sentence of Scripture.*

### **Offertory Anthem**

*Angelus ad virginem* – 14<sup>th</sup>-cent. Irish, arr. Carol Barnett

*Angelus ad virginem Subintrans in conclave, Virginis formidinem Demulcens, inquit: 'Ave! Ave, regina virginum; Coeli terraeque Dominum' 'Concipies, Et paries Intacta Salutem hominum; Tu porta coeli facta, Medela Criminum.'* *'Quomodo conciperem Quae virum non cognovi? Qualiter infringere Quod firma mente vovi?' 'Spiritus Sancti gratia Perficiet haec omnia; Sed gaudeas, Quod castimonia Manebit in te pura Dei potential!' Ad haec virgo nobilis Respondens inquit ei: 'Ancilla sum humilis Omnipotentis Dei. Tibi coelesti nuntio, Tanti secreti conscio, Consentiens et cupiens Videre Factum quod audio, Parata sum parere, Dei consilio.'* *Angelus disparuit Et statim puellaris Uterus intumuit Vi partus salutaris. Qui, circumdatus utero Novem mensium numero, Hinc exiit Et iniit Conflictum, Affigens humero Crucem, qua dedit ictum Hosti mortifero. Eia, eia, eia, mater Domini, Quae pacem reddidisti Angelis et homini, Cum Christum genuisti; Tuum exora Filium Ut se nobis propitium Exhibeat, Et deleat Peccata; Praestans auxilium, Vita frui beata Post hoc exilium.*

*The angel came to the Virgin, entering secretly into her room; the Virgin's fear calming, he said, "Hail! Hail, queen of virgins: you will conceive the Lord of heaven and earth and bear him, still a virgin, to be the salvation of mankind; you will be made the gate of heaven, the cure of sins." "How*

*can I conceive, When I have never known a man? How can I transgress resolutions that I have vowed with a firm mind?" "The grace of the Holy Spirit shall do all this. Do not be afraid, but rejoice without a care, since your chastity will remain in you unspoilt through the power of God." To this, the noble Virgin, replying, said to him, "I am the humble maidservant of almighty God. To you, heavenly messenger, and bearer of such a great secret, I give my consent, and wishing to see done what I hear, I am ready to obey the will of God." The angel vanished, and at once the girl's womb swelled with the force of the pregnancy of salvation. He, protected by the womb for nine months in number, left it and began the struggle, fixing to his shoulder a cross, with which he dealt the blow to the deadly Enemy.*

*The People stand as the offerings and oblations are brought forward.*

### **At the Presentation of the Gifts: Censing Hymn 102**

*Irby*

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.

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.

## The Great Thanksgiving

*Celebrant:* The Lord be with you.

*People:* And with thy spirit.

*Celebrant:* Lift up your hearts.

*People:* We lift them up unto the Lord.

*Celebrant:* Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

*People:* It is meet and right so to do.

*Celebrant:* It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty everlasting God.

*Here a Proper Preface is sung.*

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,

### ***Sanctus: S114***

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts; Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.

Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

*The people kneel.*

*Celebrant:* All glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, “Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same. And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ’s holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we, and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him, that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord; By whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost, all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

*People: Amen.*



## **The Lord's Prayer: S119**

*Celebrant:* And now, as our Savior Christ hath 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**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

## **Fraction Anthem: Hymn S154**

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

*People:* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*All:* We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

*Celebrant:* The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*The ministers receive the Sacrament and then immediately deliver it to the people.*

*Anyone who has been baptized with water in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit is welcome to receive communion. If you are not baptized, or if you prefer not to receive the Sacrament, you may ask for a blessing by crossing your hands over your chest.*

## Music During Communion

### Hymn 78

*Forest Green*

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.

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!

### Hymn 112

*Cranham*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone; snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow, in the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain; heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign: in the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed the Lord God incarnate, Jesus Christ.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there, cherubim and seraphim thronged the air; but his mother only, in her maiden bliss, worshiped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what I can I give him—give my heart.

## Hymn 89

*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.

Yet with the woes of sin and strife the world has suffered long; beneath the heavenly hymn have rolled two thousand years of wrong; and warring humankind hears not the tidings which they bring; O hush the noise and cease your strife and hear the angels sing!

For lo! the days are hastening on, by prophets seen of old, when with the ever-circling years shall come the time foretold, when peace shall over all the earth its ancient splendors fling, and all the world give back the song which now the angels sing.

## Hymn 101

*Cradle Song*

Away in a manger, no crib for his 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 forever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

## Hymn 107

*In dulci jubilo*

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye hear of endless bliss; Jesus Christ was born for this! He hath opened heaven's door, and we are blest for evermore. Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice with heart and soul and voice; now ye need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save! Calls you one and calls you all to gain his everlasting hall. Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

### **Hymn 105**

*God Rest You Merry*

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 pow'r when we were gone astray.

*Refrain:* O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy; O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly 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*

"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 pow'r and might." *Refrain*

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

*At the completion of the administration of communion, all kneel for the Post-Communion Hymn.*

### **Post-Communion Hymn 111**

*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.

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.

*Celebrant:* Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, ...

*All:* . . . we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

*Celebrant:* May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

*Amen.*

*The Deacon gives the dismissal.*

*People: Thanks be to God.*

### **Processional Hymn 87**

*Mendelssohn*

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn 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 hosts proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!

*Refrain:* Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of the Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the'incarnate Deity. Pleas'd as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Mild he lays His glory by, born that we no more may die, born to raise us from earth, born to give us second birth. Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings, hail, the Sun of Righteousness! hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! *Refrain*

**Postlude:** *Bring a Torch, Jeanette, Isabella* — arr. Keith Chapman

## **Christmas Flowers are Offered to the Glory of God**

**In thanksgiving for** the Vestry and Staff of the parish by the Rev. and Mrs. Charleston Wilson.

**In thanksgiving for blessings received by** the Boedecker family; the Clarke family; the Deckard family; the Devitt family; Cady & Scott Ferguson; Grier Ferguson; the Goodwin family; the Griffin family; the Guerrero family; Father Read & Diane Heydt; the Hughes family; the Marchiony family; the McAnally family; John & Cathie Meyer; the Pamela & Robert Morris family; the Nippert family; Melissa Rhodes and the Riner kids; the Schieb family; Cindy Shedden; Lolly Colson Smith; the Skipper family; and Dora & Nevin Thomas.

**In loving memory of** The Rev. Marshall R.F. Allen, Jr.; Frank Anderson; Ellen & Raymond Armacost; Mary Babcock; the loved ones of Sara & Ken Bailey; Pat & A. Troy Bailey; Capt. John Barth; Pauline & Luther Barth; Luther Barth; Noel J. Belcourt; Charles Boedecker; Kenneth Boedecker; John Boisvert; Frank Braden; Logan Evan Brock; Virginia Brown; Andrew W.S. Brown; Wanda & Whitt Brown; Sarah S. & William A. Buckingham; Constance Elizabeth Bulawka; The Rev. George W. Busler; Henley Camp; Amanda Lucy Card; Mary & John Carpenter; Connie Carpenter; Mary & William Harris Carter; Evelyn & Jared Chadwick; Kenneth Chadwick; the loved ones of the Clamage, Radford & Bobb families; Arthur Rob Clarke; Vivian Clarke; Michael J. Coleman; G.M. Crump; Hamilton Lee Dashiell; Medora (Dodie) Dashiell; Jim Dement; Rita & Donald DeMichele; Elizabeth & James Devitt; Richard Diedrich; Kay & Joe DiLemmo; John David Dumbaugh; Marjorie & Arthur Edwards; Adelaide & Reid Farrell; Pauline & Bob Feix; Ethel Goewey; Frank Goewey, Jr.; Frank Goewey III; Mallory Goewey; Montez Hopkins; Terry Hopkins; the parents of Francine & Peter Gray; Jim Green; Donald W. Greve; Sandy & Bob Hulvat; William Hutchison; Lynard J. Jennings; Margaret Boedecker Johnson; Reg Johnson; Helen Koes; Kenneth Kokowicz; Kenny S. Kokowicz; Pauline & Ed Krueger; Electa Jane Kuesters; Jean Wyre & Clyde Lamp; Brennan & Alec Lansing; Christopher Donald Lorange; John Landry; Elvira Aparicio Lindemann; Elizabeth G. Lindsay; John T. Long; William Lovejoy; Patsy & Bob Lyon; Barbara A. MacArthur; Alex Manchester; Barbara & Eugene Marinelli; Mary Mathews; Kay & Arnold McAllister; Peter McGrath; Bill Meyer; Barbara Clarke Meyer; Beverly Miller;

David Moore; Patricia Moore; Paula Moore; Robert Moore; Morgan Marshall  
Alexander Peissel; Robert Philpott; Claire Postlethwaite; Marcus Postlethwaite;  
Martha Ramsey; Evelyn & Anthony Rende; Owen Wells Rhodes Jr.; Charlotte Battle  
Robbins; Emma V. Rogers; Nina & Fr. Ferdinand Saunders; Carol & Sonny Sears;  
Donn Seidholz, Sr.; Peter Sheehan; Dr. & Mrs. James Sheets; Harvey Simpson; the  
loved ones of the Skipper family; A.Q. Smith; Lucia & Leo Derda; Velda & Omer  
Smith; Robert, Rick, & Russ Spivey; Henry Spruill; Ralph C. and Ferris M. Strohm,  
the loved ones of Rhonda & Keith Summerford; Mary & Al Swanson; Celia &  
Bobbie Taylor; Ann & Jim Tench; Jim Tench Jr.; Helen & Glen Tonini; Jack  
Trautwein; Francis Ward; Bill Watkins; Bernice & Roy Weidman; Herb Wendt; and  
Jean B. & Walter S. Wisniewski.

## SERVICES

Daily Mass: Monday-Saturday at 10 a.m.

Morning Prayer: Monday-Saturday at 9 a.m. | Evening Prayer: Monday-Friday at 5:15 p.m.

Saturday at 5:30 p.m. ~ Rite Two Mass *A service with contemporary music* \*

Sunday at 7:30 a.m. ~ Rite One Mass *A service without music for early risers*

Sunday at 9 a.m. ~ Rite Two Mass *A service with traditional music and Children's Chapel* \* +

Sunday at 11 a.m. ~ Rite One Mass *A service with traditional music* \* +

Sunday at 1 p.m. ~ Rite Two Mass *A service in Spanish with contemporary music* \*

\* in person and livestreamed | + nursery care offered

## CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Douglas F. Scharf, Sixth Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida

The Rev. Charleston D. Wilson, Rector

The Rev. Michael W. Hurst, Senior Assistant Rector

The Rev. David M. Svihel, Associate Rector for Adult Formation and Liturgy

The Rev. Mario Castro, Priest Associate for Hispanic Ministry

The Rev. Ralph W. Strohm, Priest Associate for Pastoral Care

## VESTRY

Stephen Long, Senior Warden

Tim Hensey, Junior Warden

Dale Adcock | Marsha Devitt | Deb Kern

Antonio Leal | Christine Lindsay | Fritz Maxwell | Meredith Piazza

Joe Reuth | Jeff Trefry | Vince Riva

~

Dora Thomas, Treasurer | Kraig Koach, Chancellor | Grier Ferguson, Clerk

## STAFF

Welcome Coordinator Anne Ayres | Receptionist Rosanne Balance

Associate Choirmaster & Contemporary Music Director Daniel Cartlidge

Sexton Lahcen Demlak | Sexton Bryan De Rover

Facilities Manager Hanane El Qamari | Director of Communications Grier Ferguson

Sexton Josh Freeman | Rector's Executive Assistant and Parish Calendar Coordinator Susan Gomez

Communications & Digital Ministry Assistant Lindsay Howell

Director of Children's Formation Mandy Latta | Bulletin Coordinator Lana Mullen

Organist-Choirmaster Sam Nelson | Director of Youth and Outreach Ministries Jackie Overton

Parish Administrator Debbie Pfender | Printing Coordinator Adam Varga

Executive Assistant to the Clergy and Pastoral Care Coordinator Angela Ward

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