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***Christmas Eve 2020***

***Prelude***

***Welcome***

***Opening Hymn –CP118 – O Come, All Ye Faithful (Vs. 1,2,3)***

***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, Christ the Lord.***

***God of God, Light of Light,***

***lo, he abhors not the virgin’s womb;***

***very God, begotten not created:***

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

***Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,***

***sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;***

***glory to God in the highest***

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

*Celebrant* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of

 God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

***All* And also with you.**

On this holiest of nights,

**we come, joining the shepherds**

**who are stunned by wonder.**

On this most silent night,

**we come, our hopes and dreams**

**joining those of Mary and Joseph.**

On this night of carols and candlelight,

**we come, our glad songs joining**

**with the choirs of angels over us.**

***Collect Prayer***

Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.  Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. **Amen.**

***The Readings***

***Isaiah 52: 7-10***

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

***Gradual Hymn - CP 125- Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (vs. 1 )***

Infant holy, infant lowly,

for his bed a cattle stall;

oxen lowing, little knowing

Christ the babe is Lord of all.

Swiftly winging angels singing,

bells are ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Christ the babe is Lord of all!

May the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke. **Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

***Luke 2: 1-20***

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.  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.

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!”

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.

The gospel of Christ. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

***Gradual Hymn - CP 125 - Infant Holy, Infant Lowly (vs. 2)***

Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping

vigil till the morning new

saw the glory, heard the story,

tidings of a gospel true.

Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,

praises voicing, greet the morrow:

Christ the babe was born for you!

Christ the babe was born for you!

***Homily - The Reverend Canon Ruthanne Ward***

***Solo Fit for a King -*** *(Joseph Martin)*

***Ankelly Armstrong, Soprano***

***The Prayers of the People***

***The Lord’s Prayer***

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 Peace***

*May the Peace of the Lord be always with you.* ***And also with you.***

***Hymn – Silent Night - CP119***

***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.***

***Silent night! Holy night!***

***Shepherds quake at the sight :***

***glories stream from heaven afar,***

***heavenly hosts sing alleluia,***

***Christ the Saviour is born.***

***Silent night! Holy night!***

***Son of God, love’s pure light***

***radiant beams from thy holy face,***

***with the dawn of redeeming grace,***

***Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.***

***Benediction ( written by Carol Penner, on her*** [***Leading in Worship***](http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/2010/12/christmas-benediction.html) ***blog. )***

By the tender mercy of our God

love has broken upon us!

Light is given where once there was darkness

and hope where there was only death.

We go into this season knowing

that God will guide our feet into the way of peace.

***Doxology***

Glory to God,

***All* whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

***Blessing***

***Closing Hymn – CP138 – Hark! The Herald Angels Sing (Vs. 1, 3)***

***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!’***

***Refrain Hark! The herald angels sing,***

 ***‘Glory to the newborn King.’***

***Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!***

***Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!***

***Light and life to all he brings,***

***risen with healing in his wings.***

***Mild he lays his glory by,***

***born that we no more may die,***

***born to raise each child of earth,***

***born to give us second birth.***

***Refrain***

***Dismissal***

***Postlude***