



TRINITY CATHEDRAL
Of The Diocese of New Jersey

Christmas Eve Creche Service
December 24, 2023 - 4:00 pm
Celebrant: The Very Rev. René R. John

Our Vision:

A visible agent of God's love in Christ, joyfully embracing all people.

Our Mission:

God is here; Jesus loves you.

We are a welcoming, diverse community sharing God's love,
spreading the Gospel, and caring for all people and God's creation.

Come join us.

WELCOME! We're honored that you're worshipping with us today. Masks are optional while in the Cathedral buildings. Please use the hand sanitizer that is provided throughout the building before and after touching any surfaces.

If you're not familiar with our Episcopal worship service, we hope this will help. For sanitary purposes, all of our prayers are printed in this bulletin.

Thank you for helping us to remain as safe as possible while enjoying in-person worship. "This is how we love one another!"

Prelude

The Friendly Beasts

Arr. Dan Forrest

Dr. Kerry Heimann, organ

All stand, as able

Processional Hymn Hymnal # 109

The First Nowell the Angel Did Say

The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as
they lay;
in fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

They looked up and saw a star
shining in the east beyond them far,
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.

*Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.*

Refrain

The People are seated

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant: 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.**

All say together

Gloria

**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.**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

The People are seated

First Reading

Lector: Larry Spears

A Reading from the book of Isaiah (62:6-12)

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the Lord, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The Lord has sworn by his right hand

and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the Lord, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The Lord has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the Lord"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Remain seated; all say together

Psalm 96

**Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
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."
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.
Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.
He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.**

Second Reading

Lector: Janet Thompson

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to Titus (3:4-7)

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

The Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

All stand

Sequence Hymn

Hymnal # 87

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

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!

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 man to dwell;
Jesus, our Emmanuel!

*Hark! the herald angels sing
glory to the newborn King!*

Refrain

The People are seated for the Creche service

The Gospel: Luke 2: 1-20

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

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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.

Hymn**Hymnal # 79****O Little Town of Bethlehem**

Children bring up the following pieces: Cow, innkeeper, greens, votives

O little town of Bethlehem,
 how still we see thee lie!
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
 the silent stars go by;
 yet in thy dark streets shineth
 the everlasting Light;
 the hopes and fears of all the years
 are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary;
 and gathered all above,
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep
 their watch of wondering love.
 O morning stars, together
 proclaim the holy birth!
 and praises sing to God the King,
 and peace to men on earth.

He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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.

Hymn**Hymnal # 101****Away in a Manger**

Children bring up the following pieces: Donkey, Joseph, Mary, Baby Jesus

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
 the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet
 head.
 The stars in the bright sky looked down
 where he lay,
 the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes,
 but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.
 I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the
 sky,
 and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

Hymn**Hymnal # 96****Angels We Have Heard on High**

Children bring up the following pieces: Shepherds, lambs, Angels

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why these songs of happy cheer?
What great brightness did you see?
What glad tidings did you hear?

Refrain

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." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Hymn

Hymnal # 89

It Came upon a Midnight Clear

It came upon the midnight clear,
that glorious song of old,
from angels bending near the earth
to touch their harps of gold:
"Peace on the earth, good will to men,
from heaven's all-gracious King."
The world in solemn stillness lay
to hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies they come
with peaceful wings unfurled,
and still their heavenly music floats
o'er all the weary world;
above its sad and lowly plains
they bend on hovering wing,
and ever o'er its Babel-sounds
the blessed angels sing.

Remain seated

The Homily

The Very Rev. René John, Dean

All stand

Prayers of the People

Lector: Cn. Terry Cooper

Deacon: Sisters and brothers, rejoicing in the love of God that has taken flesh among us in Christ Jesus, let us confidently bring to the Lord the petitions of our heart this Christmas night, saying: **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For the believing community throughout the world, especially those in positions of leadership, that they might always work to give glory to God and to bring peace to our earth, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For the church gathered in this place, that we might always bear the good news of God's living presence in our world, towards deepening of Christmas faith and living that faith in love, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For those lost in the darkness of prejudice, hostility, and fear; for those burdened by the yoke of injustice, terrorism, hunger, and war; and for all our brothers and sisters in any need, that the light and life that is the Lord might touch their hearts this night, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For the homeless, and for the children born in the midst of poverty and pain, that there be room at the inn for all God's people, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Lector: For the sick and the dying among us, and for those who care for them, that the God whose love extends from the wood of the manger to the wood of the cross might bless them this night with the gift of peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: All loving and gracious God, we thank you for gracing us with the gift of your son. Confident of your continuing love for us, we have placed our needs before you. Hear and answer our prayers, through that same Christ, newly born this night, our Lord and Savior, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Please remain in your pew for the Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Please remain seated while Ushers collect the offertory.

All stand

Offertory Hymn

Hymnal # 99

Go Tell it on the Mountain

*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.

Refrain

The shepherds feared and trembled
when lo! above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.

Refrain

All remain standing

**The Great Thanksgiving
Eucharistic Prayer B**

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give God 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:

Celebrant and People say together

Sanctus

**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. Then 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.**

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray . . .

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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept. All say together . . .

Fraction Anthem

**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.**

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion:

Celebrant: My Jesus, We believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. We love you above all things, and long for you in our soul. Since some cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into their hearts. As though you have already come, we embrace you and unite ourselves entirely to you; never permit us to be separated from you. Amen. (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

Please proceed to the Altar for Communion

Communion Solo

What Child is This, Who, Laid to Rest

Arr. Robert Hobby

Dr. Kerry Heimann, organ

Celebrant: 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.**

Announcements

Recessional Hymn

Hymnal # 100

Joy to the World!

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven 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.

The Christmas Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Deacon: Alleluia. Let us go forth in the name of our Lord Jesus.

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

Postlude

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing

Arr. Robert Hobby

Dr. Kerry Heimann, organ

*The Bishop, Dean, Clergy, Wardens, Vestry and Staff of Trinity Cathedral
wish you and yours a blessed Christmas and New Year!*

CATHEDRAL CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Sally French, Bishop

The Very Rev. René Rory John, Dean

The Rev. Cn. Dr. Noel Amadi, Priest Associate

The Rev. Dr. Peter Bridge, Priest Associate

The Rev. Dr. John Luttrell, Priest Associate

The Rev. Cn. Bruce Montgomery, Priest Associate

The Rev. Carol Gilbert, Deacon

The Rev. Chris Cox, Deacon

CATHEDRAL STAFF

Dr. Kerry Heimann, Director of Music/Cathedral Organist

Fay Manicke, Associate Director of Music

Patrice A. D'Angelo, Cathedral Administrator

Al Shaw, Sexton

Michael "PJ" Pettyjohn, Associate Sexton

REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE

8:30 am – Holy Eucharist in All Saints Chapel – Rite I (in-person, 1st & 3rd Sundays)

10:00 am – Holy Eucharist in the Cathedral - Rite II (in-person & livestreamed)

CHRISTMAS SERVICE SCHEDULE

In-person & livestreamed, when available:

Christmas Day: 10:00 am Rite II Eucharist in the Cathedral

New Year's Day: 10:00 am Rite II Eucharist in the Cathedral

CHRISTMAS OFFICE SCHEDULE

The Cathedral Office will be closed December 25, 26, & 30 and January 1.