

MORNING PRAYER: RITE II

The First Sunday after Christmas

December 27, 2020

The Prelude: Christmas Concerto, Opus 6
North Carolina Baroque Orchestra

Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713)

Words of Welcome

The Opening Hymn: 87 Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

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 host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem!
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.
Pleased as man with us to dwell; Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the 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!
Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn King!

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt. William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

The Officiant begins the service with one or more sentences of Scripture.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All: **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. Alleluia.**

Jubilate *Psalm 100*

Officiant: Alleluia. To us a child is born:

People: **Come let us adore him.**

Officiant and People

Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; serve the Lord with gladness and come before his presence with a song. Know this: The Lord himself is God; he himself has made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise; give thanks to him and call upon his Name. For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his faithfulness endures from age to age.

Officiant: Alleluia. To us a child is born:

People: **Come let us adore him.**

Psalm 147:13-21

Read in unison.

Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion; For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; he has blessed your children within you. He has established peace on your borders; he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

He sends out his command to the earth, and his word runs very swiftly. He gives snow like wool; he scatters hoarfrost like ashes. He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; who can stand against his cold? He sends forth his word and melts them; he blows with his wind, and the waters flow. He declares his word to Jacob, his statutes and his judgments to Israel. He has not done so to any other nation; to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah! 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 First Lesson

Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle 16: The Song of Zechariah *Benedictus Dominus Deus*

Officiant and People

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; he has come to his people and set them free. He has raised up for us a mighty savior, born of the house of his servant David. Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, from the hands of all who hate us. He promised to show mercy to our fathers and to remember his holy covenant. This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, to set us free from the hands of our enemies, free to worship him without fear, holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life. You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high shall break upon us, to shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. 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 Second Lesson

John 1:1-18

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 testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

Canticle: Of the Father's Love Begotten

Of the Father's love begotten, ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, that have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!

O that birth for ever blesséd, when the Virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Savior of our race;
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!

Christ, to thee with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be;
honor, glory and dominion, and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!

Words: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410?); tr. John Mason Neale (1818-1866)
and Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt.

Music: Sanctus trope, 11th cent; adapt. *Piae Cantiones*, 1582; acc. Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)

The Homily

The Reverend Kevin Lloyd

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People

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 Lord's Prayer

Officiant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Officiant: Let us pray.

Officiant and People

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.

Suffrages B

Officiant: Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

People: Govern and uphold them, now and always.

Officiant: Day by day we bless you;

People: We praise your Name for ever.

Officiant: Lord, keep us from all sin today;

People: Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

Officiant: Lord, show us your love and mercy;

People: For we put our trust in you.

Officiant: In you, Lord, is our hope;

People: And we shall never hope in vain.

The Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Collects

The Officiant prays a series of Collects.

Parish Prayers and Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Please read together the names on our list, when prompted.

Together we pray for: *Anne, Archie, Bill, Bill, Caroline, Christopher, Courtney, Deanna, Florence, Hilary, Jerry, Jim, Jim, Jim, Joe, John, Lauren, Mason, Nick, Pat, Rock, Sandy, the Seneca family.*

The Prayer of St. Chrysostom

Officiant

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.**

Officiant: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Officiant: 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.**

The Closing Hymn: 100 Joy to the World

ANTIOCH

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let ev'ry heart prepare him room, and heav'n 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.

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.

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

Words: Isaac Watts, 1719, alt.

Music: English tune, c. 18th cent. adapt. Lowell Mason, 1848
vs. 1, 2, & 3 arr. M. Presson, 2020, vs. 4 arr. Matthew Corl, 2002

The Exchange of the Peace

The Postlude: Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

14th century German tune
piano arr. John Hillebrandt

Musical Direction

John Bailey, Organist & Choirmaster
Matt Presson, Producer

St. Alban's Christmas Choir

William Andrews
Bob Boettger
Alison Boughrum
Valerie Colbert

Charles Emerich
Mary Emerich
Jenny Fowles
Phyllis Grayson

Sarah Hicks
Bruce Langhorne
Steve Lee
Julia Lloyd

Kevin Lloyd
Mary Pylipow
Jane Shoemaker
Jan Steever

Instrumentalists

John Bailey, organ/piano
Ben Haden, trumpet

Jordi Harrison, clarinet
Laurie Harrison, flute

Barbara Krumdieck, cello
David Wilson, violin