



the **Church**
of **St Peter** and
St Simon-the-Apostle
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Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020

*“The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us,
and we beheld his glory,
the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,
full of grace and truth.”*

St. John 1.14.

Blessing of the Crib & Holy Eucharist at 9.00 pm **Live-Streamed**

Clergy

The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson (Celebrant & Preacher)

The Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine

The Reverend Michael Perry

Organist: Robin Davis/Cantor: Alan MacDonald

Mass Setting - Kyrie and Agnus Dei:

Missa ad Praesepe (Mass at the Crib) – GEORGE MALCOLM

*The Clergy, Churchwardens and staff of
The Church of St. Peter & St. Simon-the-Apostle wish you a Blessed Christmas
and a Happy New Year.*

Prelude *Divinum Mysterium* – John Sheard (from his *CD Polyhymnia*)

The Bird of Dawning – Roland Martin/ text: Wm Shakespeare (Hamlet)

Sophie Knowles – soprano

Amos Wong – violin

David Smith – organ

Introit *No Small Wonder* – Choir

PAUL EDWARDS

*Small wonder the star, small wonder the light,
the angels in chorus, the shepherds in fright;
but stable and manger for God - no small wonder!*

*Small wonder the kings, small wonder they bore
the gold and the incense, the myrrh, to adore;
but God gives his life on a cross - no small wonder!*

*Small wonder the love, small wonder the grace,
the power, the glory, the light of his face;
but all to redeem my poor heart - no small wonder!*

The Blessing of the Christmas Crib

Celebrant Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given;
All **And his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor
the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.**

Celebrant The word was made flesh and dwelt among us.
All **And we beheld his glory.**

Celebrant Lord of hosts, sanctify and bless this manger, that all who look upon it may be reminded of the humble birth of Jesus and be blessed evermore by him who is God with us and the Saviour of all, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit now and forever. **Amen.**

*O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
 O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
 come, and behold him, born the king of angels;
 O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
 O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

*God of God, Light of Light,
 lo, he abhors not the virgin's womb;
 very God, begotten not created: Refrain*

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
 sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
 glory to God in the highest: Refrain*

*See how the shepherds, summoned to his cradle,
 leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
 we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; Refrain*

*Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning;
 Jesus, to Thee be the glory given.
 Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing. Refrain*

Celebrant Almighty God,
All **unto whom all hearts be open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant Our Lord Jesus Christ said: hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one Lord; and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.
 This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.

All **Lord have mercy upon us, and write both these thy laws in our hearts, we beseech thee.**

Choir Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.
Lord have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

The Collect

Celebrant Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of thy one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of thy heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

The Proclamation of the Word

First Lesson Isaiah 9:2-7

Read by Paul Faulkner

Reader: The first lesson is written in the 9th chapter of the book of the Prophet Isaiah, beginning at the 2nd verse.

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 all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, 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.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96 – *sung by the cantors responsively.*



- ¹ O sing unto the Lord a new **song**; /
sing unto the Lord, **all** the whole earth.
- ² Sing unto the Lord, and praise his **Name**; /
be telling of his salva-**tion** from day to day.
- ³ Declare his honour among the **na**-tions, /
and his wonders a-**mong** all peo-ples.
- ⁴ For the Lord is great, and cannot worthily be **prais**-ed; /
he is more to be fear-**ed** than all gods.
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the peoples, they are but **i**-dols; /
but it is the Lord that **made** the heavens.
- ⁶ Honour and majesty are be-**fore** him: /
strength and beauty are in his **sanc**-tu-ar-y.
- ⁷ Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the **peo**-ples, /
ascribe unto the Lord **glo**-ry and power.
- ⁸ Give unto the Lord the honour due unto his **Name**; /
bring presents and come **in**-to his courts.
- ⁹ O worship the Lord in the beauty of **ho**-li-ness; /
let the whole earth **stand** in awe of him.
- ¹⁰ Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is **King**; /
he hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved;
he shall judge the **peo**-ples righ-teous-ly.
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be **glad**; /
let the sea make a noise, and all **that** is there-in.
- ¹² Let the field be joyful, and all that is **in** it; /
then shall all the trees of the wood re-**joice** be-fore the Lord;
- ¹³ For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the **earth**, /
and with righteousness to judge the world, and the **peo**-ples with his truth.

Second Lesson *Titus 2:11-14*

Read by Carol Peck

Reader The Epistle is written in the 2nd chapter of the Letter of Paul to Titus, beginning at the 11th verse.

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 Saviour, 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.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn 132 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*Of the Father's love begotten ere the worlds began to be,
he is Alpha and Omega, he the source, the ending he,
of the things that are, and have been, and that future years shall see,
evermore and evermore!*

*O that birth forever blessed, when the virgin, full of grace,
by the Holy Ghost conceiving, bore the Saviour of our race,
and the babe, the world's redeemer, first revealed his sacred face,
evermore and evermore!*

The Holy Gospel *Luke 2:1-20*

Gospeller The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.

All **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

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 Saviour, 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 favours!" 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.

Gospeller The Gospel of Christ.

All **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Gradual Hymn 132 *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

DIVINUM MYSTERIUM

*O ye heights of heaven, adore him; angel hosts, his praises sing;
all dominions, bow before him, and extol our God and king;
let no tongue on earth be silent, every voice in concert ring,
evermore and evermore!*

*Christ, to thee, with God the Father, and, O Holy Ghost, to thee,
hymn and chant and high thanksgiving, and unwearied praises be,
honour, glory, and dominion and eternal victory,
evermore and evermore!*

Homily *Please be seated*

Solo *O Holy Night*

ADOLPHE ADAM

Baritone – Alan MacDonald

*O holy night! The stars are brightly shining,
 It is the night of our dear Saviour's birth.
 Long lay the world in sin and error pining
 Till He appeared and the soul felt its worth.
 A thrill of hope, the weary world rejoices
 For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn
 Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
 O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
 O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

*Led by the light of Faith serenely beaming
 With glowing hearts by His cradle we stand
 So led by light of a star sweetly gleaming
 Here come the wise men from the Orient land
 The King of Kings lay thus in lowly manger;
 In all our trials born to be our friend.
 Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
 O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
 O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

*Truly He taught us to love one another;
 His law is love and His gospel is peace
 Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother;
 And in His name all oppression shall cease
 Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we
 Let all within us praise His holy name.
 Fall on your knees! O hear the angel voices!
 O night divine, O night when Christ was born;
 O night divine, O night, O night Divine.*

Nicene Creed

Celebrant I believe in one God,

All **the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible;
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of the Father before all worlds,
God, of God; Light, of Light; very God, of very God;
begotten, not made; being of one substance with the Father;
through whom all things were made:
who for us and for our salvation came down from heaven,
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary,
and was made man, and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried, and the third day he rose again according to the
scriptures, and ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead:
whose kingdom shall have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified,
who spake by the prophets. And I believe one, holy, catholic, and apostolic
Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins.
And I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.
Amen.**

The Prayers

Led by The Reverend Michael Perry

Confession, and Absolution

The Celebrant invites the congregation to join in the General Confession.

Silence is kept. Please kneel or be seated.

Celebrant Almighty God,

All **Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things and judge of all people: we acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word and deed, against thy divine majesty. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Celebrant Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

The Celebration of the Eucharist

Hymn 121 *O Little Town of Bethlehem (vs 1, 3 & 4)*

FOREST GREEN

*O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.*

*How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given
as love imparts to human hearts the blessings of God's heaven!
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.*

*O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.*

*We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.*

Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast.
May we grow up in him who unites our lives with thee;
for he is Lord now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And with thy spirit.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

All **It is meet and right so to do.**

Celebrant It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God, creator and preserver of all things. Because thou didst give Jesus Christ thine only Son to be born as at this time for us; who, by the operation of the Holy Spirit, was made very man of the substance of the Virgin Mary his mother; and that without spot of sin, to make us clean from all sin. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious name; evermore praising thee and saying:

All **Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord most high.**

Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto thee, almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread

and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed body and blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake it; and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me." Likewise after supper he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all, of this; for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy bread of eternal life and the cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded:

All **We praise thee, we bless thee, we thank thee,
and we pray to thee, Lord our God.**

Celebrant And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; and we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer – said together

All **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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory,
For ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Celebrant The gifts of God for the people of God.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Agnus Dei

Choir *O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

Holy Communion

Hymn 125 *Infant Holy, Infant Lowly - Cantor*

POLISH CAROL

*Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swiftly winging angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is Lord of all, Christ the babe is Lord of all!*

*Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you, Christ the babe was born for you!*

Prayer after Communion

Celebrant Father of all, tonight earth and heaven are united
in sending of thy Son to take our human nature.

May we who have tasted heavenly things share in the life of his eternal kingdom.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Doxology

Celebrant Glory to God,

All **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or
imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The clergy process to the crib for the Gospel of the Incarnation, John 1.1-14.

*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 Saviour, is born, Christ the Saviour, 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.*

Gospeller In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of all people. And the light shineth in darkness, and the darkness overcame it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his Name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth.

Blessing

Dismissal

Priest Go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia.

All **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

*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 the angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"*

Refrain

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King."

*Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting Lord;
late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.*

*Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased as one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! Refrain*

Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!

Light and life to all he brings, risen with healing in his wings.

*Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. Refrain*

Postlude *Der Tag, der ist so freudenreich (The day is so full of joy) BWV 605* J.S. BACH

Christmas Day – December 25th

10.30 am Holy Eucharist – In Person (Please Pre-register)

Sunday After Christmas/St John the Evangelist – December 27th

10.30 am Holy Eucharist – Live-Stream

Please note: due to the recent provincial restrictions, in-person services are suspended through the month of January.

During this time, we will continue to live-stream our Sunday morning service at 10.30 am during this time.

St. Peter and St. Simon-the-Apostle

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