



**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

**Holy Family Episcopal Church
Midnight Mass
December 24, 2023, 11:00 p.m.**

Prelude Anthem

Still, Still, Still

Luboff

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional

O Come, All Ye Faithful (v. 1,2,3,6)

Hymnal 83

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

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

Priest 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.

Gloria

Hymnal S280

Priest The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Priest Let us pray.

The Christmas Collect

Priest 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.*

First Reading

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**

Second Reading

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

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

Hymnal 89

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Priest 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.

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

Homily

The Rev. Bruce Gray

The Nicene Creed

**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.

Sharing the Peace

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

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Siemone

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

Hymnal 380 (v.3)

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.

The Eucharistic Prayer

Hymnal S120

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 God thanks and praise.**

Priest All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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,

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.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

Book of Common Prayer 364

**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

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 Hymn *Of the Father's Love Begotten* **Hymnal 82**

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.
All **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation: you have united us together in unity 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.**

The 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**

Choral Benediction *Hallelujah Chorus* **Handel**

Priest Alleluia, Alleluia, Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
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.

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