

**St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Shady Cove, Oregon**

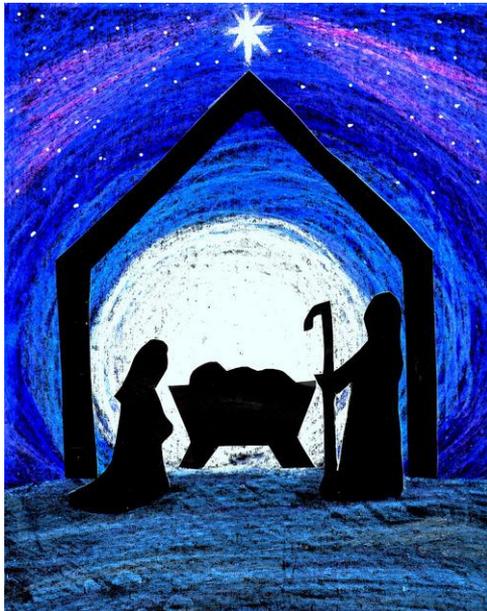
Christmas Day

December 25, 2020

Video-recorded Worship

Welcome

*The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it. John 1:5*



Service of Ante-communion: The Word of God

Today we join Christians throughout the world who praise God for the miracle of Jesus, the Christ child. Christmas opens us to God's abiding, eternal, boundless love for all, and God's will to save this world by becoming human. The Incarnation fulfilled God's promise of salvation and answered centuries of waiting for the Messiah by God's people. Yet He came as no human imagined. Christmas invites us to welcome Jesus anew into our hearts, to know the peace He offers all now, to trust in God's power to heal the world of all that's broken. Today, even though separated from one another, we gather from wherever we are as one family of Christ's making, praising God for this miracle.

Welcome

by Rev. Laura

Lighting of the Candles - At Christmas, we light the four Advent candles and the center white Christ Candle to celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ child, over 2,000 years ago.

Let us pray:

Jesus, you came to be light and hope in a dark world.

You came to be peace in human conflict,

to be joy in sadness,

and to bring love to all the world.

Today we celebrate your birth and we thank you

for bringing salvation for the whole world. Amen.

Hymn Joy to the World

words on screen

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.

Music: *Antioch*, George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); adapt. and arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

Opening Verses, Collect for Purity and Gloria

Celebrant Alleluia. A child is born for us.

People ***O come, let us adore him. Alleluia.***

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 in Excelsis Angels We Have Heard on High verse 1

*Angels we have heard on high,
Sweetly swinging o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply,
Echoing their joyous strains.*

Gloria In Excelsis Deo!
Gloria In Excelsis Deo!

Words: French carol; tr. James Chadwick (1813-1882), alt.

Music: *Gloria*, French carol; arr. Edward S. Barnes (1887-1958)

Collect (Prayer) for the Day

Celebrant: 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 forever. *Amen.*

The First Lesson

Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon 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,
and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem
and makes it renowned throughout the earth.

The 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;
but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD,
and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts.
Go 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.
The 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."
They shall be called, "The Holy People,
The Redeemed of the LORD";
and you shall be called, "Sought Out,
a City Not Forsaken."

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

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

Psalm 97 *Dominus regnavit*

- 1 The LORD is King;
let the earth rejoice; *
let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *
righteousness and justice are the foundations of his
throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *
and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *
the earth sees it and is afraid.

- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of
the LORD, *
at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *
and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images
and delight in false gods! *
Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *
because of your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For you are the LORD,
most high over all the earth; *
you are exalted far above all gods.
- 10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *
he preserves the lives of his saints
and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.
- 11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *
and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.
- 12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *
and give thanks to his holy Name.

The Second Lesson

Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he 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. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so 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.**

Hymn Hark the Herald, Angels Sing

verse 1

*Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."
Joyful, all ye nations rise, Join the triumph of the skies,
With th'angelic host proclaim: Christ is born in Bethlehem.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"*

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt.

Music: Mendelssohn, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); adapt.
William H. Cummings (1831-1915)

The Gospel

Luke 2: 1-20

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.

Sermon

The Rev. Laura Sheridan-Campbell

The Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died,
and was buried. He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. **Amen.**

*What child is this who lay to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet
while shepherds watch are keeping.
This, this is Christ the King
Whom shepherds guard and angels sing.
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.*

Words: William Chatterton Dix (1837-1898)

Music: Greensleeves, English melody

Prayers of the People

The Intercessors leads the prayers

In peace let us pray to the Lord. Dear God, at the first Christmas, your Son our Savior was born of human flesh. Renew your Church as the Body of Christ, that we may incarnate your hope, love and peace in this needful world.

Holy God, *hear our prayer.*

At the first Christmas, there was no room in the inn for Mary and Joseph. Protect those who have no home, who are cold and hungry, and who feel despair.

Holy God, *hear our prayer.*

At the first Christmas, Mary, in the pain of labor, gave birth to Jesus. Hold in your hand all who are weary and heavy laden.

Holy God, *hear our prayer.*

At the first Christmas, a star in the East shone in the darkness. Bring light to those who feel the darkness of these difficult times, and comfort to those who feel sadness.

Holy God, *hear our prayer.*

At the first Christmas, angels sang ‘Glory to God in the highest. And peace to God’s people on earth.’ Forgive the sins that inhibit your love in our lives, and shower upon this world Peace that only you can give.

Holy God, *hear our prayer.*

At the first Christmas, shepherds first heard good tidings of joy, and followed a star to visit the Christ child. Give us grace to listen to your Word, to follow your holy signs for us, and to proclaim the Good News of salvation in our own place and time.
Holy God, *hear our prayer.*

At the first Christmas, you blessed, guided and protected the Holy Family. Bless, guide and protect all families, the family of St. Martin's, and the great human family that He came to save.
Holy God, *hear our prayer.*

At the first Christmas, heaven came down to earth. Hold in your hand all who have passed through the gate of death. May they rest in your eternal peace.
Holy God, *hear our prayer.*

At the first Christmas, angels, shepherds and wise men worshipped at the manger. Receive the worship we offer, in fellowship with Mary, Joseph, Martin and all the saints.
Holy God, *hear our prayer.*

Celebrant Eternal God, hear our prayers this day, joined with all who pray for healing and heavenly peace, in our lives and for this world. May we humbly receive these gifts of the Christ child as He is born anew in us. Remembering His ultimate sacrifice for us, may we offer ourselves to your service. In Jesus' name we pray. *Amen.*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

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

(Jesus is with us, this day and always. He gathers us in love from wherever we are, even when we are physically separated. Let us extend Christ's peace from our hearts to one another).

The Holy Communion – Spiritual Communion

(The Holy Eucharist is central to the Episcopal celebration of Christmas, and it culminates in the shared sacred meal of Holy Communion. In this year of a global pandemic, restrictions keep us from receiving Holy Communion as one Body. Even so, we praise God for Christ's real presence in the blessed sacrament in what is known as spiritual communion. When Rev. Laura brings the consecrated bread to the altar/table, please say the prayers you pray during Holy Communion. May the Real Presence of Christ on this holiest of days strengthen us for Christ's service and sustain us through this difficult time).

Celebrant Walk in love as Christ loved us, and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

Consecrated bread and wine are brought to the Table. The celebrant continues

As Jesus taught us, we now pray

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.

Celebrant Lord Christ, we believe that you are truly present in the Holy Sacrament, and, since we cannot at this time receive holy communion, we pray you to come into our hearts. We unite ourselves with you and embrace you with all our heart, our soul, and our mind. Let nothing separate us from you; let us serve you in this life until, by your grace, we come to your glorious kingdom and unending peace. ***Amen.***

Hymn *O Come, All Ye Faithful* words on screen

Words and Music: *Adeste fideles* John Francis Wade (1711-1786)

Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit. Alleluia. Alleluia.

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

At the conclusion will be photographs from this challenging year. May we see Christ in St. Martin's acts of love and service. We cannot photograph those who come to our Food Pantry, but we have met Him in all who come to be fed. Praise God for the abundance of His love, dedicated volunteers, and many blessings that have strengthened outreach in 2020.

God bless you, Rev. Laura, Vicar

³⁵ [Jesus said] "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matthew 25:35-36, 40

Christmas Prayer

Let your goodness Lord appear to us, that we, made in your image, may conform ourselves to it. In our own strength we cannot imitate your majesty, power, and wonder -- nor is it fitting for us to try. But your mercy reaches from the heavens through the clouds to the earth below. You have come to us as a small child, but you have brought us the greatest of all gifts, the gift of eternal love. Caress us with your tiny hands, embrace us with your tiny arms and pierce our hearts with your soft, sweet cries. Amen. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)

Merry Christmas!