

ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Nativity of Our Lord - Christmas Day

December 25, 2022

Holy Eucharist 9:00 a.m.

Celebrant: The Reverend Colin Bowler

Director of Music: Jeff Campbell

Prelude Jesu, Joy *J.S. Bach*
 Jean Kemp, piano

Opening Hymn 154 "Joy to the World" *Antioch*

Welcome

Christmas Candle Lighting

We light this candle once in celebration of the light of life, now with us forevermore. For the Word has become flesh and is dwelling among us (*Light the Christ Candle*). We have seen his glory, the glory as of a Father's only son, full of grace and truth.

All **Glory to God. Amen.**

Gathering of the Community

Celebrant Christ is born!

All **Alleluia!**

Celebrant Jesus is among us!

All **Alleluia!**

Celebrant The Word has become flesh!

All **Alleluia! Alleluia!**

Celebrant Almighty God,

All to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.

Glory to God

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.

Kyrie Eleison

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord, have mercy.

Gathering Prayer

Almighty God, you wonderfully created and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature. May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ, who humbled himself to share our humanity, and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (*The Book of Alternative Services 1985*)

The Proclamation of the Word

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF ISAIAH

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for

in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. ISAIAH 52:7-10

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All **Thanks be to God.**

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs. HEBREWS 1:1-4

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

All **Thanks be to God.**

All stand for the Gospel.

Gospeler The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

All **Glory to you, Lord Jesus 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 1:1-14

Gospeler The Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Reflection of the Day The Reverend Colin Bowler

The Prayers of the People Beth Morum, Lay-reader

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 Saviour Jesus Christ; hear us O Lord.

Lord, grant us peace.

Confession and Absolution

Celebrant Dear friends in Christ, God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy; he welcomes sinners and invites them to his table. Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

Silence may be kept.

Celebrant Most merciful God,

All **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 neighbours 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.**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And also with you.**

(All may exchange a sign of peace with a bow, a smile but please no physical contact)

Offertory Hymn 140 "It Came Upon A Midnight Clear"

Carol

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Prayer Over the Gifts

Generous Creator, in faith and joy we celebrate the birth of your Son. Increase our understanding and our love of the riches you have revealed in him, who is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer #1 (BAS pg. 193)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right that we should praise you, gracious God, for you created all things. You formed us in your own image: male and female you created us. When we turned away from you in sin, you did not cease to care for us, but opened a path of salvation for all people. You made a covenant with Israel, and through your servants Abraham and Sarah gave the promise of a blessing to all nations. Through Moses you led your people from bondage into freedom; through the prophets you renewed your promise of salvation. Therefore, with them, and with all your saints who have served you in every age, we give thanks and raise our voices 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 Holy God, source of life and goodness, all creation rightly gives you praise. In the fullness of time, you sent your Son Jesus Christ, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of

all. He healed the sick and ate and drank with outcasts and sinners; he opened the eyes of the blind and proclaimed the good news of your kingdom to the poor and those in need. In all things he fulfilled your gracious will.

On the night he freely gave himself to death, 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 in 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."

Gracious God, his perfect sacrifice destroys the power of sin and death; by raising him to life you give us life for evermore. Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Celebrant Recalling his death, proclaiming his resurrection, and looking for his coming again in glory, we offer you, Father, this bread and this cup.

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts, that all who eat and drink at this table may be one body and one holy people, a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Celebrant And now, as our Saviour 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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread (BAS pg. 212)

Celebrant God of promise, you prepare a banquet for us in your kingdom.

All **Happy are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb.**

The Communion

Celebrant These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

During communion, congregation is invited to spend time in quiet prayer.

Communion Hymn 125 "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Polish Carol

Prayer After Communion

Source of truth and joy, may we who have received the gift of divine life always follow the way of your Son. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amen.

Celebrant Glory to God,

All **Whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

Dismissal

Closing Hymn 143 “Angels from the Realm of Glory”

Regent Square

Postlude Berenice Minuet
Jean Kemp, piano

G.F. Handel

*We wish to thank Jean Kemp
for sharing her musical gifts with us this morning.*

Officiant The Reverend Colin Bowler

Director of Music Jeff Campbell

Churchwardens Judith Beamish, Leslie Fortune Kristie Webster

Readers Nynka Greer, Leonora Hamilton