

TRINITY BUCKINGHAM CHURCH

*Sharing God's love and serving God's people
with Christ in our hearts and God's work through our hands*



Christmas Day December 25, 2020

10 am

Trinity Episcopal Church
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The Word of God

Prelude

Gathering Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful

O Come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, o
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py mor - ning,
come ye, o come ye to Beth - le - hem.
Je - sus, to thee be all glo - ry giv'n.
Come and be - hold Him, born the King of an - gels. O
Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing.
come, let us a - dore Him, O come, let us a - dore Him, O
come, let us a - dore Him, Christ the Lord!

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

Many: **And we beheld his glory.**

Canticle for Christmas

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

Those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, upon them has the light dawned.

As a child you have been born to us, as a son you have been given to us:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

From the days of our ancestors' faith, In fulfillment of the covenants of promise,
Your word of love has struggled to be born and at the last is made clear in the Word made flesh.

Collect

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: **And also with you.**

One: Let us pray.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Lesson

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 98

1. Sing a new song to God, *
who has done marvelous things.
2. With your right hand, O God, and your holy arm, *
you have won for yourself the victory.
3. You have made known your victory; *
your righteousness have you openly shown in the sight of the nations.
4. You remember your 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 God, all you lands; *
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.
6. Sing to God with the harp, *
with the harp and the voice of song.
7. With trumpets and the sound of the horn, *
shout with joy before God who reigns in majesty.

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 God,
who will come to judge the earth.
10. God shall judge the world in righteousness *
and the peoples with equity.

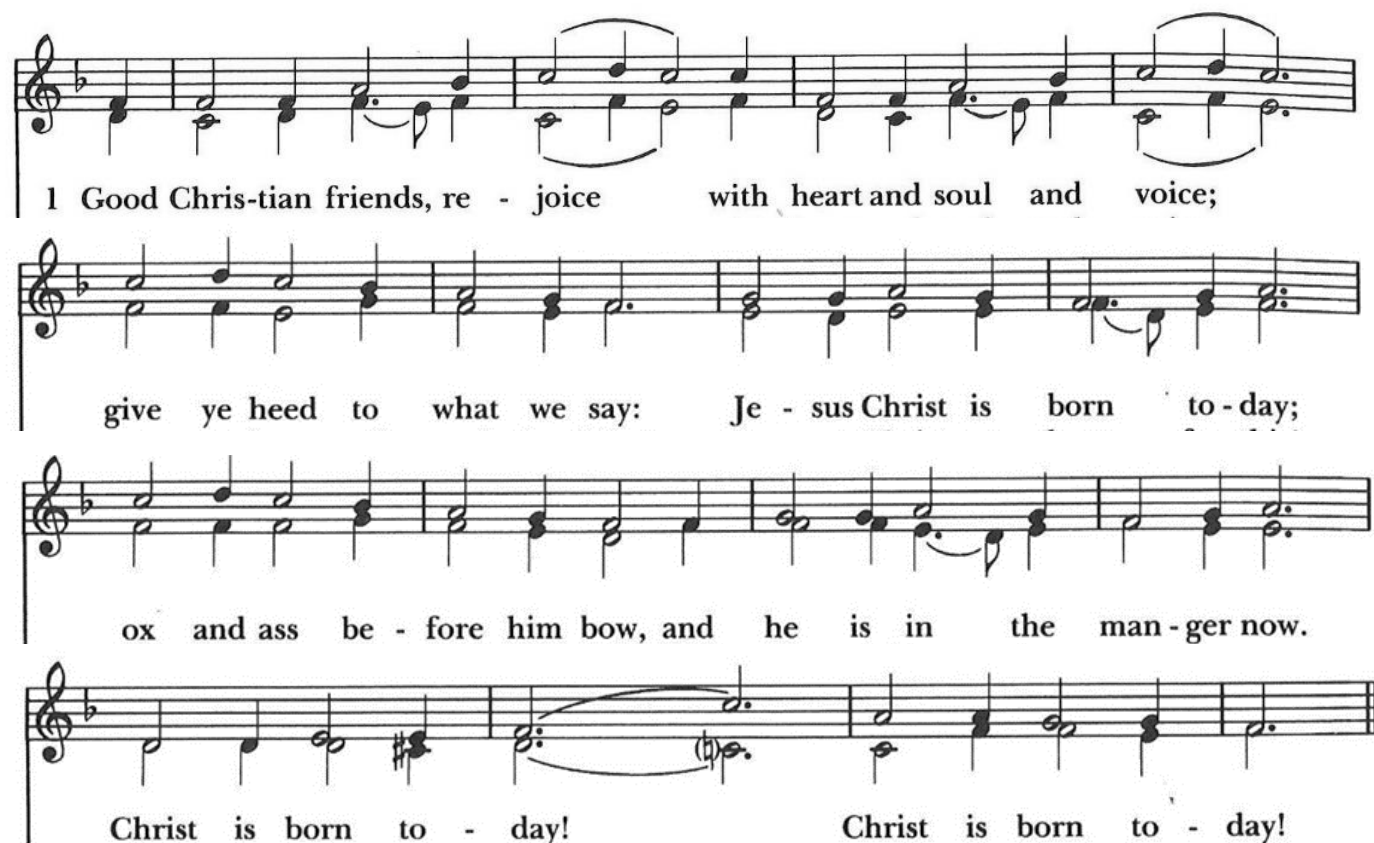
Second Lesson

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.

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Gospel Good Christian Friends Rejoice *v.1 before, v.2 after*



1 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!

Gospel Lesson

John 1:1-14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. **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.

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

2 Good Chris-tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!

He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er-more.

Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Meditations on the Gospel

Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in One God
The Eternal Power of Life and Goodness
The maker of Space and Time
Who was and is and is to come.**

**We believe in God our Maker
Whose love fires the sun
Whose word made the world
Whose law is the good.**

**We believe in Jesus Christ,
Child of God and Mary's Child,
Born into Palestine, a prophet of Israel.
Born in a stable, a victim of Empire.
Born to a woman, and made in her image.
Born of the Spirit, the icon of God.
Born as a savior of sinners and victims.
Born as a healer of wounds and diseases.
Born as a teacher of wisdom and justice.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
The intimacy of God with creation
The power of God against death
Whose breath lives in all life,
Whose peace gathers the church,
Whose love sends God's people in mission.**

**We believe in one God,
Our Maker, Savior and Helper:
A trinity of beauty and holiness,
A community of joy.
To this holy and awesome God
we give glory and praise, now and forever. Amen.**

Prayers of the People for Christmastide

As Mary welcomed you and rejoiced in God's holiness and mercy, we pray for the church. Child of Bethlehem, **Hear our prayers.**

As shepherds welcomed you, disturbing their work and lives, we pray for your disturbing presence in our world. Child of Bethlehem, **Hear our prayers.**

As Joseph welcomed you, giving you a home and a name, we pray for all who seek shelter in our community today/tonight. Child of Bethlehem, **Hear our prayers.**

As angels welcomed you, singing of glory and peace, we pray for all who seek healing and hope. Child of Bethlehem, **Hear our prayers.**

As Simeon welcomed you, recognizing in you his journey's fulfilment, we pray for those who have died and for all who love them and miss them, Child of Bethlehem, **Hear our prayers.**

As wise men welcomed you, risking a journey and following a star, we pray that we may take risks in following you. Child of Bethlehem, **Hear our prayers.**

For what else do God's people pray?.....

Gift-giving God, God of angels and stars; magi and shepherds; promise and hope; journeys and longing; God who calls and sends, blesses and guards, hides and reveals, asks and waits; Ancient Love, that is always new; God of Christmas, God of our hearts; may we bear the Christ to all who need him, and allow his birth in us again. **Amen.**

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.**

Peace

Sending Hymn

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Fros - ty wind made moan,
God, heav'n can - not hold him, Nor earth sus - tain;
An - gels and arch - an - gels May have ga - thered there,
What can I give him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;
Heav'n and earth shall flee away When he comes to reign;
Che - ru - bim and se - ra - phim Thronged the air;
If I were a she - pherd I would bring a lamb,

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,
In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble place suff - iced The
But his mo - ther on - ly In her mai - den bliss,
If I were a wise man I would do my part, Yet

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - go.
Lord God Al - migh - ty, Je - sus Christ.
Wor - shiped the Be - lov - ed With a Kiss.
what I can I give Him Give my heart.

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Blessing & Dismissal

Resources

Affirmation of Faith: Iona Abbey Worship Book, Prayers of the People by Ruth Bowen in *Hay and Stardust*
Prayer: Liturgy for the Whole Church by Susan Bock