

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY:  
LESSONS & CAROLS



SAINT PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CHATTANOOGA, IN THE DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

DECEMBER 31, 2023 – 10:30 A.M.

# THE WORD OF GOD

## OPENING HYMN: "O Come, All Ye Faithful" (Hymn 83, v 1-3)

1 O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O  
2 God from — God, — Light from Light e - ter - nal, —  
3 Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —  
\*4 See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle, —  
\*5 Child, for us sin - ners poor and in the man - ger, —

1 come ye, O come — ye to Beth - le - hem;  
2 lo! he ab - hors — not the Vir - gin's womb;  
3 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove;  
4 leav - ing their flocks, — draw — nigh to gaze;  
5 we would em - brace — thee, with love and awe;

1 come, and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;  
2 on - ly - be - got - ten Son — of the Fa - ther;  
3 glo - ry to God, — glo - ry in the high - est;  
4 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps;  
5 who would not love thee, lov - ing us so dear - ly?

*Refrain*

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a -

dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord.

6 Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning;  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father,  
now in flesh appearing;

*Refrain*

Words: John Francis Wade (1711-1786); tr. Frederick Oakeley (1802-1880) and others  
Music: *Adeste fideles*, present form of melody att. John Francis Wade (1711-1786);  
harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

Irr.

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

### THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Priest 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.**

## A BIDDING PRAYER

Priest      Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this *city*.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.


Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all.

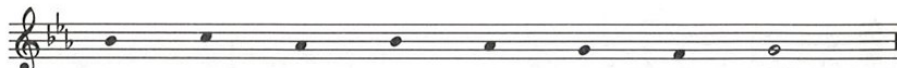
**Amen.**

(God creates man and woman to live in obedience to him in the Garden of Eden.)


Carol – “Creator of the Stars of Night” (Hymn 60, v 2-3)



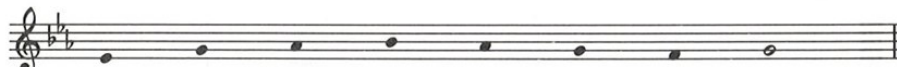
1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,  
 2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse  
 3 When this old world drew on toward night,  
 4 At your great Name, O Je - sus, now  
 5 Come in your ho - ly might, we pray,  
 \*6 To God the Fa - ther, God the Son,



1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,  
 2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,  
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,  
 4 all knees must bend, all hearts must bow;  
 5 re - deem us for e - ter - nal day;  
 6 and God the Spi - rit, Three in One,



1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,  
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free  
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child  
 4 all things on earth with one ac - cord,  
 5 de - fend us while we dwell be - low  
 6 praise, hon - or, might, and glo - ry be



1 we pray you hear us when we call.  
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.  
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.  
 4 like those in heaven, shall call you Lord.  
 5 from all as - saults of our dread foe.  
 6 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, 9th cent.; ver. *Hymnal 1940*, alt.  
 Music: *Conditor alme siderum*, plainsong, Mode 4

(God comforts his people and calls on them to prepare for redemption.)

Carol – “Comfort, Comfort Ye my People” (Hymn 67)



1 Com - fort, com - fort ye my peo - ple, speak ye peace, thus  
2 Hark, the voice of one that cri - eth in the des - ert  
3 Make ye straight what long was crook - ed, make the rough - er



saith our God; com - fort those who sit in dark - ness  
far and near, call - ing us to new re - pent - ance  
pla - ces plain; let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak ye to Je -  
since the king - dom now is here. Oh, that warn - ing  
as be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry



ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;  
cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way;  
of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad;



tell her that her sins I cov - er,  
let the val - leys rise to meet him  
and all flesh shall see the to - ken



and her war - fare now is o - ver.  
and the hills bow down to greet him.  
that the word is nev - er bro - ken.

Lesson III – Isaiah 35:1-10

Susan Self

(The prophet proclaims that God will come and save us.)

Carol – “People Look East” (St. Peter’s Choir)

Lesson IV – Luke 1:57-80

Bobbie Suttles

(John the Baptist is born and his father rejoices that his son will prepare the way of the Lord.)

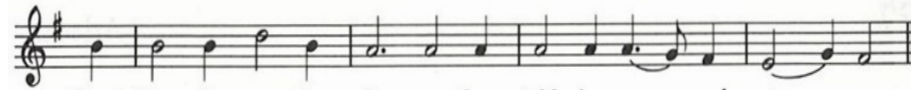
Carol – “Prepare the Way, O Zion” (Hymn 65)



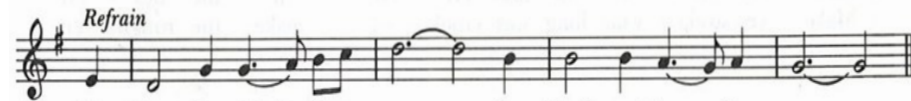
1 Pre - pare the way, O Zi - on, your Christ is draw - ing near!  
2 He brings God's rule, O Zi - on; he comes from heaven a - bove.  
3 Fling wide your gates, O Zi - on; your Sa - vior's rule em - brace.



Let ev - ery hill and val - ley a lev - el way ap - pear.  
His rule is peace and free - dom, and jus - tice, truth, and love.  
His tid - ings of sal - va - tion pro - claim in ev - ery place.



Greet One who comes in glo - ry, fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry.  
Lift high your praise re - sound - ing, for grace and joy a - bound - ing.  
All lands will bow be - fore him, their voic - es will a - dore him.



Oh, blest is Christ that came in God's most ho - ly name.

Words: Frans Mikael Franzen (1772-1847); tr. composite; adapt. Charles P. Price (b. 1920)

Music: *Bereden väg för Herran*, melody from *Then Svenska Psalmboken*, 1697

76. 76. 77 with Refrain

Lesson V – Luke 2:1-20

Susan Crawford

*(Jesus is born at Bethlehem and is worshipped by angels and shepherds.)*

Carol – “Coventry Carol” (St. Peter’s Choir)

Lesson VI – Luke 2:21-35

Laura Burgess

*(Jesus receives his name and is presented to Simeon in the Temple.)*

Carol – “In the Bleak Midwinter” (Hymn 112)

1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;  
3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
4 What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign:  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim throng - ed the air;  
If I were a shep - herd, 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 suf - ficed  
but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,  
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
 the Lord — God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.  
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
 yet what I can I give him give my heart.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894)  
 Music: *Cranham*, Gustav Theodore Holst (1874-1934)

Irr.



(The Word was made flesh and we have seen his glory.)

Carol – “Silent Night” (Hymn 111)

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
 2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
 3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
 at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
 love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
 heaven - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
 with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy

peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)

Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910)

Irr.

## THE PEACE

Priest        The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People        **And also with you.**

*The people greet one another in the name of the Risen Christ.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*As the Eucharistic table is set, the ushers collect offerings from the congregation.*

*If you prefer to make an online donation, please use this QR code.*



## OFFERTORY MUSIC

“The Word Was Made Flesh” (St. Peter’s Choir)

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP 357

Priest        The Lord be with you.

People        **And also with you.**

Priest        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

People        **Amen.**

Priest        Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

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 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.**

Priest The Gifts of God for the People of God.

*Come up the center aisle to receive the Eucharist at the altar rail. Return to your pew using the side aisle.*

*All baptized Christians, regardless of age or denomination, are invited to receive the bread and wine.*

*If you prefer to receive a blessing, please let the clergy know by crossing your arms in front of you at the altar.*

*At this time, for many people, it is safest simply to reverently acknowledge the presence of Christ in the wine, while the minister says, "The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."*

## MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

All Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

## THE CHRISTMAS BLESSING

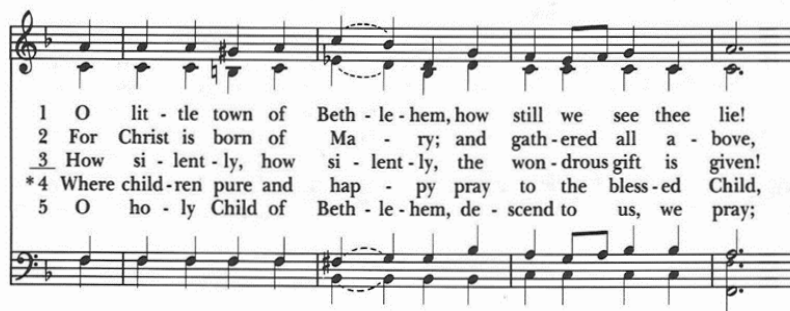
May Almighty God, who sent his Son to take our nature upon him, bless you in this holy season, scatter the darkness of sin, and brighten your heart with the light of his holiness. **Amen.**

May God, who sent his angels to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth, fill you with joy, and make you heralds of the Gospel. **Amen.**

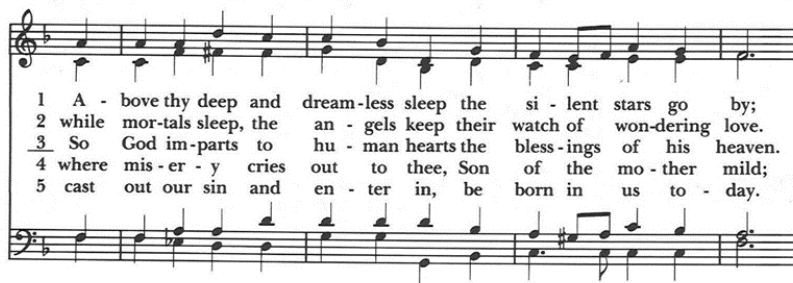
May God, who in the Word made flesh joined heaven to earth and earth to heaven, give you his peace and favor. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

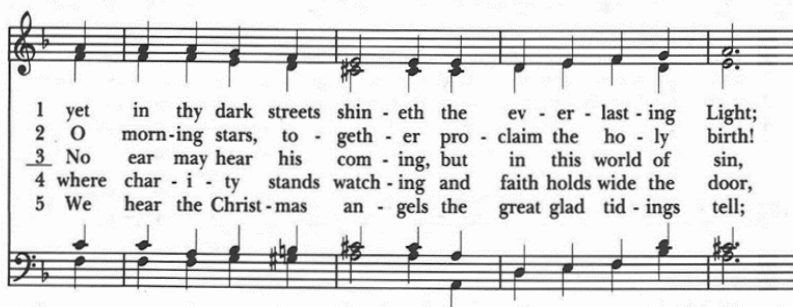
## CLOSING HYMN: "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Hymn 79)



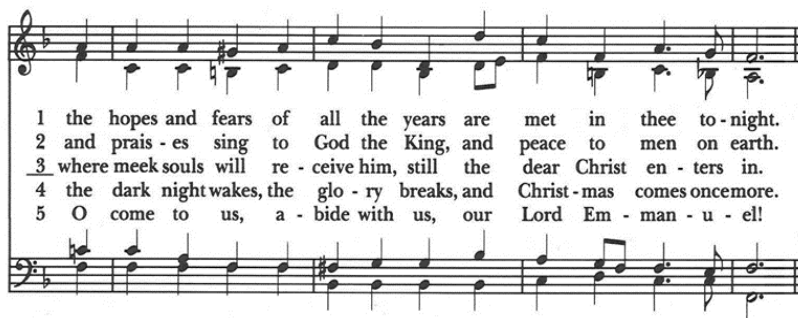
1 O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2 For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,  
 3 How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!  
 \*4 Where child - ren pure and hap - py pray to the bless - ed Child,  
 5 O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem, de - scend to us, we pray;



1 A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;  
 2 while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.  
 3 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.  
 4 where mis - er - y cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;  
 5 cast out our sin and en - ter in, be born in us to - day.



1 yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;  
 2 O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!  
 3 No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,  
 4 where char - i - ty stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,  
 5 We hear the Christ - mas an - gels the great glad tid - ings tell;



1 the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.  
 2 and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.  
 3 where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.  
 4 the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes oncemore.  
 5 O come to us, a - bid with us, our Lord Em - man - u - el!

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893)  
 Music: *St. Louis*, Lewis H. Redner (1831-1908)

CMD

## THE DISMISSAL

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

People Thanks be to God.

**Welcome to worship at St. Peter's Episcopal Church!**

We are glad that you are here.

### **Prayer for Our Clergy Search**

Almighty God, you know the needs of your Church in every place: Look graciously upon us and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new priest for this parish. Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing. Guide the members of our Vestry, as they labor to be faithful in seeking your will. We pray for the life of our parish that we may continue in our mission to proclaim not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Christ's sake. Amen.

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Perry Scruggs

**Lectors:** Laura Burgess, Susan Crawford, Susan Self, Bobbie Suttles

**Livestream / Audio:** John Trieber;

**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Kim Kilgore, Joani Koch

**Acolytes:** Sterling Porter, Colette Crowe, Eleanor Crowe

**Ushers:** Ron Abston, Bill James; **Healing Altar:** Kim Kilgore

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ST. PETER'S ANNUAL  
**EPIPHANY**  
**CHILI**  
**COOK-OFF**

01.14.2024 **BRING THE HEAT!** 11:45a-1:00p

**You can vote for yourself!**  
**Your name on a trophy!**  
**Bragging rights for an entire year!**

Monies raised go to a scholarship fund  
for the St. Peter's Women's Spring Retreat

**ONE DOLLAR**



**PER TICKET**



**ONE TICKET**



**PER VOTE**

## **St. Peter's Church Staff**

Church Office Hours: M-F, 9am to 4pm; 423-877-2428

The Very Rev. John H. Bonner III, Interim Rector

The Rev. John R. Rouser, Deacon; jrrouser@comcast.net

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