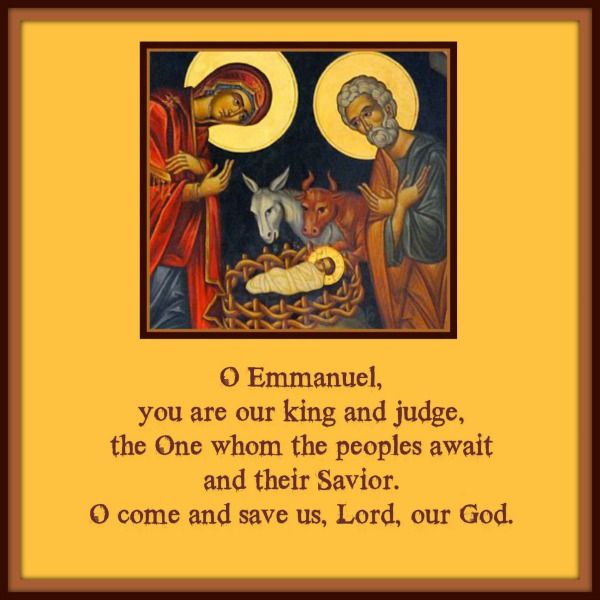
Nativity Worships

Christmas Day



December 25, 2020

[*Facebook Livestream*](https://www.facebook.com/Nativity-in-San-Rafael-113940705355878/videos/?ref=page_internal)

Episcopal Church of the Nativity

San Rafael, California

*The church on the hill in Lucas Valley*

Merry Christmas and Peace to you!

*The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding, Rector*

*The Rev. Scott Sinclair, Assisting Priest*

*The Rev. Lynn Oldham Robinett, Assisting Priest*

*The Rev. Rebecca Morehouse, Deacon*

The Word of God

**Entrance Rite**

**Entrance Hymn*Joy to the world! the Lord is come (Antioch)* (H 100)**

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**Opening Acclamation (BCP p. 355)**

*The people standing, the Celebrant says*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. |
| People | And blessed be God's reign, now and for ever. Amen. |

**Collect for Purity (BCP p. 355)**

*The Celebrant may say*

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. Amen.

**Opening Anthem or Song of Praise (BCP p. 356)**

*The following is sung, all standing*

Glory to God in the highest,

and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,

almighty God and Father,

we worship you, we give you thanks,

we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:

have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father:

receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,

you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

**Hymn of Praise*Angels we have heard on high (Gloria)* (H 96)**

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**The Collect of the Day (BCP p. 357)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Celebrant | The Lord be with you. |
| People | And also with you. |
| Celebrant | Let us pray. |

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*.

**The Lessons**

**First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

6Upon your walls, O Jerusalem,  
  I have posted sentinels;  
 all day and all night  
  they shall never be silent.  
 You who remind the Lord,  
  take no rest,  
 7and give him no rest  
  until he establishes Jerusalem  
  and makes it renowned throughout the earth.  
 8The Lord has sworn by his right hand  
  and by his mighty arm:  
 I will not again give your grain  
  to be food for your enemies,  
 and foreigners shall not drink the wine  
  for which you have labored;  
 9but those who garner it shall eat it  
  and praise the Lord,  
 and those who gather it shall drink it  
  in my holy courts.  
  
 10Go through, go through the gates,  
  prepare the way for the people;  
 build up, build up the highway,  
  clear it of stones,  
  lift up an ensign over the peoples.  
 11The Lord has proclaimed  
  to the end of the earth:  
 Say to daughter Zion,  
  “See, your salvation comes;  
 his reward is with him,  
  and his recompense before him.”  
 12They shall be called, “The Holy People,  
  The Redeemed of the Lord“;  
 and you shall be called, “Sought Out,  
  A City Not Forsaken.”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Reader | Here ends the Reading. |

*Silence may follow.*

**Psalm: Psalm 97**

*Remain seated.*

1The Lord is King;  
 let the earth rejoice; \*  
  let the multitude of the isles be glad.  
 2Clouds and darkness are round about him, \*  
  righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.  
 3A fire goes before him \*  
  and burns up his enemies on every side.  
 4His lightnings light up the world; \*  
  the earth sees it and is afraid.  
 5The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the Lord, \*  
  at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.  
 6The heavens declare his righteousness, \*  
  and all the peoples see his glory.  
 7Confounded be all who worship carved images  
 and delight in false gods! \*  
  Bow down before him, all you gods.  
 8Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*  
  because of your judgments, O Lord.  
 9For you are the Lord,  
 most high over all the earth; \*  
  you are exalted far above all gods.  
 10The Lord loves those who hate evil; \*  
  he preserves the lives of his saints  
  and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.  
 11Light has sprung up for the righteous, \*  
  and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.  
 12Rejoice in the Lord, you righteous, \*  
  and give thanks to his holy Name.

**Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7**

*The people sit.*

A Reading from Paul's letter to Titus.

4When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. 6This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

*Silence may follow.*

**Sequence Hymn*O little town of Bethlehem (St. Louis)* (H 79)**

*All stand.*

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**Gospel: Luke 2:[1-7] 8-20**

*All stand.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Deacon | The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. |
| People | Glory to you, Lord Christ. |

[1In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph 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. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And 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.]   
  8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,  
 14“Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
  and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”  
  15When 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.” 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. 17When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; 18and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. 19But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. 20The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

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| Deacon | The Gospel of the Lord. |
| People | Praise to you, Lord Christ. |

**The Sermon (BCP p. 358) *The Rev. Kirsten Snow Spalding***

**The Creed (BCP p. 358)**

*All stand.*

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 (BCP p. 359)**

*All remain standing.*

Welcome! Let your presence among us be reflected in our lives.

***Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.***

With the gift of angel song and joyful spirits, we rejoice at your coming among us. Sustain us, your people, with joy deep in our hearts. Give our bishops, priests, deacons, and all our faithful leaders a renewed sense of purpose and direction, that they may lead us in the way you would have us go.

***Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.***

Give the leaders of the nations an urgency for peace and brotherhood, that the world you entered be blessed by good tidings.

***Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.***

Shower people throughout the world with your blessings of beauty and purpose, freedom and plenty.

***Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.***

Open our hearts to the needs of those around us who are hungry or lonely, who struggle with the burdens of living, whose spirits are restless for you.

***Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.***

Make whole those who suffer today with illness, with anxiety, with despair. May we care about them and care for them as our brothers and sisters.

***Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.***

Here other intercessions may be offered, either silently or aloud.

Gather to your heart those who have died, who are now welcomed into your eternal embrace and surrounded by your glory.

***Amen. Welcome, Lord, welcome.***

The presider says a concluding collect.

Lord Jesus Christ, you were born to bring light, healing, peace, and justice into the world. Hear now our prayers and hasten the coming of your Heavenly Kingdom where with the Father and Holy Spirit, you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

**The Peace (BCP p. 360)**

*All stand.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Celebrant | The peace of the Lord be always with you. |
| People | And also with you. |

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming Services** December 27 Christmas Lessons and Carols 10 a.m. Livestreamed on Facebook.

**Offering** We will with thanksgiving receive offerings of Nativity pledges and plate today.  You can contribute by sending a check to the church or by using the “Give” button on our website, [www.nativityonthehill.org](http://www.nativityonthehill.org).

**Communion**   All who participate in this Holy Eucharist virtually receive the full benefits of the sacrament by coming with the intention of being united with Christ and one another. (BCP 457

The Holy Communion

**Offertory Sentence (BCP p. 376)**

*The Celebrant says*

For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. (Luke 22:27)

**Offertory Hymn*Hark! the herald angels sing (Mendelssohn)* (H 87)**

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**The Great Thanksgiving**

**Sursum Corda*S 120 Lift up your hearts* (BCP p. 367)**

*The People remain standing.*

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**Proper Preface (BCP p. 367)**

*Facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds*

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*S 124 Holy, holy, holy (Hurd)* (BCP p. 367)**

*Celebrant and People*

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**Words of Institution (BCP p. 368)**

*The People stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

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 him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, 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, 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, according to his command, O Father,

*Celebrant and People*

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

**Epiclesis (BCP p. 369)**

*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 [\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 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.

**The Lord’s Prayer (BCP p. 363)**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*People and Celebrant*

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,

forever and ever. Amen.

**The Breaking of the Bread**

**Fraction ANTHEM *Love came down at Christmas (Gartan)* (h 84)**

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**Invitation (BCP p. 364)**

*The Celebrant says*

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

**Distribution (BCP p. 365)**

The Body and Blood of Christ keep us in everlasting life.

**Communion Hymn*What child is this, who, laid to rest (Greensleeves)* (H 115)**

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**Post-Communion Prayer (BCP p. 365)**

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

Alpha and Omega, the ending, the source, eternal God,

Evermore we thank you for feeding us with holy food

And for making us members of your eternal and lifegiving Way.

Send us out in peace, sharing with others the gifts and sustenance we have received.  This we pray in Jesus, light of the world.

**Blessing (BCP p. 366)**

*The Priest blesses the people, saying*

May God, who sent the Son to take our nature, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of God’s holiness. Amen.

May God, who sent angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior’s birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. Amen.

May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you God’s peace and favor. Amen.

And the blessing of God, Creator, Savior and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.  Amen.

**Post-Communion Hymn*Go tell it on the mountain (Go Tell It on the Mountain)* (H 99)**

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**Dismissal (BCP p. 366)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Let us go forth in the name of Christ. |
| People | Thanks be to God. |

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