



**CHRIST CHURCH  
(Episcopal)**

**720 Riverside  
Adrian, Michigan 49221  
517/263-1162**

**Thursday, December 24, 2020**  
8:30 pm  
Christmas Eve Prayer Service  
Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ

**Service of Light**

Opening Hymn: H 83  
**O Come, All Ye Faithful**

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,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

O Sing, choirs of angels,  
Sing in exultation,

Sing all that hear in heaven God's holy word.  
Give to our Father glory in the Highest;  
O come, let us adore Him,

O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

All Hail! Lord, we greet Thee,  
Born this happy morning,  
O Jesus! for evermore be Thy name adored.  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him,  
Christ the Lord.

## Service of Light

### **GREETING (BCP p. 109)**

*All stand*

*Officiant*            Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
*People*                Thanks be to God.

### **SHORT LESSON (BCP p. 109)**

Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lamp-stand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the good you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven." *Matthew 5:14-16*

### **PRAYER FOR LIGHT (BCP p. 110)**

*The Officiant says*

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## Candle-Lighting

**CANDLE-LIGHTING ANTHEM** *Go tell it on the mountain (Go Tell It on the Mountain) (H 99)*

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

While shepherds kept their watching  
O'er silent flocks by night  
Behold throughout the heavens  
There shone a holy light

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

The shepherds feared and trembled  
When lo! Above the Earth  
Rang out the angel chorus  
That hailed our Savior's birth

Go, tell it on the mountain  
Over the hills and everywhere  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
That Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lowly manger  
Our humble Christ was born  
And God sent us salvation  
That blessed Christmas morn

**PHOS HILARON (BCP p. 112)**

O gracious Light,  
pure brightness of the everliving Father in heaven,  
O Jesus Christ, holy and blessed!  
Now as we come to the setting of the sun,  
and our eyes behold the vesper light,  
we sing your praises, O God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
You are worthy at all times to be praised by happy voices,  
O Son of God, O Giver of life,  
and to be glorified through all the worlds.

**PSALM: Psalm 96**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; \*  
sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.  
<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \*

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.  
<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations \*  
and his wonders among all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \*  
he is more to be feared than all gods.  
<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \*  
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup>Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \*  
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!  
<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \*  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.  
<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \*  
bring offerings and come into his courts.  
<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \*  
let the whole earth tremble before him.  
<sup>10</sup>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.”  
<sup>11</sup>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.  
<sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy  
before the LORD when he comes, \*  
when he comes to judge the earth.  
<sup>13</sup>He will judge the world with righteousness \*  
and the peoples with his truth.

*At the end of the Psalm is sung or said*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

## The Lessons

### **FIRST READING: Isaiah 9:2-7**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

<sup>3</sup>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.  
<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>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.

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.  
*People* Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

**FIRST CANTICLE (BCP p. 119)**

Canticle 15: The Song of Mary

*Magnificat*

*Luke 1:46-55*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior; \*  
for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.  
From this day all generations will call me blessed: \*  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.  
He has mercy on those who fear him \*  
in every generation.  
He has shown the strength of his arm, \*  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.  
He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and has lifted up the lowly.  
He has filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and the rich he has sent away empty.  
He has come to the help of his servant Israel, \*  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
The promise he made to our fathers, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

**SECOND READING: Titus 2:11-14**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

<sup>11</sup>The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup>training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup>while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup>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.

*Reader*            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

**SECOND CANTICLE (BCP p. 119)**

Canticle 17: The Song of Simeon

*Nunc dimittis*

*Luke 2:29-32*

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*  
to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom

Had rolled along the unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
“There is no peace on earth,” I said,  
“For hate is strong and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.”

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
“God is not dead, nor doth he sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.”

Till, ringing singing, on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day,  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men!

### **THIRD READING: Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Luke.

<sup>1</sup>In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup>This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup>All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup>While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>8</sup>In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup>Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup>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: <sup>11</sup>to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup>This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” <sup>13</sup>And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup>“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

[<sup>15</sup>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.”<sup>16</sup>So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.<sup>17</sup>When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup>and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup>But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup>The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

*Reader*            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.  
*People*            Thanks be to God.

*Silence may follow.*

### **THE APOSTLES’ CREED (BCP p. 96)**

*Officiant and People together, all standing.*

I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
    creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.  
    He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
        and born of the Virgin Mary.  
    He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
        was crucified, died, and was buried.  
    He descended to the dead.  
    On the third day he rose again.  
    He ascended into heaven,  
        and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
    He will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
    the holy catholic Church,  
    the communion of saints,  
    the forgiveness of sins,  
    the resurrection of the body,  
    and the life everlasting. Amen.

## The Prayers

### **SALUTATION (BCP p. 121)**

*The people stand or kneel*

*Officiant*            The Lord be with you.  
*People*                And also with you.  
*Officiant*            Let us pray.



**THE LORD'S PRAYER (BCP p. 121)**

*Officiant and People*

Our Father in heaven,  
    hallowed be your Name,  
    your kingdom come,  
    your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
    as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
    and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
    and the glory are yours,  
    now and forever. Amen.

**SUFFRAGES (BCP p. 121)**

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. And grant us your salvation.  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. Let your people sing with joy.  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. For only in you can we live in safety.  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. And guide us in the way of justice and truth.  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. Your saving health among all nations.  
V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

**FIRST COLLECT (BCP p. 122)**

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**SECOND COLLECT (BCP p. 122)**

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. *Amen.*

**THIRD COLLECT (BCP p. 122)**

Most holy God, the source of all good desires, all right judgments, and all just works: Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, so that our minds may be fixed on the doing of your will, and that we, being delivered from the fear of all enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the mercies of Christ Jesus our Savior. *Amen.*

**PRAYER FOR MISSION (BCP p. 124)**

Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. *Amen.*

**HYMN *Joy to the world! the Lord is come* (Antioch) (H 100)**

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 Saviour reigns;  
Let men their 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 GENERAL THANKSGIVING (BCP p. 125)**

*Officiant and People*

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,  
we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks

for all your goodness and loving-kindness  
to us and to all whom you have made.  
We bless you for our creation, preservation,  
and all the blessings of this life;  
but above all for your immeasurable love  
in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ;  
for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.  
And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies,  
that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise,  
not only with our lips, but in our lives,  
by giving up our selves to your service,  
and by walking before you  
in holiness and righteousness all our days;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

**A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM (BCP p. 126)**

*Officiant and People*

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.*

**CONCLUDING VERSICLE (BCP p. 126)**

Let us bless the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**CONCLUDING SENTENCE (BCP p. 126)**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. *Amen. 2 Corinthians 13:14*

*Silent Night H 111*

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 dawn of redeeming grace  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth  
Jesus Lord, at Thy birth.

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**UPCOMING EVENTS:**

12/26 Sam & Mary Abraham's anniversary

12/27 Sarah Abraham's birthday

**SAINTS CELEBRATED THIS WEEK:**

12/26 St Stephen, Deacon & Martyr

**COMMON PRAYERS WITH UNCOMMON RESULTS THIS WEEK FOR:**

**CONTINUED PRAYERS:** Bob Welke; Bobbie; Sue Burke; Ed &

Audrey Johnson; Joyce Johnson; Bob Bird; Donna Tomecek-Schiller; Jamie & Marvin; Jill Holden; Julie Wilkins; John; Donna Hanes; Kevin Cuyler; Chris Smith; Nancy Buchin; Harriet Woodby; Scott Johnson; Melissa Berger; Kristin & Matthew; Sam & Cam; Jordan; a woman with cancer; Sharon & family; Steven Stemkowski; Darren Baker; Frank Leahey; Lloyd, suffering from lung cancer; Caty Smith; Jim Barancin; Single mom with health issues, whose boyfriend is in the Army; Jon; Patricia Stricker; Lisa Hinskey's family; Jennifer; Sabrina & Kalee; Ms. Butler; total surrender; Bud Leafdale; Jessica's aunt; John Martin; Margaret Grose; our community; job recovery; Darrien Baker; Baby D; Randy Gilchrist; Joyce Matthews' husband, Arnold; Paul Barth; Linda Hesselink; Terry Johnson; Carrie Cook; Lily & Violet; Margaret; Al Ellerholz; Vicki Hesse; Beth Rowley; Eric Travis; Kim Pratt; the family of Catherine Pelham; Andy; the family of DJ Martin; the family of Gordon Stites

**PRAYERS FOR** the unemployed, homeless & disenfranchised

**IN HARM'S WAY** our service men & women suffering from PTSD

**CYCLE OF PRAYER:** Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop; Bonnie Perry, our Bishop;

Moises Quezada Mota, Bishop of the Diocese of the Dominican Republic; Elizabeth Eaton, ELCA Presiding Bishop; Donald P Kreiss, ELCA Bishop, SE Michigan Synod; Craig A Satterlee, ELCA Bishop, NW Lower Michigan Synod; our Diocesan retired community household; Our Diocesan household; St Matthew's & St Joseph's, Detroit; St Bartholomew's, San Cristobal, DR; St Mary the Virgin, Montillano, DR

We welcome you to Christ Church, and look forward to meeting together in person for worship & fellowship when the pandemic is over!

#### THE VESTRY OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pastor	The Rev. Dan Buchin
Senior Warden	Todd Johnson
Treasurer	Joyce Holden
Clerk	Sam Abraham Jan Buchin Ted Wilkins

#### COMMITTEES OF CHRIST CHURCH, ADRIAN

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