



MORNING PRAYER FOR

The First Sunday after Christmas

DECEMBER 27, 2020



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Christmas continues. Today we gather across the Diocese of Missouri in living rooms, kitchens, and family rooms to continue the celebration of Christ's birth. Today's liturgy is meant to capture the many themes of this holy season, and to connect those themes to the world we live in.

Christmas is not other-worldly; it is, instead, very much of this world. It is about flesh, bone, and birth; it is a true family story with all the real life stuff they add to the tale; it is about the power and depth of hopes and dreams in the very midst of our everyday, real lives.

Precisely because Christmas is about God in this world of ours, the language and tone of today's liturgy is our language. You will find familiar words and songs; you will find new words breathing life into very old and rich traditions; and most of all, it is hoped, you will find yourself as a player and participant in this story of God's Word becoming flesh. We gather today not as mere observers but as ones who experience God's presence all around us. Christmas continues.



OPENING HYMN: "O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL"

SUNG IN TAMIL, HINDI & ENGLISH | FAITH CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF INDIA, MANCHESTER

**1. 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;**

Refrain

**O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord!**

**2. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!**

Glory to God, all glory in the highest;

**3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be all glory giv'n;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;**

**4. Adéste fidéles, laeti triumphántes,
Veníte, veníte in Bétlehem.
Natum vidéte Regem angelórum.**

THE BIDDING

Bishop Dear friends in Christ, in this season of Christmas let us praise and worship God who has called us together. Let us celebrate God's majesty, and delight in the wonder of God's love. Together we shall confess our sins and receive assurance that we are forgiven. As the scriptures are read, we can allow the experiences of God from our Ancestors to speak to us, and ponder its meaning in our lives. In our prayers, we give thanks for God's goodness, we pray for others as well as for ourselves and we offer our lives anew in Christ's service. All this we do because we believe in the presence among us of our Savior Jesus Christ, and in the might power of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Behold I bring you good news of a great joy; for to you is born in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord -Luke 2:10,11

Bishop O God, open our lips!

People **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

Bishop You laid the foundation of the earth

People **and the heavens are the work of your hands.**

Bishop Blessed are you, Sovereign God, creator of heaven and earth, to you be praise and glory for ever. As your living Word, eternal in heaven, assumed the frailty of our mortal flesh, so may the light of your love be born in us to fill our hearts with joy. Amen.

THE CONFESSION

Deacon Let us in silence remember our need for God's forgiveness. *Silence is kept for a time*

Deacon God of mercy,

People ***we have sinned against you and against others. We have sinned in what we have done, and in what we have failed to do. We are truly sorry. For the sake of your son Jesus Christ, who died for our sins, forgive us all that is past and raise us to newness of life. Amen.***

Bishop Almighty God, who pardons all who truly repent, forgive your sins, strengthen you by the Holy Spirit, and keep you in life eternal; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Bishop Blessed be the holy and undivided Trinity, one God.

People ***Blessed be God for ever. Amen.***

THE PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 147¹

DORIS LUCY-GOODLOW AND SHUG GOODLOW | CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, ST. LOUIS AND ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, LADUE

V. Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; praise your God, O Zion,

R. ***who has strengthened the bars of your gates, who has blessed your children within you.***

V. For the Lord has established peace on your borders and satisfies you with the finest wheat.

R. ***The Lord sends out a command to the earth, and the word runs very swiftly.***

V. The Lord gives snow like wool and scatters hoarfrost like ashes

R. ***and hail like bread-crumbs; who can stand against such cold?***

V. The Lord sends forth the word and melts them, blowing with the wind and the waters flow.

R. ***The Lord declares the word to Jacob, statutes and judgements to Israel.***

V. The Lord has not done so to any other nation;

R. ***to them these judgements have not been revealed. Hallelujah!***

WE HEAR THE SACRED STORIES

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET ISAIAH 61:10-62:30

ROB HARTZOG | ST. THOMAS DEAF EPISCOPAL CHURCH, KIRKWOOD

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations. For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give. You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader See what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

¹ Reprinted with permission from the Anglican Church of Canada <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/GS2016-Liturgical-Psalter-2016-05-04.pdf>

V. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
R. ***And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.***

V. You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
R. ***So from east to west shall my name be blest.***

V. My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
R. ***Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn!***

V. Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
R. ***And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.***

V. Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
R. ***You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.***

V. From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.
R. ***Let the king beware for your justice tears every tyrant from his throne.***

V. The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
R. ***There are tables spread, every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.***

V. Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
R. ***God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.***

V. This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
R. ***Until the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.***

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A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE GALATIANS 3:23-25; 4:4-7

JEANNE ATKINS | TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, HANNIBAL

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 Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

CANTICLE: A SONG OF JUDITH Judith 16:13-16

BRYAN MOORE AND MADDY BISHOP | DEACONESS ANNE HOUSE, NORTH ST. LOUIS

V. I will sing a new song to my God, for you are great and glorious, wonderful in strength, invincible.
R. ***Let the whole creation serve you, for you spoke and all things came into being.***

V. You sent your breath and it formed them, no one is able to resist your voice.
R. ***Mountains and seas are stirred to their depths, rocks melt like wax at your presence.***

V. But to those who fear you, you continue to show mercy.
R. ***No sacrifice, however fragrant, can please you, but whoever fears the Lord shall stand in your sight for ever.***

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 1:1-18

Deacon 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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON: THE REV. CANON WHITNEY RICE

Silence is kept for a time

ANTHEM: "GATHER OUR HEARTS O GOD"

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION, UNIVERSITY CITY

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Bishop Let us stand and declare our faith.

Bishop 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 LORD'S PRAYER

Bishop Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Savior taught us

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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.***

THE COLLECTS

Bishop God is with you.

People **And also with you.**

Bishop Let us pray:

Bishop 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.

Lord, by your grace we are made one in mind and heart. Give us a love for what you command and a longing for what you promise, so that, amid this world's changes, our hearts may be set on the world of lasting joy. We make our prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Holy and everliving God, by your power we are created and by your love we are redeemed; guide and strengthen us by your Spirit, that we may give ourselves to your service, and live each day in love to one another and to you, through Christ our Lord. Amen. *All are seated.*

HYMN: "CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT"

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH, KIRKWOOD

*1. Creator of the stars of night,
Your people's everlasting light,
O Christ, Redeemer of us all,
We pray you hear us when we call.*

*2. In sorrow that the ancient curse
Should doom to death a universe,
You came, O Savior to set free
Your own in glorious liberty.*

*5. Come in your holy might, we pray,
Redeem us for eternal day;
Defend us while we dwell below
From all assaults of our dread foe.*

*3. When this old world drew on toward night,
You came; but not in splendor bright,
Not as a monarch, but the child
Of Mary, blameless mother mild.*

*4. At your great Name, O Jesus, now
All knees must bend, all hearts must bow:
All things on earth with one accord,
Like those in heav'n, shall call you Lord.*

THE SUFFRAGES & PRAYERS

Deacon Make your ways known upon earth, O God; Your saving power among all people. *Silence.* Renew your Church in holiness; and help us to serve you with joy. *Silence.* Guide the leaders of this and every nation; that justice may prevail throughout the world. *Silence.* Let not the need, O God be forgotten. Nor the hope of the poor be taken away. *Silence.* Make us instruments of your peace, and let your glory be over all the earth. *Silence.*

Deacon In this holy season in which God joins heaven to earth, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all those in need. Bless all those who are entrusted with Christian ministry; that your Word might be proclaimed with truth and courage across our world. *Silence.*

Deacon Draw near to those who find this season a source of pain or grief, and to all who are suffering or sick, especially those we remember in our own hearts ... *(Names may be offered)*

Deacon Give us grace to follow your holy ones in lives of faith and commitment, that we may join with the hosts of heaven in singing the praises of this holy day. *Silence.*

Deacon All these things and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, O God...
Additional prayers may be offered silently or aloud.

Bishop In this holy season draw us into the mystery of your love. Join our voices with the heavenly host, that we may sing your glory on high. That we may find the one for whom we have waited, Jesus Christ, your Word made flesh, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, in the splendor of eternal light, God forever and ever. **Amen**

ANTHEM: "THE CANTICLE OF THE TURNING"

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ELLISVILLE

THE GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Bishop Let us offer our thanks and praise to Almighty God. Let us pray.

Silence is kept for a time.

Bishop Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

People ***We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care, which surrounds us on every side.***

Bishop We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

People ***We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.***

Bishop Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom.

People ***Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know him and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.***

DISMISSAL

Deacon Our worship is ended. Our service in the world begins. Go now to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People ***We go in the name of Christ. Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

HYMN: "JOY TO THE WORLD"

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY COMMUNION, UNIVERSITY CITY

**1. 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,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.**

**2. 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.**

**3. 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.**

Text: CM with repeats; based on Psalm 98:4-9; Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Music: T. Hawkes' Collection of Tunes, 1833; George Frideric Handel, 1685-1759; adapt. by Lowell Mason, 1792-1872, alt.



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○ COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

Sung in Tamil, Hindi & English
Faith Christian Church of India, Manchester

Trinity Episcopal Church, Hannibal

CANTICLE: SONG OF JUDITH

Bryan Moore and Maddy Bishop
Deaconess Anne House, North St. Louis

PSALM OF THE DAY: 147

Doris Lucy-Goodlow and Shug Goodlow | Christ Church
Cathedral, St. Louis and St. Peter's Episcopal Church,
Ladue

GATHER OUR HEARTS

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion,
University City

1ST READING

Rob Hartzog
St. Thomas Deaf Episcopal Church, Kirkwood

CREATOR OF THE STARS AT NIGHT

Grace Episcopal Church,
Kirkwood

CANTICLE OF THE TURNING: THE MAGNIFICAT

Ceana Sturgeon and Julie Nguyen Sturgeon
St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Manchester

THE CANTICLE OF THE TURNING

St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Ellisville

2ND READING

Jeanne Atkins

JOY TO THE WORLD

The Episcopal Church of the Holy Communion,
University City

SPECIAL THANKS TO

The Very Reverend Kathie Adams Shepherd
Dean, Christ Church Cathedral

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