



Welcome to Christ Church
 Christmas Eve 10:30 P.M.
 December 24, 2015



Service Notes: Hymns are in the larger blue books. Thanks to service participants: Choir, Lectors, Chalcists and Acolytes
 Christ Church Pomfret, Ct. The Rev. David M. Carter 860-315-7780

Prelude

Introit *Break forth, O Beauteous heavenly light* Bach/Rist

83 Processional Carol *O Come, all ye faithful* (in the Blue Book, pew rack) (vss. 1-3 & 6)

Choir Anthem *Torches* Joubert (the congregation may be seated)

Celebrant: I bring you good news of great joy:
People: **A Savior has been born to you. Alleluia**
Celebrant: Unto us a child is born,
People: **Unto us a Son is given. Alleluia.**
Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy and living God.
People: **Glory to God, forever and ever.**

112 Carol *In the bleak mid-winter*

The Collect for Christmas

Celebrant: God be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Let us pray

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born *this day*: 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 forever. **Amen** (the congregation may be seated)

Our First Lesson is from the Book of Isaiah (9:2-4, 6-7)

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 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: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people*
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Organ Interlude *Let the Merry Organ Sound* Mawby

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.

Prayers of the People *(please remain standing)* (from the Church of England)

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

O God, on this holy night, your Son, our Savior was born in human flesh. Renew us to be his Body in the world. Holy God.

Hear our prayer.

On this night there was no room for your Son at the inn. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty. Holy God.

Hear our prayer.

On this night Mary, in the pain of labor, brought your Son to birth. Hold in your hand all who are in pain or distress.... Especially..... *(see intercessions list)*..... Holy God.

Hear our prayer.

On this night, your Christ came as a light shining in the darkness. Bring comfort to all who suffer in the sadness of our world. Holy God.

Hear our prayer.

On this night the shepherds in the field heard the good tidings of joy. Give us grace to bring the Gospel of Christ's redemption into the world. Holy God.

Hear our prayer.

On this night strangers found the Holy Family and saw the baby lying in the manger. Bless our homes and all whom we love.

Bless those celebrating birthdays: *Nicole Nichols, Chris Landis, Bill Wright* (and names from the intercession sheet under birthdays)

Bless those *celebrating anniversaries* (see intercessions as needed).

We also prayer for those far from home, especially those in the Armed Forces: Angela, Dan, Jeff, Ken, Tom, Doug, Joel, Jed, Micah, Bill, Tim (*and any others written in*) Holy God.

Hear our prayer.

On this night heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom but *especially those on our Christmas memorial list*: And those we remember this evening: (*from intercessions list*) Holy God

Hear our prayer.

On this night Christians the world over celebrate Christ's birth. Open our hearts that he may be born in us today. Holy God.

Hear our prayer

Celebrant: O God, angels and shepherds worshiped at the manger throne. Receive our prayers that we offer in fellowship with Mary, Joseph and all who gathered there, through him who is your Word made flesh, Jesus, the Christ. Amen

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

People: **And also with you**

Offertory Anthem *Ding Dong! Merrily on high* Arr. Willcocks

Presentation verse (*Hymn #107*)

Good Christian friends, rejoice, with heart and soul and voice; give ye heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today; ox and ass before him bow, and he is in the manger now. Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

The Holy Eucharist: Prayer A

S120

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 continues..... It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God, 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.

S128 Together..... 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.

Celebrant continues... Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom. All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. 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.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say, **Our Father, who art in heaven....**

S155 Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Hymns during Communion (Poverty, 79, 277) *Pick up your candle as you return to your seat. As communion is finishing we will light our personal candles aisle by aisle. The lights in church will go out.*

Celebrant and People: **Welcome, welcome, Jesus Christ our infant savior, baby who makes every birth holy. May we, who like the shepherds have witnessed a new kind of love return to our work with joy. May we, for whom the heavens have opened to proclaim that God is with us, who have fed on living bread and drunk the wine of heaven, go out to be instruments of your peace. Amen.**

Christmas Blessing: May the humility of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the joy of the angels, and the peace of the Christ Child be God's gifts to you this Christmas- time, and always.

Choir and Congregation sing #111 Silent Night Quiet Recessional and Postlude

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 sleep, sleep in heavenly sleep. *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.