

Our Second Lesson is from the Letter of Titus (3:4- 7) read by Aidan McCarthy

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works 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 Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

114 Sequence Carol *'Twas in the moon of winter-time (vss. 1,2 then 3,4)*

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!" 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.

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Homily Jane Hale

Prayers of the People (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: Miranda, Nicole, Christine, Helen, Nathalie and Bill (*and from the intercession sheet under birthdays*)

And bless those *celebrating anniversaries (see intercessions as needed)*.

We also pray for those far from home, especially those in the Armed Forces: Angela, Dan, Jeff, Ken, Tom, Doug, Joel, Jed, Micah, Bill, Tim (*and intercessions*) 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 Robin, David, Patricia, Arthur, Loring, Emma, Newell, Helen, George, Gertrude, Sterl, Ted, Howard, Gen, Donna and Robert whose memorial it is.

And those loved ones 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.

Amen

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

People: **And also with you**

112 Offertory Carol *In the bleak mid-winter (the ushers pass the collection plates)*
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

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.**



The Celebrant continues..... Holy One, we thank you for this most sacred feast, in which we celebrate who you are and who we are becoming. As your Word spoke the Creation into being, so we lift our voices to say:

Said 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.**
(please remain standing if you are able)

