

# St. Peter's Episcopal Church

## *The Eve of the Feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ*

*December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021  
11:00 PM*



## *The Holy Eucharist Rite II*



*The Rev. Sandra H. Stayner, Rector*

## The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

### Choral Prelude

*All stand as able; music for the hymns can be found in the blue hymnals in the pews in front of you.*

**Processional Hymn: # 83 O Come, All Ye Faithful**

*Adeste Fideles*

*(All stand)*

**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***

**Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing; *Refrain***

## THE WORD OF GOD

### Opening Acclamation

**Celebrant:** Glory to God in the highest.

**People:** And on earth peace and good will to all people.

**Hymn of Praise: #96 Angels We Have Heard on High**

*Gloria*

**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?**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

**Gloria in excelsis Deo.**

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.

**People: Amen.**

The First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

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.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

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

**Hymn: #89 It Came Upon a Midnight Clear**

*Carol*

**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, goodwill to men  
from heavens all gracious King!"  
The world in solemn stillness lay  
to hear the angels sing.**

**For lo! the days are hastening on,  
by prophets seen of old,  
When with the ever-circling years  
shall come the time foretold,  
When peace shall over all the earth  
its ancient splendors fling,  
And all the world give back the song  
which now the angels sing.**

The Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

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.

**Reader: The Word of the Lord.**

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn:** #112 In the bleak midwinter (*verses 1,4*)

*Cranham*

**In the bleak midwinter frosty wind made moan,  
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;  
yet what I can I give him give my heart.**

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

**Celebrant:** 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. 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!"

**Celebrant:** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. Sandra H. Stayner, Rector

**The Nicene Creed**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

### **The Prayers of the People**

*During the short silence after each bidding, you are invited to add your own prayers silently or aloud.*

The People are asked to respond to the bidding: *"Most holy child"* with the words *"Hear our prayer"*

*Leader:* On this most hopeful night, we pray for your Church in the world, that we may all be one. Pray for all of God's people.

*Silence.*

Most holy child, *"Hear our prayer"*



*Leader:* On this most peaceful night, we pray for peace, for goodwill among nations and for the well being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence.*

Most holy child, "*Hear our prayer*"

*Leader:* On this most blessed night, we pray for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed; for refugees, prisoners and those who are alone. Pray for those in need or trouble.

*Silence.*

Most holy child, "*Hear our prayer*"

*Leader:* On this most holy night, we pray for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence.*

Most holy child, "*Hear our prayer*"

*Leader:* On this most reverent night, we ask your forgiveness for the times we have wronged one another and failed to care for your world. Pray, in humility, for forgiveness and restoration.

*Silence.*

Most holy child, "*Hear our prayer*"

*Leader:* On this most lovely night, we are reminded that love never dies. We ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence.*

Most holy child, "*Hear our prayer*"

## Concluding Collect

Celebrant: 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**

## The Peace *(All stand)*

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

**People: And also with you.**

*The congregation is invited to share a sign of peace with each other.*

## THE HOLY COMMUNION

*All who are baptized are welcome at the table of the Lord. Gluten free wafers are available. If this is your preference, tell the priest as they offer you the wafer. If you would like a priest's blessing, please place your arms across your chest when you come to the altar.*

Welcome and Offertory Sentences

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM

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:

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER B

## SURSUM CORDA

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.**

Celebrant: 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:

SANCTUS S130

Deutsche Messe

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
 might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
 God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are  
 full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na  
 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na  
 in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*(The people may stand or kneel for the continuation of the Eucharistic Prayer.)*

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 Jesus to be incarnate

from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, 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, 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 the Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Peter and 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 are bold to say,

**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

Celebrant: We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

**People: We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

#S164 Fraction Anthem: Jesus, Lamb of God:

*Agnus Dei*

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

**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.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,  
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel!**

At the end of communion we will sing together:

Silent Night, Holy Night Hymnal #111  
*(Please kneel if able while the lights are dimmed)*

*Stille Nacht*

**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! Shepherds quake at the sight  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!  
Christ, the Savior is born!  
Christ, the Savior 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.  
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth.**

Celebrant: Let us stand and say together the Post-Communion prayer.

Celebrant and People:

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **The Blessing**

May almighty God, who sent his only Son to take our nature upon him, bless you this Holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of God's holiness in the name of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**



**RETIRING PROCESSIONAL HYMN:**

# 100 Joy to the World (vv. 1, 2 & 4)

*Antioch*

**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.**

**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.**

**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.**

**DISMISSAL**

**Celebrant:** Go with the light of Christ to love and serve the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

*THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE LITURGY*

<b>Celebrant and Preacher:</b>	The Reverend Sandra H. Stayner, Rector
<b>Minister of Music:</b>	Matthew Harrison
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Alan Blume
<b>Readers:</b>	Martha Blume and Scott Gadwa
<b>Prayers of the People:</b>	Christine Aliano
<b>Zoom Host:</b>	Marjorie Chapman

*We are so glad you have joined us to worship  
as we welcome the Christ child today.*

We invite you to join us at our Sunday worship services:  
8:00 am Quiet Eucharist, no choirs  
9:45 am Children's Sunday School  
10:00 am Family Eucharist with choirs

*For more information about St. Peter's Episcopal Church,  
please see our website or contact the Parish Office.*

**59 Main Street, Cheshire CT 06410**  
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**[office@stpeterscheshire.org](mailto:office@stpeterscheshire.org)**  
**(203) 272-4041**

## *Message from the Rector*

Tonight, we gather once more with family and friends, young and old, to celebrate the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

For those with eyes to see, Christmas is so much more than a holiday, so much more than buying and wrapping gifts. This story is not just a tale about the birth of a little boy in a faraway land, it is a love story, God's love for every person that has ever inhabited this earth. It is the story of God's desire to be close to each of us, rich or poor, young or old. Are you beloved of God? Our Story says "yes"! Whatever your situation in life, God wants to be near you now, to laugh as you laugh and comfort you when you cry.

As you listen to the singing of the joyful carols and kneel at his cradle as the lights are dimmed, and the strains of "Silent Night, Holy Night" fill the air, simply be still and allow God's peace to fill your soul and take with you the promise that with the birth of the Christ Child, God has come near to you, as near as he is this beautiful night, to be with you throughout all the ups and downs of the coming year.

I wish you a blessed and holy Christmas tide.

Rev. Sandy Stayner



# *St. Peter's Episcopal Church*

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Sam Dunlop, Junior Warden

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## Staff

The Rev. Sandra Stayner, Rector

The Rev. David Stayner, PhD, Associate Rector

Matthew Harrison, Minister of Music

Kim Donaldson, Co-Director of Children's Ministries

Marie Hodgdon, Co-Director of Children's Ministries

David Kacynski, Sexton

Kathy Kirby, Parish Administrator



**St. Peter's**  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH