

Saint Thomas' Episcopal Parish



Nativity by He Qi

December 24, 2009
The Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ
10:00 p.m.

WHEREVER YOU MAY BE ON YOUR FAITH JOURNEY,
THERE IS ROOM AT GOD'S TABLE FOR YOU.

The Gathering Rite

Organ

Noël Etranger

Louis-Claude Daquin

✠ *Sung by all*

Hymn 107

Good Christian friends

Solo

O frodens virga (c.1150)

Hildegard von Bingen

O leafy branch, standing in your nobility as the dawn breaks forth: now rejoice and be glad and deign to set us frail ones free from evil habits and stretch forth your hand and lift us up.

Bethie Hungeford, soprano

✠ *Sung by all*

Hymn 81

Lo, how a rose e're blooming

Solo

Balulalow (1919)

Peter Warlock

O my deir hert, young Jesus sweit, Prepare thy creddil in my spreit, And I sall rock thee in my hert And never mair from thee depart. But I sall praise thee ever moir With sangis sweit unto thy gloir: The knees of my hert sall I bow, And sing that richt Balulalow.

Bailey Whiteman, mezzo-soprano

✠ *Sung by all*

Hymn 109

The first Nowell

Solo

The First Mercy (1927)

Peter Warlock

Ox and ass at Bethlehem, On a night, ye know of them. We were only creatures small, Hid by shadows on the wall. We were swallow, moth and mouse; the child was born in our house, And the bright eyes of us three Peeped at his nativity. Hands of peace upon that place Hushed our beings for a space - Quiet feet and folded wing, Nor a sound of anything. With a moving star we crept Closer where the Baby slept; Men who guarded where he lay Moved to frighten us away. But the Babe, awakened, laid Love on things that were afraid; With so sweet a gesture He Called us to His company.

Diane Atherton, soprano

✠ *Sung by all*

Hymn 101

Away in a manger

Solo

What Songs Were Sung (1964)

John Jacob Niles

We cannot tell, we do not know What stars shone down so long ago, When Mary birthed her own sweet Son And peace and love became as one. The Son of God, as scriptures said, Was Virgin born in a tiny shed, Where simple shepherds stood hard by While heavenly sound filled up the sky. Now let us stand uncovered all, Before this crèche in lowly stall, Where kings and angels dignify God's gift, His Son, in humility. We do not know, we cannot tell, what songs were sung, what starlight fell, Or why the holy mystery stands For so many years in so many lands.

Kyle Burke, tenor

✠ *A period of silence follows as candles are being lit. This meditation is provided as a prayer for God with us:*

Child of God, light that shines in the dark, child of joy and peace, help us to come to you and be born anew this holy night.

From the New Zealand Prayer Book

The Holy Eucharist

The Word of God

✠ A bell rings, all stand. Bells ring as the ministers process to the altar.

Entrance Hymn

Eternity touched hands with time

Voices Found 39

1 E - ter - ni - ty touched hands with time when Ma - ry
2 The an - gels shared in earth's de - light, a star be -
3 Time still can touch e - ter - ni - ty, when we reach

said, "God's will be done," and com - mon - place be -
came the ma - gi's sign, and shep - herds met, on
out to God in prayer; re - jice that Christ will

came sub - lime when that young wo - man bore a son.
Christ-mas night, a child, both hu - man and di - vine.
ev - er be re - born in hearts that want him there!

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✠ *The people standing, the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

Gloria

Hymnal S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Collect of the Day

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.

✠ *Sung by all*

Hymn 96

Angels we have heard on high

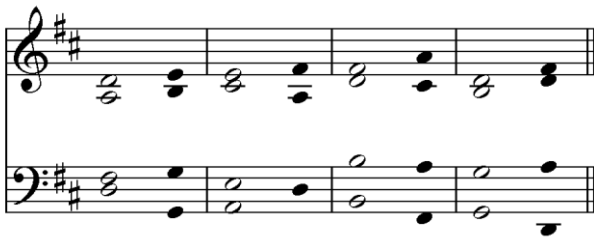
✠ *All are seated*

First Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Psalm 96: 1-4, 11-12

Cantate domino



1

Sing to God a new / song; *
sing to God, all the whole / earth.

2

Sing and bless God's holy / Name; *
proclaim the good news of salvation from day to / day.

3

Declare God's glory among the / nations *
God's wonders among all / peoples.

4

For God is great and greatly to be / praised; *
more to be feared than all / gods.

11

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is / in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is there-/in.

12

Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before God, who will / come, *
who will come to judge the / earth.

Second Lesson

Titus 2:11-14

✠ *All stand for the Sequence Hymn. Sing verses 1-2 before the reading of the Gospel. Sing verse 3 afterward.*

Sequence Hymn

What child is this

Hymnal 115

The Holy Gospel

Luke 2:1-20

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Lee Jose

Prayers of the People, Form III

BCP, Page 387

The Peace

✠ *All are seated*

Announcements

The Holy Communion

We invite all those who seek God and a deeper life in Christ to receive the sacrament of Holy Eucharist. To receive Communion take the bread in the palm of your hand. Eat the bread and then drink from the cup when it is offered to you. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine but would like a blessing, please come forward and cross your arms with your hands on your shoulders and a priest will provide a blessing.

Offertory Anthem

Bethlehem Down (2009)

Timothy Hagy

“When he is King we will give Him the Kings’ gifts, Myrrh for its sweetness, and gold for a crown, Beautiful robes,” said the young girl to Joseph, Fair with her first-born on Bethlehem Down. When he is King they will clothe Him in grave sheets, Myrrh for embalming and wood for a crown, He that lies now in the wide arms of Mary, Sleeping so lightly on Bethlehem Down. Bethlehem Down is full of star light, Winds for the spices, and stars for the gold, Mary for sleep and for lullaby music Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold. Here He has peace and a short time for dreaming, Close huddled oxen to keep Him from cold, Mary for love, and for lullaby music Songs of a shepherd by Bethlehem fold.

✠ *All stand*

Presentation Hymn

While shepherds watched their flocks by night

Hymnal 94

The Great Thanksgiving, Eucharistic Prayer C

BCP, Page 369

✠ *Sung by all*

Sanctus and Benedictus

Plainsong, harmonized by Maurice Duruflé

Ho - ly, ——— ho - ly, ——— ho - ly Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho-san-na in the high - est.
Bles-sed is the One who — comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in — the — high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

✠ *Sung by all*

Fraction Anthem

Alleluia. Christ our Passover

Plainsong, Tone VII

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pas - so - ver is sa - cri - ficed for us.
There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia.

✠ *Communion will be served from two stations at either side of the altar. Please approach the ministers to receive.*

Communion Anthem *Here is the little door*

Herbert Howells

Here is the little door, lift up the latch, oh lift! We need not wander more but enter with
out gift: Our gift of finest gold, Gold that was never bought nor sold; Myrrh to be strewn
about His Bed; Incense in clouds about His Head; All for the Child that stirs not in His
sleep, But holy slumber holds with ass and sheep. Bend low about His Bed, for each He has
a gift: see how His eyes awake, lift up your hands, O lift! For gold, He gives a keen-edged
sword (Defend with it Thy little Lord!) For incense, smoke of battle red, myrrh for the
honoured happy dead; Gifts for His children, terrible and sweet, touched by such tiny
hands and Oh such tiny feet.

Communion Hymn *Silent night, holy night*

Hymnal 111

✠ *All stand*

Post Communion Prayer

BCP, Page 365

Christmas Blessing

Recessional Hymn *Hark! The herald angels sing*

Hymnal 87

Dismissal

✠ *All are seated*

Postlude

Improvisation

Worship Leaders Tonight

Celebrants: The Rev. John F. Dwyer

The Rev. Dr. Nancy Lee Jose

Sermon: The Rev. Dr. Nancy Lee Jose

Readers: John Carter, Sarah Stewart

Altar Assistants: Aaron Adkins, John Carter

Ushers: Tim Elig, Steve Holt

Altar Guild: Pepin Tuma

Please refer to the Special Flower Insert for the Christmas Memorials and Honorariums

