The Nativity of Our Lord December 24, 2021 at 7:00 pm

Prelude - Still, Still, Still by Paul Manz

Thanksgiving for Baptism

- L In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- L Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

C Amen.

Hymn - O Come, All Ye Faithful

Prayer of the Day

- L Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Word

First Reading

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

those who lived in a land of deep darkness- on them light has shined.

³You 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.

⁴For 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.

1 /

Isaiah 9:2-7

283

⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

^oFor 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.

⁷His 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.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

St. Paul's Choir - Nativity Carol by John Rutter

Second Reading

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He 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.

- L The word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

Hymn - Angels We Have Heard on High

Gospel Reading

After the Gospel is announced, the people say:

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph 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. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And 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.

⁸In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹²This will be a sign for you:

Titus 2:11-14

Luke 2:1-20

289

111us 2:11-14

you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, ¹⁴"Glory to God in the highest heaven.

and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

¹⁵When 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." ¹⁶So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

After the Gospel is read, the people say:

C Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn - Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Nicene Creed

C 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,

270

who 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.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Love proclaims that a Savior has been born to us! Inspire your church throughout the world to proclaim the good news of Jesus' birth to all who seek salvation, hope, and new life. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Love whispers to a weary world that the time for rest and restoration has come. Maintain healthy cycles of wake and sleep for all creatures. Where light pollution disrupts natural rhythms, encourage new practices. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Love cries to a warring world that the time for peace is at hand. Direct those in power who make decisions on behalf of others, that they nurture and sustain all that is healthy, good, and holy. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Love sings through the wails of a newborn baby. Respond to all who cry out in pain, despair, or need this night (*especially*). Bring comfort to those for whom separation, grief, or loss makes the Christmas season especially difficult. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Love murmurs words of comfort to a newborn child and exhausted parents. Bless new and expectant parents or caregivers, especially those who are alone or afraid this night. Pour out your love upon families of every kind. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

God's ever-present love is proclaimed through the faithful who came before us. We give you thanks for Mary, John the baptizer, Elizabeth his mother, Joseph the dreamer, and all who point toward your love (*especially*). Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

MEAL

The Sharing of the Peace

- L The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C And also with you.

Offering

Offertory - St. Paul's Choir - Noel Nouvelet, arr. by Sonja Poorman

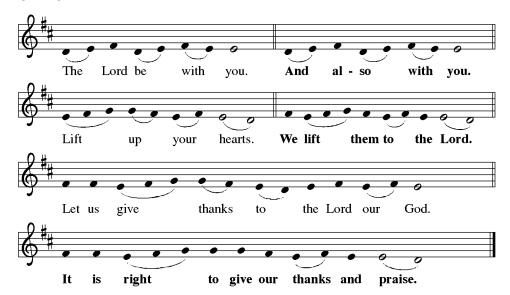
At the presentation of the offering, the congregation sings:

In the Bleak Midwinter (verse 3 as printed here) What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man I would do my part; yet what I can I give him – give my heart.

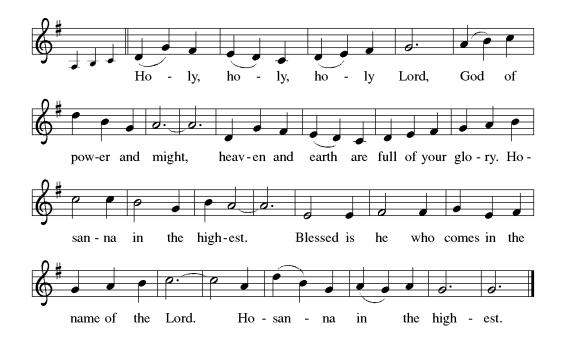
Offering Prayer

- A Let us pray. Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven, we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen.

Great Thanksgiving



P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. In the wonder and mystery of the Word made flesh you have opened the eyes of faith to a new and radiant vision of your glory, that beholding the God made visible, we may be drawn to love the God whom we cannot see. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



P Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons. In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his birth and life among us, his death and resurrection, we await his coming again when all things will be restored in him. By your Spirit bless us and this bread and cup, that, held and nourished by you, we may live as your children, shining with the light of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen

C 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, forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

The Distribution	
Hymn - What Child is This	296
Hymn - On Christmas Night	274
Hymn - It Came Upon the Midnight Clear	282

Admission to the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is by invitation of our Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized. Those unable to partake of bread or wine are assured that we affirm our Lord's presence in, with, and under either the bread or wine alone. If you are unable to receive Holy Communion at the altar, please notify an usher in order to receive communion at your seat. All are welcome at the table for a blessing. We use bread and red wine at communion. We offer gluten free wafers and grape juice as well, so inform your server at the rail if you desire either.

Distribution of the Communion Elements takes place as follows:

Exit the pews to the side aisles. Empty cups are obtained from the trays located by the front pews. **Proceed to the altar:** Persons on the right side (lectern side) proceed to the back center position at the altar rail and continue filling in clockwise to the front center. The left side (pulpit side) proceeds to the front center at the altar rail and fills in clockwise to the rear center. Serving is continuous. After communing, depart down the center aisle to your seat, putting your cup in the basket.

Post Communion Blessing

- P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

Prayer after Communion

- A Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- C Amen.

The Lighting of the Candles

The pastor will light his candle from the Christmas candle. The ushers will light their candles from the pastor's candle. The ushers will then light the candle of each worshiper nearest the center aisle.

Only <u>unlighted</u> candles should be tipped to the neighbor's candle to be lit. When all candles have been lighted, <u>Silent Night</u> will be sung. Following the Benediction, the candles will be extinguished.

Hymn - Silent Night

- 1 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.
- 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight; glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia! Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!
- 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love's pure light radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace, Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

Reading

John 1:1-18

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me."") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Benediction

- P The light of the Father, and of the + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you this and every night.
- C Amen.

(Extinguish candles)

The Dismissal

- A Go in peace. Christ is with you.
- C We will. Thanks be to God

Sending Hymn and Postlude - Joy to the World

267

Worship Leadership

Rev. Scott Anderson Vicar Mac Mullins Kathleen Stanford, Interim Organist

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2014 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #27001.

Friday, December 24, 2021 - Christmas Eve Services (all celebrate Holy Communion)	
7:00 pm - Candlelight service with Choir – live streaming link: https://vimeo.com/657239257	
10:00 pm - Candlelight service	
Sunday, December 26, 2021 - First Sunday of Christmas	
10:00 am Traditional Lessons and Carols Service	
<u>Sunday, January 2, 2022</u> - Christmas 2	
10:00 am Worship	
<u>Sunday, January 9, 2022</u> - Celebrating Epiphany Sunday	
10:00 am Worship	



Text: attr. John Francis Wade, 1711–1786; tr. Frederick Oakeley, 1802–1880, sts. 1, 3–4; tr. unknown, st. 2 Music: ADESTE FIDELES, attr. John Francis Wade



Text: French carol; tr. H. F. Hemy, *The Crown of Jesus Music*, 1864 Music: GLORIA, French carol



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: MENDELSSOHN, Felix Mendelssohn, 1809–1847; arr. William H. Cummings, 1831–1915



Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898 Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.



Text: Luke Wadding, d. 1686, alt. Music: SUSSEX CAROL, English traditional



Text: Edmund H. Sears, 1810–1876 Music: CAROL, Richard S. Willis, 1819–1900



Text: Joseph Mohr, 1792–1849; tr. John F. Young, 1820–1885 Music: STILLE NACHT, Franz Gruber, 1787–1863



Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748

Music: ANTIOCH, English melody, 18th cent.; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God with the following recognitions:

- ✤ In memory of Don and Diane Taylor and Peter and Marjorie Humphrey by Ann and Dean Taylor
- ✤ In memory of my parents, Addie and Carson by Mary Sturgeon

Altar Flowers – If you would like to make a recognition as a request for Altar Flowers, please stop by the credenza under the TV monitor in the atrium. Sign up for the day(s) you want to request, pick up an envelope and form from the lower box and turn in your request form(s) which should indicate your announcement for the bulletin, and payment (\$40) at least one week in advance. If you have any questions, speak with a staff person.

Prayer of the Church (Members): Barbara Hadden, Jan Franzen, Tony Perrotte, JoAnn Bowman, Janet Ravert, Joyce Veazey, Ida Elliott, Phyllis Jenkins, Bob and Ellie DeVries, Barbara Shade, Naomi Watson, Fran Whitfield, Anastasia Smith, Larry Hawley, David Franzen, Dorothy O'Neill

Prayer List Changes – If you have names to **add, or delete at any time,** email staff, or call the office.

Prayer of the Church (Friends): Kay Matthews [Tony's mother], Robert Meissner [Tony's uncle], and Dian and Gina Piazza [friends] (by Tony and Penni Perrotte); Laura Williams (friend of Amanda Anderson), Bill Lopatta (uncle of Amanda Anderson), Jane L (friend of Robin Winfree), Tim and Sue Williams (friends of the Foremans), Phillip Idom & Warner Ettinger (friends of the Perrotte's), Pamela Kildahl (sister of Wendy Waugh), Sara Russell (sister of Anna Snyder), Susan Freeman, her husband Don and daughter Emma (by Joan Pepper), Sayge Lindsay (grandson of Alta Lindsay), Susan Roberts (friend of Kathy Anderson), Donore Lantz (friend of Judy Schlegel), MJ Chevalier (sister of Marcy Brown), Roketta Hudgins (mother of Greg Hudgins), Gay Reed (friend of Robin Winfree), Sally Midyette (mother of Kathy Anderson), Jacki and Steven and daughters (friends of Joan Pepper), Zach Maier (cousin of Kathy Anderson), Lois Horn (friend of Penni Perrotte), Marti Casalino (friend of Marcia Redman), David Deardorff (cousin of Marlene Coulter), Virginia Hinshaw (great-grandmother of Kayden and Hunter Hinshaw), Gad Kainer, Eric Tabert (nephew of Deb Tabert), Dean Greg Jones of Duke Divinity, Chuck Noll (friend of the Waugh's), Armenia and Artsakh (friends of Judy Schlegel), William and Barbara Wilson (parents of Bill Wilson), Marjorie Bower (daughter of Doug and Fran Whitfield), Linda Leslie (mother of Sean Slane), Paul DeVries (brother of Bob DeVries), Twila Dahl (sister-in-law of Bill Dahl and Martha Dahl), Gini Rinkus (friend of the Dominicks), Betty Sue Dickerson and son Barry Dickerson (friends of the church), Elaine Williamson (sister-in-law of Greg and Jeanna Hudgins), Clarence Schulze (father of Sharon Schulze), Paul (son-in-law of Jan Huntley), Mary Bader, Cynthia Sund (grandmother of Megan Cunningham), Steve and Hut Craig (family of Pat Casper), Amy Natzle (friend of Megan Cunningham), McKay Family (by Pat Casper), Ruth Parker (aunt of Pat Casper), mother of Warren Pusak, Jane Busch (sister-in-law of Audrey Busch), Karen Salotti (friend of Diana Dominick), Richard Dominick (brother of Ted Dominick)

On the First Sunday of each month, we will offer drive through communion at the rear entrance of the church from 11:30 am until noon.

Nurturing Committee – Be-Friend – The Be-Friend branch of the nurturing Committee has sprouted. The flowers on the Caring Tree (in the narthex) have blossomed into bold Words of Hope. These are supportive scriptures that Nurturing Committee members and others have pointed to as meaningful. Also, in the basket unit by the Caring Tree are items put together to add a smile as you grow and develop a new and/or an already up and running relationship. Look for the clear portfolio Be-Friend Idea Starter Kit as well as card making and other supplies in this place. Help yourself!

Join the Coffee Hour on Mondays on Zoom from 10-11.

Topic: Coffee Hour, Time: 10:00-11:00 am on Mondays Join Zoom Meeting: https://zoom.us/j/91351103753?pwd=WVVCRIgrSUhhLzJWN3pPYnlyL25LZz09 Meeting ID: 913 5110 3753 – Password: 292680

"By Heart" – Vicar Mac is leading a study of "By Heart," a historical, theological, and spiritual deep-dive into Luther's Small Catechism. Classes meet on Wednesdays, at 7:00 pm, off now for Christmas break but resuming on January 5. The classes will be about seven weeks, unless the discussions run longer. In-person in Trinity Hall and Zoom will both be available. Email Vicar Mac (vicar@stpaulsdurham.org) with any questions.

St. Paul's Readers – St. Paul's Readers meet at 3 pm on the third Thursday of the month in Trinity Hall. Please consider participating. We welcome all readers – men and women! Contact Katherine Trexler (katherine.m.trexler@gmail.com) with any questions. The January book is Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI by David Frann. The book chronicles one of the most chilling conspiracies in American history. Members of the Osage Nation in the 1920s were the richest people in the world. Then, one by one, they began to be killed off. The newly created FBI was called upon to unravel these mysterious deaths. Barb Shade will lead the discussion on Thursday, January 20.

Thursday Morning Bible Study at 10:30 AM – Bible Study will be in Trinity Hall and over Zoom. We are studying the book: Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis. We will send emails if any study guides are needed. The Bible Study will be off now for Christmas break, returning on Thursday, January 6.

Here is the zoom information.

Topic: Pastor's Bible Study

Time: Thursday mornings at 10:30 AM Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89526693517?pwd=UVI2SldvRTVtYTdQOHFEa2N1THREdz09 Meeting ID: 895 2669 3517 -- Passcode: 727541 One tap mobile +16465588656,,89526693517#,,,,*727541# US (New York) +13017158592,,89526693517#,,,,*727541# US (Washington DC) Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kjXLtywXY

Croasdaile Worship in December – The next Croasdaile worship is Thursday, January 20, 2022 – Third Thursday of the month.

St. Paul's In-Person Worship and Building Guidelines

On Sunday mornings, we will continue to meet at 10:00 am for one worship service, socially distancing in the sanctuary at every other pew, and also gathering in Trinity Hall where the service is projected. All will gather in the sanctuary for Holy Communion.

We will still wear masks in worship in an effort to offer some protection from disease. We will allow singing and humming while masked.

All areas of the church are purified with IWave technology which eliminates up to 97% of all virus and bacteria particles.

Committees may begin meeting in person or a combination of in person and zoom. Contact the church office to reserve space.

We have a live link used to view our weekly Sunday morning Worship Services on Sundays at 10:00 AM Here is the link: <u>https://vimeo.com/event/1478223</u>. The live service will be put on the vimeo site after the service is concluded and can be watched at any time. That link is: <u>https://vimeo.com/stpaulsdurham</u> (then choose the service date or event you wish to watch).

Here is a listing of the Sign-Up Genius links we are presently using to accomplish our many needed tasks. Please fill in as you are able. You can bookmark these sites to make it easier to return to them. **Devotions** – https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c044eabad28a3fd0-daily1 Please send your devotions to

Vicar Mac Mullins at vicar@stpaulsdurham.org

Sunday Morning 10:00 AM Worship Tasks

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-sunday1

Tasks include setting up, lector, worship assistant, sound, altar guild, video, etc.

Sunday morning 10:00 AM Communion Assistants and Lock-Up

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0944a4a72fa5f58-communion