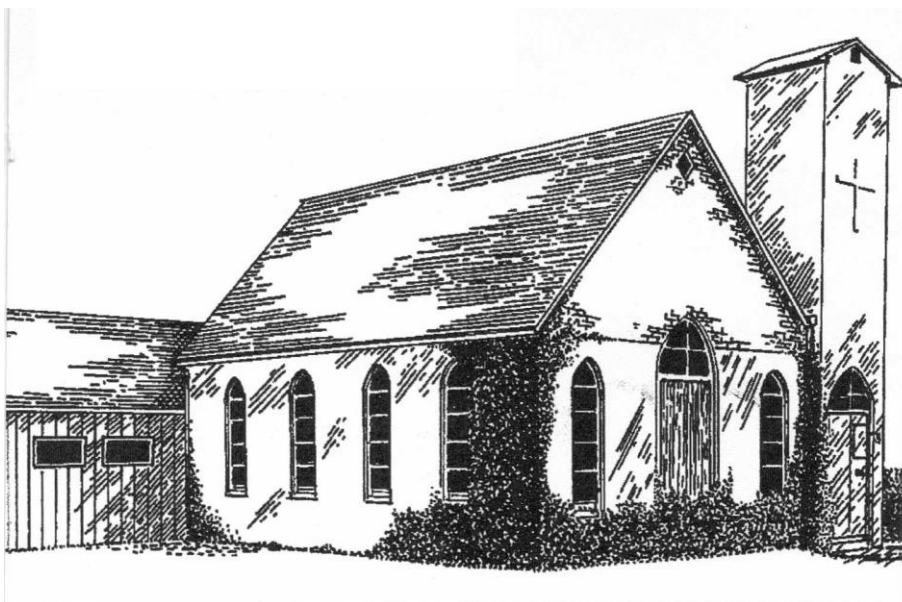


St. John's Episcopal Church

The Eve of the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

December 24, 2014



The Rev. Rebecca Myers, Priest-in-Charge
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Holy Eucharist

The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Wednesday, December 24, 2014

Celebrant Our season of waiting is over, and the Savior of the world is here!

People *As we light the Christ Candle, we join our voices with all the saints to praise the holy name of the Lord.*

Reader O sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples. For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods. (Psalm 96:1-4)

People *God is worthy of our praise, this day and everyday; together, we will worship Emmanuel – God With Us!*

Celebrant Blessed Messiah, Son of God, you have come to redeem your people and set us free by your amazing love. As we praise your holy name, may the light of your love guide us – and may we rejoice in letting the light of your love shine in all the world. *Amen.*

Liturgy of the Word

Hymn

O come, all ye faithful

Hymnal 83

All standing, the Celebrant says

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

The Celebrant says

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.

7:00 pm - The following is said, all standing

11:00 pm - The following is sung, all standing

Opening Anthem

S 280

- 1 Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
- 2 Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
- 3 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
- 4 you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;
- 5 you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.
- 6 For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
- 7 you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Isaiah 62:6-12

All sit.

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Remain seated.

Psalm 97

BCP p. 725

Second Reading

Titus 3:4-7

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

<i>Reader</i>	The Word of the Lord.
<i>People</i>	Thanks be to God.

Sequence


All stand.

Away in a Manger (7:00 pm service)

LEVAS 27

Angels we have heard on high (11:00 pm service)

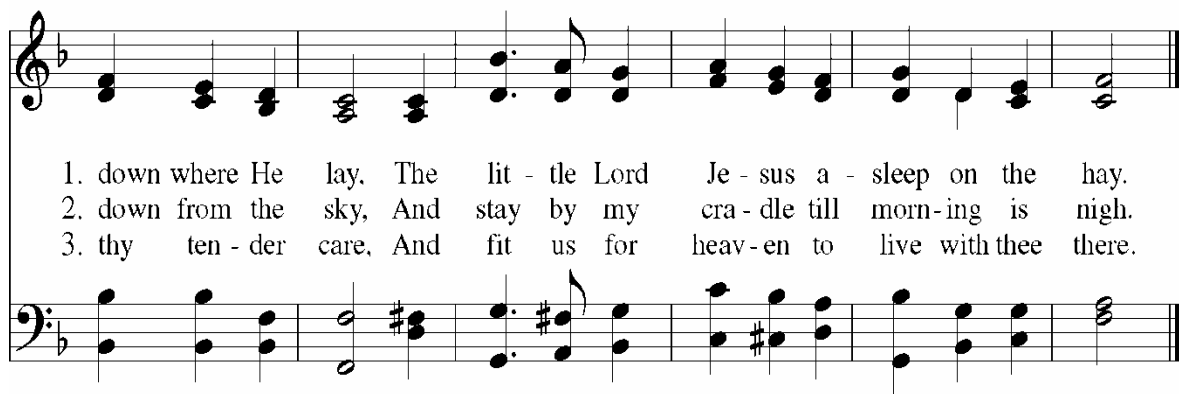
Hymnal 96



1. A - way in a man-ger, no crib for a bed, The lit - tle Lord
2. The cat - tle are low - ing the Ba - by a - wakes, But lit - tle Lord
3. Be near me, Lord Je - sus, I ask thee to stay Close by me for



1. Je - sus laid down His sweet head. The stars in the sky— looked
2. Je - sus, no cry - ing He makes, I love thee, Lord Je - sus! Look
3. ev - er, and love me, I pray. Bless all the dear chil - dren in



1. down where He lay, The lit - tle Lord Je - sus a - sleep on the hay.
2. down from the sky, And stay by my cra - dle till morn - ing is nigh.
3. thy ten - der care, And fit us for heav - en to live with thee there.

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

All stand.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

After the Gospel is read, the people respond as follows:

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

The Rev. Rebecca Myers

Nicene Creed

All stand.

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

Prayers of the People

All remain standing.

As we celebrate of Christ's coming to earth, let us pray to God saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

Silence

We pray for the Universal church, its members, and its mission. Especially at this time, we see how the church united can work together for Your Kingdom. Help St. John's to be part of uniting your church in our mission to make Christ known and to bring Christ's reign to the earth.

Reader Glory to God in the highest heaven

People And on earth peace among those whom he favors

We pray for these United States, for our President, Barack, and his family, for our Senator, Mitch, and his family, for our Representative, Hal and his family, for our Governor, Steve and his family, for our Mayor Willard and his family and for all those in government. Guide them to work for your justice.

Reader Glory to God in the highest heaven

People And on earth peace among those whom he favors

We pray for the welfare of the world. Especially on this night we pray that peace may come and that we realize we are all brothers and sisters and do not need to recklessly violate or murder each other. Teach us how to live in peace, working only for the good of each other. Teach us how to be good stewards of this beautiful earth and its creatures.

Reader Glory to God in the highest heaven

People And on earth peace among those whom he favors

We pray for our region; for the cities of Barbourville, Corbin, London and Williamsburg and the Counties of Jackson, Knox, Laurel, and Whitley. Guide our community leaders in your way. Help us imagine and work towards employment that is meaningful and provides for families. Deliver us from the heartbreak of addiction and help us find ways to eradicate poverty.

Reader Glory to God in the highest heaven

People And on earth peace among those whom he favors

We pray for all who suffer or are in any trouble. Especially we pray for Les, Erin, Linda & family, Juanita, Jerry, Shirley, Calvin, Bill, Raymond & Elaine, Mary, Elaine, Jack, Linda, Fred, Avery, Michael, Mason, Nellie, Leroy, Mary Ann, Katie, Jeff, Thalia, Craig, Barbara, Logan, Daphne, Rob, Wayne, Fay, Katrina, Teresa, Anne Day and the Gill family. Especially tonight we pray for all those who are grieving due to the death of loved ones or the brokenness of relationships. May all who suffer and are in trouble find comfort and peace in your loving arms.

Reader Glory to God in the highest heaven

People And on earth peace among those whom he favors

Especially on this night, we joyfully thank you for all of the blessings of this life, especially those we name now (*Please lift up your own petitions, either silently or aloud*).

Reader Glory to God in the highest heaven

People And on earth peace among those whom he favors

We pray for all those serving in the Armed Forces, especially Silvestre. We pray for the day when no person will again have to fight in a war and until then, we pray for guidance and wisdom in the use of force.

Reader Glory to God in the highest heaven

People And on earth peace among those whom he favors

We pray for all who have died. *(Please lift up your own petitions, either silently or aloud.)* We especially remember those whose absence is painful at this time of year. May our loved ones rest in peace and rise in glory with you and may those of us here find solace and comfort.

Reader Glory to God in the highest heaven

People And on earth peace among those whom he favors

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Announcements may be made at this point in the service.

Holy Communion

The Celebrant says

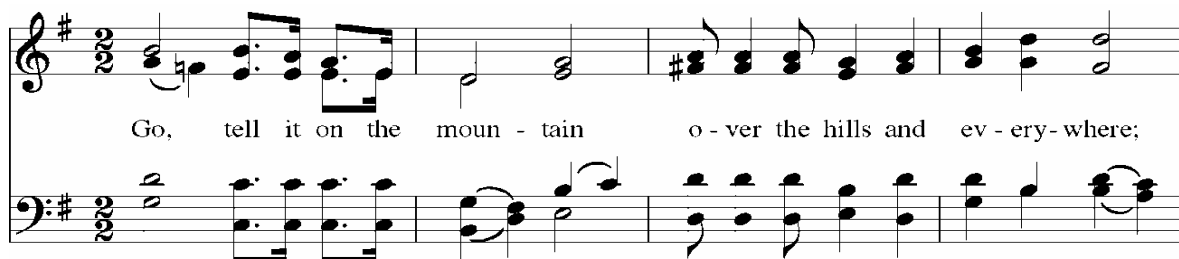
But do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God. *Hebrews 13:15-16*

Offertory Hymn

Go, Tell It on the Mountain (7:00 pm service)

LEVAS 21

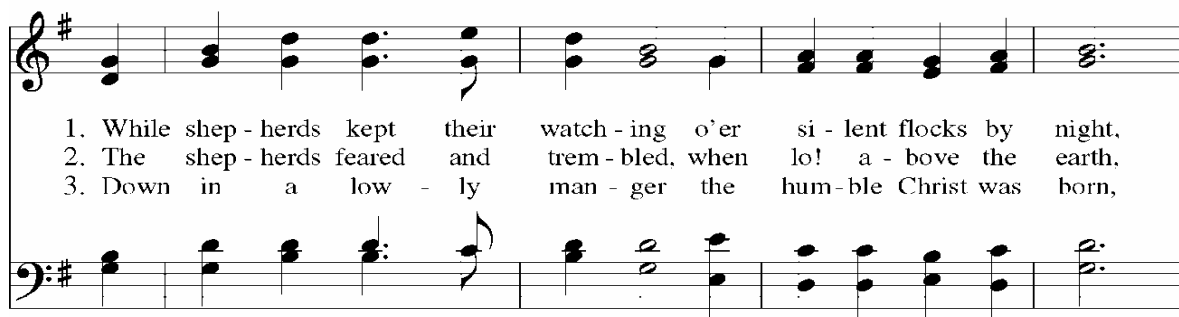
You're Here (11:00 pm service, solo by Amber Hibbitts)



Go, tell it on the moun - tain o - ver the hills and ev - ery - where;



go, tell it on the moun - tain, that Je - sus Christ is born. **Fine**



1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled, when lo! a - bove the earth,
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,



1. Be - hold through - out the heav - ens there shown a ho - ly light.
 2. Rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed the Sav - ior's birth.
 3. And God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn. **D.C.**

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Great Thanksgiving

The people remain standing.

<i>Celebrant</i>	The Lord be with you.
<i>People</i>	And also with you.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Lift up your hearts.
<i>People</i>	We lift them to the Lord.
<i>Celebrant</i>	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
<i>People</i>	It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant proceeds

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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Sanctus

S 130

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.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

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 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 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." 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 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.

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. *AMEN.*

The Celebrant then continues

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

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.

Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion.

Communion Hymn

The first Nowell the angel did say

Hymnal 109

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people, saying

May the blessing of the God of Abraham and Sarah, and of Jesus Christ born of our sister Mary, and of the Holy Spirit, who broods over the world as a mother over her children, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

Postcommunion Hymn

Silent night, holy night

Hymnal 111

Dismissal

Celebrant Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.