



Welcome to St. Philip's Anglican Church and to this Christmas Eve Candlelight and Carols Eucharist.

Christmas is a season of both quiet reflection and joyful celebration. Through our experience of sacred Word and music, the story of the Christ's birth unfolds and deepens our understanding of God's message of grace and truth. In the Eucharist, we receive the One whose birth, dying, and rising shapes our lives in the pattern of Christ and unites us with God both now and in eternity.

May these words, music, and meaning of this season propel you with hope and peace toward the true Joy of Christmas.

On behalf of the people and clergy of St. Philip's, we wish you and yours, family, friends, one and all, a very blessed, safe, peaceful, and hopeful Christmas season.



ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

Quem Pastores

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

The Celebrant begins the service from the back of the church. The people stand as they are able.

THE ACCLAMATION OF THE NATIVITY

Celebrant	For to us a Child is born,	
People	to us a Son is given;	
Celebrant	and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be	called
	Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,	
People	Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.	Isaiah 9:6
Celebrant	When all was still, and it was midnight,	
People	Your almighty Word, O Lord, descended from the royal throne.	Wisdom 18:14-15
Celebrant	Oh sing to the Lord a new song;	
People	sing to the Lord, all the earth!	
Celebrant	Sing to the Lord, bless His name;	
People	tell of His salvation from day to day.	Psalm 96:1-2

PROCESSIONAL HYMN CP 118 – "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

The clergy and assisting ministers assemble in the midst of the people in the centre of the aisle.

Celebrant	The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
	and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
People	Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOLY GOSPEL – Part 1 Luke 2:1-14

God's greatest gift comes as a baby in a manger. Angels announce the "good news of great joy" and proclaim God's blessing of peace.

Celebrant 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,	
Choir	"Do not be afraid; for see $-I$ am bringing you good news of great joy for all the	
	people:	
All	to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord.	
Choir	This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying	
	in a manger."	
Celebrant	And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God	
	and saying,	
All	"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he	
	favours!"	

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS All sing



HOLY GOSPEL – Part 2 Luke 2:15-20

Celebrant When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another,

All "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

Celebrant 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.

CelebrantThe Gospel of Christ.PeoplePraise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant People	We give thanks for the light of HOPE—unrelenting and inexplicable. Our hope in Christ shines on.
Celebrant People	We give thanks for the light of PEACE—strong and unafraid. The peace of Christ lights our way.
Celebrant People	We give thanks for the light of JOY—persistent and unpredictable. The joy of Christ brightens our lives.
Celebrant	We give thanks for the light of LOVE—fiery and holy.
People	The love of Christ comforts and challenges.
Celebrant	Now let us light the Christ candle as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.
People	Thank you, God, for your light in this world through Jesus Christ.
Celebrant	The light shines in the darkness.
People	And the darkness has not overcome it.



(tune: "Away in a Manger")

Come, listen, the sounds of "God-with-us" ring clear, and signs of a Cross in the distance appear. The Word once made flesh, yet the Word ever near. One candle is lit for the Christ-birthday here. *(over...)* We honour Messiah with Christ-candle flame; Our Christmas Eve candles glad tidings proclaim. O come all ye faithful, rejoice on this night As God comes among us, the Christ-child, our light.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant	Let us pray.
	Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light.
People	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;
Celebrant	through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
	Spirit, one God, now and forever.
All	Amen.

EPISTLE Titus 3:4-8

read by Ruth Stephens

The appearance of God's grace in Jesus Christ brings salvation for all humanity. Consequently, in the present we live wisely and justly while also anticipating the hope of our Saviour's final appearance.

But when the goodness and loving-kindness of God our Saviour 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 Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is sure.

ReaderThe Word of the Lord.PeopleThanks be to God.



PSALM 96 "Sing to the Lord a New Song"



Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Words: Scott Soper © 2005 World Library Publications Music (ES IST EIN' ROS' ENTSPRUNGEN 7.6.7.6.6.7.6): from *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng*, Cologne, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius, 1609, P.D.

POETRY – THE OLD TESTAMENT Isaiah 9:2-7

read by Derek Simpkins

This poem, direct from the Scriptures, promises deliverance from Assyrian oppression, a hope based on the birth of a royal child with a name full of promise. While Judah's king will practice justice and righteousness, the real basis for faith lies in God's passion for the people: The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this!

Reader	The people who walked in darkness
People	have seen a great light;
Reader	those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
People	on them light has shined.
Reader	You have multiplied the nation,
People	you have increased its joy;
Reader	they rejoice before you
<u>Left Side</u>	as with joy at the harvest,
<u>Right Side</u>	as people exult when dividing plunder.
Reader <u>Left Side</u> <u>Choir</u> <u>Right Side</u>	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.
Reader <u>Low Voices</u> <u>High Voices</u>	For all the boots of the tramping warriors Image: Constraint of the second
Reader	For a child has been born for us,
People	a son given to us;
Reader	authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named
<u>All</u>	Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
Reader	His authority shall grow continually,
People	and there shall be endless peace
Reader	for the throne of David and his kingdom.
People	He will establish and uphold it
Reader	with justice and with righteousness
People	from this time onwards and for evermore.
All	The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.
Reader People	The Word of the Lord.Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY CP 138 – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

SERMON The Reverend Lorne Manweiler, Rector



I believe in God almighty, Father of all things that be, Maker of the earth and heavens, Keeper of the sky and sea. I believe in God's Son, Jesus, now for us both Lord and Christ, of the Spirit and of Mary born to bring abundant life.

I believe that Jesus suffered, scourged and scorned and crucified; taken from the cross, was buried—true Life there had truly died. I believe that on the third day Christ was raised up from the grave, then ascended to God's right hand. He will come to judge and save.

I believe in God's own Spirit, bonding all the saints within one church, catholic and holy, where forgiveness frees from sin; in the body's resurrection, for the breaking of death's chain gives the life that's everlasting. This the faith that I have claimed.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Please follow the prayer leader's direction for responses to each petition of the prayers.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Celebrant	Dear God, we thank you for all that is good,
	for your creation and our humanity,
	for the stewardship you have given us of this planet earth,
	for the gifts of life and one another,
	for your love which is unbounded and eter
People	Merciful God,
	we have not loved you with our whole hear nor our neighbours as ourselves.
	For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
	forgive what we have been,
	accept us as we are, and guide what we shall be.
Celebrant	O God of mercy, you forgive our past sin, you strengthen us in your gift of eternal life
	you shape us for your glory.
All	O God of mercy, we thank you. Amen. \Im



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THE PEACE

The members of the community, ministers & *people, may greet each other in the name of the Lord.*

CelebrantThe peace of the Lord be always with you.PeopleAnd also with you.

- Celebration of the Eucharist -

THE PREPARATION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY HYMN CP 121 – "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Celebrant Let us pray.
 Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others.
 People With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



Celebrant It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Saviour Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that, beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

All	Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. Let us proclaim the mystery of faith: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
Celebrant All	With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. Come, Lord Jesus.
Celebrant	Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.
All	Come, Holy Spirit.
C 1 1 I	
Celebrant	All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CelebrantAs our Saviour taught us, let us pray,AllOur 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 for ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant	We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.
All	God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

THE COMMUNION

The celebrant invites the people to share in communion, saying,

CelebrantThe gifts of God for the people of God.AllThanks be to God.



AGNUS DEI



DISTRIBUTION

Some helps regarding Communion at St. Philip's during COVID-19:

- *Please follow the direction of the ushers to come forward for Communion;*
- two lines are formed in the side aisles; if you wish to receive a blessing rather than to commune, please proceed to the Celebrant's queue;
- the bread, the body of Christ, is offered as well as the Cup, the blood of Christ;
- drinking from the Common Cup is optional, and you are welcome simply to bow or touch the cup in acknowledgement if you prefer;
- *intinction* (*dipping the host in the wine*) *is not permitted due to wheat contamination concerns for those with celiac disease or wheat allergies;*
- hand sanitizer should be used before communing and is available as you come forward;
- please commune individually or in your cohort group to ensure safer physical distancing.

As the Communion ends, sidespersons will walk through the aisles with lit candles. Once all the peoples' candles are lit, the service continues with the Prayer and the Carol.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CelebrantLet us pray.
Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have
feasted on your grace.PeopleMay your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your
glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.AllAmen.

THE CANDLELIGHT CAROL – CP 119 – "Silent Night"



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

CelebrantLet us pray.Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have
feasted on your grace.PeopleMay your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your
glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord.

All Amen.

BENEDICTION

Celebrant	As you remember the Child born in Bethlehem	
	may you also remember to honour the child in your own heart.	
	May you follow the light of the stars in your dreams	
	and know that God is with you wherever you go.	
	Let the hope that was born in a stable be a sign	
	that God can change the world through one small child.	
	May the spirit of Christmas warm your heart all year long.	
All	Amen.	
Celebrant	Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,	
	fill you with peace and goodwill, and make you partakers of the divine nature;	
	and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,	
	be amongst you and remain with you always.	
All	Amen.	

RECESSIONAL HYMN CP 154 – "Joy to the World"

DISMISSAL

The celebrant dismisses the people, saying,

CelebrantGo in peace. Christ goes with you!PeopleThanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Pastorella

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)





Join us at St. Philip's for Worship, Music, Connection, and Community in 2023.

Sunday service is at 10:00 am; check our website for more information: www.stphilipsdunbar.com.

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