



St. George's
Episcopal Church

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

LITURGY OF THE WORD, RITE II

DECEMBER 27, 2020
10:30 AM

The Rev. Merrill Wade, *Interim Priest*

Melissa Brackin, *Senior Warden*

Ms. Mi-Young Kim, *Music Director*

The mission of St. George's Episcopal Church is to worship God and share our faith through word, action, and service.

TODAY is the First Sunday of the Christmas season. Christmas is not one but twelve days of celebration and rejoicing, which we began on Christmas Eve. May you have a joyous Christmas season!



WE'RE GLAD YOU'RE WITH US. In this difficult and uncertain time, our commitment to one another as the Body of Christ is more important than ever. We are blessed to be able to join together in prayer, even as we are unable to be together in person as we would wish.

GUIDE TO ABBREVIATIONS

H – 1982 Hymnal

BCP – Book of Common Prayer

WELCOME

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

OPENING HYMN

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

H 93

1 An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2 Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3 Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vi - sions beam a - far:
 4 Saints be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,

ye, who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
 God with you is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant Light:
 seek the great De - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star:
 sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear:

come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, wor - ship Christ the new - born King.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt. Music: Regent Square, Henry Thomas Stuart (1813-1879).

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
 People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever.**
Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE

H 96



1 An - gels we have heard on high, sing - ing sweet - ly through the night,
2 Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why these songs of hap - py cheer?
3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4 See him in a man - ger laid whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their brave de - light.
What great bright - ness did you see? What glad tid - ings did you hear?
come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born king.
Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while we raise our hearts in love.



Glo - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.



Glo - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick. Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward Shippen Barnes.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 213

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

People **Amen.**

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 61:10-62:3

Reader A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the LORD will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 147:13-21

LAUDATE DOMINUM

Please join in reading the psalm in unison.

- 13 Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;**
- 14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.**
- 15 He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.**
- 16 He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.**
- 17 He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.**
- 18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?**
- 19 He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.**
- 20 He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**
- 21 He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

GALATIANS 3:23-25; 4:4-7

Reader A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians.

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
 People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN

Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

H 324



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly mind - ed,
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
 on the way, as the Light of Light de - scend - eth
 sleep - less eye, veil their fa - ces to the Pre - sence,



for with bless - ing in his hand Christ our God to earth de -
 in the Bo - dy and the Blood he will give to all the
 from the realms of end - less day, that the powers of hell may
 as with cease - less voice they cry, "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - eth, our full hom - age to de - mand.
 faith - ful his own self for heaven - ly food.
 va - nish as the dark - ness clears a - way.
 lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Words: Liturgy of St. James; para. Gerard Moultrie (1829-1885).
 Music: Picardy, French carol, 17th cent.; melody from *Chansons populaires des Provinces de France*, 1860.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 1:1-18

Officiant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
 People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE REV. MERRILL WADE

NICENE CREED

BCP 358

**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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM III

BCP 387

- Intercessor* Father, we pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement, and for your holy Catholic Church;
- People* **That we all may be one.**
- Intercessor* Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
- People* **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**
- Intercessor* We pray for Michael our Presiding Bishop, Andy, Jeff, Hector, and Kai, our bishops; and for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
- People* **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**
- Intercessor* We pray for Donald our president, Joe our president-elect, Greg our governor, Steve our mayor, and for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
- People* **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**
- Intercessor* Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
- People* **That our works may find favor in your sight.**
- Intercessor* Have compassion on August, Gladys, Charles, Eva, Ralph, Kirk, the Gil Family, Divesh, Rosie, Mary, Ada, Ben, Aaron, David, Rochelle, Jon, Tom, those suffering from COVID-19, and all those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
- People* **That they may be delivered from their distress.**
- Intercessor* Give to those who have died from COVID-19 and to all the departed eternal rest;
- People* **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**
- Intercessor* We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
- People* **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**
- Intercessor* We give you thanks for the birth of Jackson to Anne and Josh; for Miriam, Raleigh, and Ashley as they celebrate their birthdays; for Nancy and Raul as they celebrate their anniversary; and for all the blessings of this life.
- (Silence)*
- Intercessor* Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
- (Silence)*
- Officiant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
- People* **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.**

Officiant Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Amen.**

Officiant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

People **Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,**

by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us;

that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

Officiant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

People **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE OFFERTORY *Recognition and thanksgiving for gifts of time, talent, pledges and other donations*

THE DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow;



praise God all crea - tures here be - low; Praise God a - bove ye heaven - ly host;



praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost; Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Music: J. M. Wade. Used by permission.

THE BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

H 107

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath op - ened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.

Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

DISMISSAL

Officiant Alleluia, alleluia! Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Vom Himmel hoch (From Heaven on High)

MI-YOUNG KIM

Johann Pachelbel

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After the service, please join us for our [Zoom Coffee/Hot Chocolate Hour](#) (passcode: Christmas), a brief time of Christmas fellowship with other St. George's parishioners.

THE POINSETTIAS ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY

Josh Beckham,

in loving memory of
Anne Garcia and Mike Simms.

Fred and Michele Blood,

in loving memory of
Georgia, Zee, and Joel Higdon,
and Laura, Harold, and Stephen Blood,
and in thanksgiving
for Ainsley, Carson, Pierce, Spencer Piper,
Michael, Hayden, Tyree, Cody, Tory, and Tim.

Raul V. and Nancy Carrera,

in loving memory of
Lazaro and Amalia Carrera,
and Kelley and Shirley Meyer,
and in thanksgiving for
Chloe, Ashley, Joe, and Ben.

Mark Casstevens,

in thanksgiving for
my favorite nephew Dylan.

Dale Curry,

in loving memory of
Lous Curry and Gerald Gafford.

Herb Dickson and Sandra Villalaz,

in loving memory of
our sister Yolanda Maloney
and our uncle Orvil Morrison,
and in thanksgiving for
the Zoom Church Crew for keeping us linked
to service, music, and our community.

Elaine Hosage,

in loving memory of
Byron and Frances Hoon.

Mikail McIntosh-Doty,

in loving memory of
Don and Norene McIntosh,
and in thanksgiving
for Anna Doty.

Carolyn and Walter Moreau,

in thanksgiving for
Adam and Gabriel Moreau.

The Pewitt family,

in thanksgiving for
our St George's family.

Jan Phillips,

in loving memory of
Don Phillips, Jr.

Suzette Puckett,

in loving memory of
Rich Harney,
and in thanksgiving for
Cadence, Adelaide, and Ainsley.

Frances and John Rickard,

in loving memory of
Marjorie Bell Rickard
and John Ware Jacobson,
and in thanksgiving for our family.

The altar candles are given by the McGhee Family, in thanksgiving for Katie and Lexie on their 19th birthday.

PRAYERS ARE REQUESTED FOR THE FOLLOWING

For those who are sick or facing medical issues, especially:

August Dolan-Henderson
Gladys Dykes
Charles Foster
Eva Harpst
Ralph Hausser
Kirk Hoffman

The Gil Family
Divesh Manohar
Rosie Martinez
Mary Parker
Ada Pewitt
Ben Sears

Aaron Strong
David Treviño, Jr.
Rochelle & Jon Winkle
Tom Wooten
Those suffering from COVID-19

For those who have died and their families, especially:

Those who have died from COVID-19

For those facing difficult circumstances

For those serving in the armed forces and their families, especially:

Maddison Worcester

Those who celebrate birthdays, especially:

Miriam Long (Dec 31)
Raleigh Landry (Jan 1)
Ashley Carrera (Jan 2)

Those who celebrate anniversaries, especially:

Nancy & Raul Carrera (Dec 27)

In the Anglican cycle of prayer:

Christians in other denominations and the work
of the ecumenical movement

In the Diocese of Texas cycle of prayer:

St. Philip the Evangelist, Houston
St. Stephen's, Houston
St. Thomas', Houston

Names newly added to the list of prayer requests are in bold.

Names can be added to this list by emailing Jennifer at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com.



THE SUNDAY BANNER – December 27, 2020

- ❖ **VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR** – Immediately after the service each Sunday, you are invited to join our [Zoom Coffee Hour](#) (password: Christ) to share a brief time of fellowship with other parishioners.
- ❖ **FAREWELL TO THE REV. MERRILL WADE** – Today is Merrill’s last Sunday with us! We have been blessed by his presence among us for the last three months. Please join us at today’s [Zoom Coffee Hour](#) to say goodbye and wish him well in the next phase of his retirement.
- ❖ **WELCOME TO THE REV. ANN McLEMORE** – Please join us next **Sunday, January 3rd**, as we welcome the Rev. Ann McLemore for her first Sunday as our Interim Rector!
- ❖ **EPIPHANY** – Please join us at **7:00 pm** on **Wednesday, January 6th** to celebrate the Feast of Epiphany, as the Twelve Days of Christmas draw to a close, and we celebrate Christ’s being revealed to the world.
- ❖ **2021 PLEDGE** – It’s not too late to make a pledge to support St. George’s in 2021! You can [pledge online](#) or by mailing your pledge card to the church office. (Contact Jennifer in the church office at stgeorgeaustin@gmail.com if you need a pledge card.) For more information or to pledge online, visit our website at www.sgchurch.org/stewardship.
- ❖ **END-OF-YEAR DONATIONS** – Now is also a good time to think about completing your 2020 pledge, if you haven’t yet done so. You can pay your pledge (as well as make other donations) at the [St. George’s Donation page](#). (You can also pay your pledge by check, but please note that check deposits may be delayed. Any checks received after December 31st, regardless of the date on the check, will be recorded as contributions for 2021 for tax purposes.) If you are not sure about the status of your 2020 pledge, please contact our financial secretary, Samantha Stevens, at samanthahstevens63@gmail.com. We are grateful for your financial support as we work to stay connected in these challenging times.
- ❖ **WELCOME, JAX!** – Congratulations to Anne and Josh McGonigle, who welcome a new son to the world, and to big sister Maddie, and grandparents Frances and John Rickard! Jackson “Jax” Ware McGonigle arrived Sunday, December 20, at 4:37 pm. He weighed in at 8 lbs, 15 oz, and was 20.5 inches long.
- ❖ **2021 FLOWER/CANDLE DONATION CALENDAR** – St. George’s [2021 Online Flower/Candle Donation Calendar](#) is available. To give altar flowers for one or more Sundays in 2021, or altar candles for one or more months, visit the [Online Donation Calendar](#) and enter your name and dedication next to the week or month of your choice. You can give flowers or candles in memory or honor of a loved one, in celebration of an important event, or in thanksgiving for a blessing in your life. **A donation of \$35** is requested. To give electronically, visit the [St. George’s Donation page](#), scroll down to “Designated Gifts” / “Altar Guild,” and enter the amount of your donation. Make checks payable to St. George’s, with “Altar Flowers/Candles” in the memo line, and mail it to the church office.

PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMON LIFE

PRAYER IN TIMES OF TRANSITION

God of love, in this interim time, we pray for our parish family, that we may be genuine in our self-reflection, tireless in our commitment, patient in our discernment, loving in our communion, open in our search, imaginative about our future, and daring in our faith. As we enter into this new era with excitement and even some anxiety, we recall your deep compassion, presence, and abounding love. We thank you for the gifts, talents, and skills with which you have blessed us. We thank you for the experiences that have brought us to this moment. Be with us as we move forward, rejoicing with you and supporting one another. All this we pray, empowered by the love of Jesus Christ. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

BCP 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

BCP 260

Heavenly Father, giver of life and health: Comfort and relieve your sick servants, and give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that those for whom our prayers are offered may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, December 28

Holy Innocents

Tuesday, December 29

Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and Martyr, 1170

Wednesday, December 30

Thursday, December 31

Frances Joseph Gaudet, Educator and Social Reformer, 1934

Friday, January 1

The Holy Name of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Saturday, January 2

Gregory of Nazianzus, Bishop and Theologian, 389

Sunday, January 3

10:30 am Liturgy of the Word

THOSE WHO SERVE

Officiant/Preacher – The Rev. Merrill Wade

Organist/Pianist – Mi-Young Kim

Media Coordinator – Brad Dieringer

Singers – Elaine Hosage, Jan Phillips

Reader/Intercessor – Raul Carrera

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