



**Holy Family  
Episcopal Church**

Holy Family seeks to bear witness to the Light of Christ by serving as the heart and hands of Jesus,  
nourishing people and transforming lives.

[HolyFamilyFishers.org](http://HolyFamilyFishers.org)

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**The Nativity of Our Lord**  
**Children's Christmas Eve Service**  
December 24, 2023 – 5:00 PM

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn

*O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1,3,6)*

**Hymnal 83**

### Liturgy of the Word

*Priest:* The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.

*People:* **And we beheld Christ's glory.**

*Priest:* God of every nation and people: from the beginning of creation you have made manifest your love. When our need for a Savior was great, you sent your Son to be born of the Virgin Mary. To our lives he brings joy, peace, justice, mercy and love. Bless all who look upon this manger; may it remind us of the humble birth of Jesus and raise up our thoughts to him, who is God-with-us and Savior of all and who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

*People:* **Amen.**

### Gloria

**Hymnal S280**

**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.**

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Priest* 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. **Amen.**

### The First Lesson

**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* The Word of the Lord.

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

## 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.**

## Sequence Hymn

*Angels We Have Heard on High*

**Hymnal 96**

## The Gospel

*All children are welcome to come forward and sit on the carpet during the reading of the Gospel. A child-oriented version of the Gospel will be presented.*

## Homily

*The Rev. Bruce Gray*

## The Prayers of the People

You make us glad, oh God, in your desire to dwell among us;  
**We rejoice that the very air around us stirs and announces your presence.**

We pray for your Church

**Alive and celebrating, sharing with the world the love Christ carries for all creation.**

We pray for the multitudes of people who, day by day, become Church; we pray for deacons, for priests, and for bishops. Make us all beacons of your presence: Your hands where strength is needed. Your heart where love has grown thin. The emblem of rejoicing in heaven when there is cause for rejoicing on earth.

**We ask that you will hear us and attend patiently as we convey our needs and our thanks, things spoken aloud or held in the silence of our hearts.**

We pray for those who serve as leaders in this world - local, national, global: Make them good guides in caring for this earth and advocates for true peace among all people.

**Give them wisdom and kind hearts. Make them zealous for the common good and clear-headed in our common woes.**

We pray for all people of this earth: For those who are lost and for those who have found themselves in you. For those who sit in fear and for those who stand in hope.

For those at margins of life, and for those who work to draw them toward the center.

For those who suffer illness or tragedy or loss or sorrow, and for those who have cause for celebration.

**Hold their gaze in the warmth of your hand, that they may look upon you and rejoice.**

We pray for those who have died, that they may know eternal joy in your presence. And we pray for those who mourn, who await your joyous coming in the midst of tears.

**Shine upon them, O God of Mercy, that even in times of loss they may find Life; that even in sadness they may feel your presence and find new hope.**

Keep us mindful that your Kingdom lives within us, and that we are, in every moment, the pulse and warmth of your birth among us.

**Rise, O God, like the dawn; fall on us like the dew of morning. Keep us looking outward, that we should not miss your love for all the world. Amen.**

## The Peace

## Holy Communion

### Congregational Hymn

*The Snow Lay on the Ground*

**Hymnal 110**

*Tonight's offering will support the ministries with children and youth at Holy Family in 2024*

### Doxology

**Hymnal 380(3)**

*People*            **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## The Great Thanksgiving

### Eucharistic Prayer

*Priest*            The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Priest*            Lift up your hearts.

*People*            **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Priest*            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People*            **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*Priest*            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

**Hymnal S125**

**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.**

### *The priest continues*

Through the swirling Word of creation you made us in your own image, gave us grace to love and to choose. In our sister Eve and our brother Adam we abused your gifts of grace and fell into the slavery of sin and death, but you did not abandon us to our choice. Again and again you called to us, reached for us, and through countless ages spoke of your longing to be near us. Through prophet voice and angel dream you kept your love alive and stirred hope in our dying hearts.

When the seasons were ripe with waiting you gave your son through Mary - spark of your own life, your love for us wrapped in flesh. Born into the cold night and serenaded by angel song he came to us, came to be us. Cradled in Joseph's arms and nurtured by his hand, he grew to lead us. In the ultimate shout of love, he died for us; in love's echo he rose to new life and bids us follow.

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,

**We praise you, we bless you,  
We give thanks to you,  
And we pray to you, O God.**

So we come to you with praise and thanksgiving, to offer up these gifts from your bounty. As your Spirit rested on Mary, filling her deep with your presence, so rest upon this bread and this wine, that they may be for us the Body and Blood of your beloved Christ. Rest in our hearts that we may be for you the bearers of good hope to the world, made one with Christ and rich with your Spirit. And in the fullness of time, gather us with Mary and Joseph and all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, 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 forever. **Amen.**

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

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

#### **Breaking of the Bread**

*Priest:* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
*People:* **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

#### **Fraction Anthem**

**Hymnal S164**

## The Invitation

*Priest:* The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

*All are welcome to receive communion. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, please so indicate to the priest by crossing your arms over your chest. A gluten-free option is available for those who need it; simply let the priest know at the time you are to receive the bread.*

**Communion** *O Little Town Of Bethlehem (v.1,2,3,5)* **Hymnal 79**

**Lighting of the Candles** *Silent Night* **Hymnal 111**

**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  
Post Communion Prayer**

*Priest:* Let us pray.

*Priest and People:* **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation: you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

### Blessing

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

May God, who sent his 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 his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

**Closing Hymn** *Joy to the World* **Hymnal 100**

*Priest* Alleluia, Alleluia, Let us go forth in the name of Christ.  
*People* **Thanks be to God, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

## **We Wish You A Merry Christmas!**

We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

Good tidings to you, wherever you are,  
Good tidings for Christmas, and a happy New Year!

We wish you a merry Christmas, We wish you a merry Christmas,  
We wish you a merry Christmas, and a happy New Year!

**May you and all who are dear to you enjoy a Blessed Christmas!**

## **Announcements:**

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Welcome to Holy Family! If you would like more information about Holy Family, please email Fr. Bruce at [bgray@hfec.org](mailto:bgray@hfec.org) or go to the Holy Family Website [HolyFamilyFishers.org](http://HolyFamilyFishers.org).

You can use your smartphone to scan this code which opens the Holy Family website.



Tonight's Offering: Tonight's monetary offering has been designated to benefit the Children and Youth Ministries of Holy Family. This parish relies completely on the generosity of the people who worship here for the support of all its ministries, so please be generous

You may donate online by scanning this code.



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