



St. John's Episcopal Church
Christmas Eve
10:00 p.m.

I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born
this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord.

Luke 2.10-11

Prelude

Opening Hymn #100 ~ *Joy to the World*

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive
her King; let every heart prepare him room, and
heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature
sing, and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing.

Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our
songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding
joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns
infest the ground; he comes to make his blessings flow far
as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as, the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the
nations prove the glories of his righteousness, and
wonders of his love, and wonders of his
love, and wonders, wonders, of his love.

The Word of God

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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. *Amen.*

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
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, 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. *Amen.*

The Lessons

Old Testament

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.

The Psalm

Psalm 96

Cantate Domino

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; *
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 **Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; ***
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; ***
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 **Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! ***
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; ***
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! ***
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the
peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD**
when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

The New Testament

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.

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-14-20

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.

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

The Sermon The Right Rev. Alan Gates

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

(In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, "Lord, grant us peace.")

By the good news of our salvation brought to Mary by the angel, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

By the mystery of the Word made flesh, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

By the birth in time of the timeless Son of God, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

By the manifestation of the King of glory to the shepherds and magi, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

By the submission of the maker of the world to Mary and Joseph of Nazareth, hear us,
O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

By the baptism of the Son of God in the river Jordan, hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

Grant that the kingdoms of this world may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior
Jesus Christ; hear us, O Lord.
Lord, grant us peace.

The Peace

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

Anthem during the preparation of the Altar

The Holy Communion

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give you
thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the mystery of his
incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his
mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.
Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices and sing our joyful
hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

All

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

Celebrant We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 Saviour and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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." Therefore, Father, according to his command,

All

**we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;**

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all 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; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

People

Amen.

The Word became flesh and dwelled among us, that as children of God we might dare to pray

People and Celebrant

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.

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The presider invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Anthem during Communion

Postcommunion Prayer

Father of all, tonight you have united earth and heaven in sending your Son to take our human nature. May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Blessing

The love of God, the light of Christ, and the joy of the Holy Spirit abide with you this holy night and forever.

Celebrant Rejoicing in Emmanuel, God is with us, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Concluding Hymn: #111 ~ *Silent 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!

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.



Christmas Prayer List

Russell Cutter and departed family members ~ Patricia Eldridge ~ Joanne M. Felci, James A. Felci, Paul W. Felci, Mildred P. Felci, Vincent Federici, and Theresa Wales ~ Holmes & Margaret Hurl, Marcia Hurl Foote, Charles and Marjorie Aston, and Helen Chase ~ John P. Sweny, Jr. ~ Danny Mullen, Beulah Kanarkiewicz, Stanley Kanarkiewicz, and Phyllis Leston ~ John J. Kelly Sr. & Jr. ~ Christine Senftleben ~ Cameron Rodenhiser-Chapman Families ~ Everett & Muriel Langley, and Ralph & Evelyn Soucy ~ Peter & Anna Manoogian, Agnes & Coley (Peter) Rochefort, Elaine Manoogian Espindle ~ Paul & Virginia Day, Jean & Joseph McBride, and Cathy Ferreira ~ Grace & Harold Belyea, Al & Bea DiGiacomo, and Susan DiGiacomo ~ Armand L. Couture, Jr. ~ Shane Maxwell ~ Margaret & Allan St. Clair, Bertha & Norman Calderwood ~ Lisa Polese ~ Barbara & Mel Witham, Joseph & Josephine DiTrapano, and Douglas Palazzo ~ John & Olga Ferullo ~ Mildred Confalone, Scott Fluet, Debra & Richard Dotolo, Sam Gates, Robert & Marion Green, and Mark Chase ~ Carol Cox, Mr. & Mrs. William Cox Sr., Mr. & Mrs. Richard Tarr, and Marilyn Tarr Schiappa

In Thanksgiving

Paige, Gwyneth, Harrison, Emery, Lydia, and Michaela ~ Julie, Rich, Kelly, and Nicole Stewart; David, Allan, and Mairead St. Clair ~ Josh and Sunny Irwin ~ The McBride Children & Grandchildren ~ Jill Puopolo & Stacey Puopolo ~ Gisela Moore

Participants in our Christmas services

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director ~ Julia Aston, Worship Leader

St. John's Episcopal Church

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge
(johntbeach(at)comcast.net or 774*961*9881)

8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906
Office: 781-233-1242 Email: StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com
Twitter: @StJohnsSaugus Facebook: St. John's Episcopal Church Saugus
Website: www.StJohnsSaugus.org