



**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

**The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Christmas Day
December 25, 2023 - 10:00 AM**

The Liturgy of the Word

Priest The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
People **And we beheld Christ's glory.**

The Gloria

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.

Christmas Day Collect

Priest The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of a pure virgin: 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 for ever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns." Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion. Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

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

Psalm 98

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things.
- 2 With his right hand and his holy arm has he won for himself the victory.
- 3 The LORD has made known his victory; his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

- 4 He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel, and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.
- 5 Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
- 6 Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.
- 7 With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the King, the LORD.
- 8 Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it, the lands and those who dwell therein.
- 9 Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, when he comes to judge the earth.
- 10 In righteousness shall he judge the world and the peoples with equity.

Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

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

The Holy Gospel

John 1:1-14

Priest 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.

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

The Homily

The Rev. Cathy Gray

The 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 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

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory

Today's offering will support the ministries with children and youth at Holy Family in 2023.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 him thanks and praise.**
Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. 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:
People **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 celebrant 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,

People **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.**

The Lord's Prayer

BCP 364

Celebrant 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.**

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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.

Post Communion Prayer

BCP 365

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us
as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Christmas Blessing

The Dismissal

Priest Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

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

Announcements:

Welcome to Holy Family! If you would like more information about Holy Family, please email Fr. Bruce at bgray@hfec.org or go to the Holy Family Website 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.

Holy Family Episcopal Church
11445 Fishers Pointe Blvd
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 842-4133
www.holyfamilyfishers.org

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