

## The Episcopal Church of the Ascension

*"Where you are welcome for a service or a lifetime."*



### Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

9:30am

**Services held weekly on our Facebook page\***

Sundays: Morning Prayer at 9:30am

Thursdays: Compline Prayer service at 7pm

*<https://www.facebook.com/ascensionparkesburg>*

*\*you do not need a Facebook account to view our services*

*& services can be viewed at a later time/date*

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**The Episcopal Church of the Ascension  
The Celebration of the Christ Mass**

**Prelude**

**“What Child is This?”** Hymnal 115

**Welcome** Rev. Jill

**“O Come, All Ye Faithful”** Hymnal 83

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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, glory in the highest;  
(Refrain)

**Advent Wreath Lighting**

*by Patti Smith with grandchildren Olivia, Ben & Mavis*

**Collect** Grace Taylor

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born [this day] of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus

Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**“Angels We Have Heard On High”** Hymnal 96

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

Refrain:

Glo - - - - - ri-a in excelsis deo. (Repeat)

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.  
(Refrain)

**Hebrew Scripture**

**Isaiah 9:2-7** Walt Liefeld

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness--  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
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.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors  
and all the garments rolled in blood  
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us,  
a son given to us;  
authority rests upon his shoulders;  
and he is named  
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,  
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.  
His authority shall grow continually,  
and there shall be endless peace  
for the throne of David and his kingdom.  
He will establish and uphold it  
with justice and with righteousness  
from this time onward and forevermore.  
The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.  
The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**“Joy to the World”**

**Hymnal 100**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King;  
Let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and heaven and nature  
sing.  
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 and wonders of his  
love.

**New Testament Scripture**

**Titus 2:11-14**

Matt Ryan

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to  
all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions,  
and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled,  
upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and  
the manifestation of the glory of our great God and  
Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that  
he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for  
himself a people of his own who are zealous for good  
deeds.

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**“Away in a Manger”**

Hymnal 101

Away in a manger, no crib for a 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.

**Gospel Scripture**

**Luke 2:1-20**

Rev. Jill

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!"

The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

Rev. Jill

## **Prayers of the People**

Beth Davis

*Intercessor* Rejoicing that the grace of God has been revealed in the birth of Jesus Christ, let us pray to God saying, "Hear our prayer."

O God, on this holy day, your Son was born as a baby. Renew your Church and open our hearts that Christ may be born in us. God in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* On this holy day, your Christ comes as light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who experience depression, anxiety, or addiction. God in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* On this holy day, there was no room for your Son in the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. God in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* On this holy day, Mary, in the pain of labor, was assisted by midwives. Give your strength to all who work in a health care setting, to first responders, and essential workers. God in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* On this holy day, mother and child were cared for by strangers. Grant your healing love to those on our prayer list and any who are sick or sorrowful. God in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* On this holy day, the angels sang “Peace to God’s people on earth.” Grant renewed peace to all places and people torn by division and hatred, war and violence. Give wisdom and humility to those who govern. God in your mercy

**People: Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* On this holy day, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Bring into the fullness of your presence all who have died. God in your mercy

**People Hear our prayer.**

*Intercessor* O God of heavenly glory, you have hallowed this sacred day with the joyful tidings of Christ’s birth: May the Light dawning upon us kindle our hearts and awaken hope, that we may shine forth your glory in love; in Christ’s name.

**Amen.**

### **Pageants Past**

*Montage of pictures of pageants from years past, with videos of children describing their favorite pageant memories.*

### **“Silent Night”**

Hymnal 111

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,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

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,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

### **Closing Prayer**

Rev. Jill

Loving God, we give you thanks for blessing all human bodies by the incarnation of your Son. We give you thanks for nourishing us with Scriptural word and spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ’s Body. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

### **Dismissal**

Rev. Jill: Let us bless the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**

**Hallelujah Chorus**