# The Nativity of our Savior Jesus Christ

# Church of the Epiphany-Tempe



The Holy Eucharist Rite Two

December 24, 2023

9:00 PM

# WELCOME TO CHRISTMAS AT CHURCH OF THE EPIPHANY-TEMPE

Tonight, on this very night, the world is different. We may not recognize it fully at first, but it is a changed, transformed world. It is on this very night that something amazing, wonderful, everlasting is taking place, and we are invited into it.

We are invited into the work that God has done, is doing, and will continue to do in the world around us. We are invited to be those who carry the work forward to birth into existence the very creation God has always envisioned from the moment God said, "Let there be."

In a year that has been torn by suffering and war, God is inviting us into a new way of living. God is inviting us to be the messengers of glad-tidings, messengers of great joy, messengers of peace.

Let us become the Christmas hope that once born shatters the darkness of strife.

Rev. Hunter Ruffin

Rector

We extend our gratitude to the many people who have given generously of themselves to make this Advent/Christmas season a joyful celebration of God's love.

We are grateful for those who have made special contributions, in memory and thanksgiving for beloved friends and family, for the adornment of the church and chapel.

On this most Holy night we celebrate the incarnation of our Savior; your generosity in response to the goodness of God's love helps Church of the Epiphany to continue God's mission in our community. Thank you for your generosity in this Holy season. You are invited to place your gifts in the alms basins, located at the rear of the church, prior to worship or during the peace. If you prefer to give electronically, make your holiday offering by texting 'Give' to 480-725-3974, and you'll receive a one-time set-up link.

If you are visiting Church of the Epiphany for the first time or the first time in a little while, we would love to get to know you a little better! Introduce yourself by completing a connection card and placing it the alms basin or by giving it to a member of our clergy. We look forward to knowing you better!

As a courtesy to others, please do not save seats.

# The Word of God

### **INTROIT**

### ENTRANCE HYMN | "O Come, All Ye Faithful"



Choir

H 83

Refrain

#### **OPENING ACCLAMATION**

The people standing, the Celebrant says:

Celebrant:Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.People:And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

# **COLLECT FOR PURITY**

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.* 



H 96

# THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant:The Lord be with you.People:And also with you.Celebrant:Let us pray.

**O** God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.* 

# THE LESSONS

The people sit.

### THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

$\mathbf{T}$ he 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 onwards and for evermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader:	The Word of the Lord
People:	Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow

### THE PSALM

The psalm is read in unison by all.

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; \* sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name; \* proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations \* and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised; \* he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; \* but it is the LORD who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! \* Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples; \* ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name; \* bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; \* let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King! \* he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; \* let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the LORD when he comes, \* when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness \* and the peoples with his truth.

Silence may follow.

### GRADUAL HYMN | "God Rest You Merry Gentlemen"



Words: London carol, 18th cent. Music: God Rest You Merry, melody from Little Book of Christmas Carols, ca. 1850; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944). Copyright © The Church Pension Fund.

### THE SECOND READING

#### Titus 2:11-14

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 Savior, 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

*People:* Thanks be to God.

Silence may follow

#### SEQUENCE HYMN | "Joy to the World!"

Please stand as you are able.



### THE HOLY GOSPEL

# Deacon:The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to LukePeople:Glory to you Lord Christ

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.

Deacon:The Gospel of the LordPeople:Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### THE SERMON

The Rev. Hunter Ruffin

# THE NICENE CREED

Please stand, as you are able.

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 THE PEOPLE

Remain standing, as you are able.

Deacon:	Gracious and loving God, in Jesus you have filled all humanity with your divine life. Hear our prayers of joy and thanksgiving as we offer our supplications to you, saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to God's people on earth."
Lector:	You have entrusted the Church with good news of great joy for all people. Inspire our witness that we may spread the light of Jesus' love to all humanity. Glory to God in the highest heaven,
People:	And peace to God's people on earth.
Lector:	Let your power and compassion guide those who exercise authority on earth, that they may be servants of peace, bringing comfort and security to all who are vulnerable. Glory to God in the highest heaven,
People:	And peace to God's people on earth.
Lector:	Embrace with your eternal protection all who are poor; refugees and the displaced, those threatened by war and violence, and families with no place to call their home. Glory to God in the highest heaven,
People:	And peace to God's people on earth.
Lector:	Fill this community with hospitality and generosity, that we may care for one another and celebrate the joy of your presence in our humanity. Glory to God in the highest heaven,
People:	And peace to God's people on earth.
Lector:	We entrust to your divine grace all for whom we pray, especially those who live and work in our neighborhoods; those who rush to our sides when we are in crisis; those who are crying this night from pain, from broken relationships, from loneliness; for those struggling to be born and those who are dying, we ask your healing and wholeness. Glory to God in the highest heaven,
People:	And peace to God's people on earth.

The celebrant adds a concluding collect:

Loving God, the joyful message of the angels fills us with gladness as we celebrate the coming of the Christ child to live among us in vulnerable humility. Let your divine light so dwell within us that we may treasure your words, ponder them in our hearts and continue the work of Christ's incarnation in our day, through Jesus our Savior, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.** 

# **CONFESSION OF SIN**

The People stand or kneel as they are able

The Deacon says:

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Ministers and People:

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen. *The Priest stands and says:* 

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

### THE PEACE

Please be mindful of the desired greetings of those around you.

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

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

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

# **THE OFFERTORY**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | "Ding, Dong, Merrily on High" (Candlyn) Choir

#### **OFFERTORY HYMN** | "While Shepherds Watched their Flocks by Night"

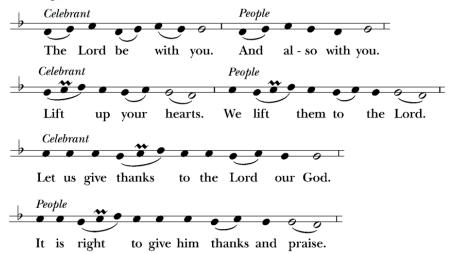
Descant -44 2 "Fear not," said dread had seized their trou - bled mind; he, for might - y 6 "All glo - ry to God on high and on the earth be peace; be a. While shep-herds watched their flocks by night, all seat - ed on the ground, 1 he, trou-bled mind; 2 "Fear not," said for might - y dread had seized their "To you, 3 in Da - vid's town, this day is born of Da-vid's line "The heaven - ly Babe you there shall find to hu - man view dis - played, 4 5 Thus spake the shin-ing throng ser - aph, and forth-with ap-peared a 2 "Glad tid - ings and all man-kind." of great joy I bring to you and nev - er cease." 6 good will hence-forth from heaven to men be - gin the an - gel of the Lord came down, and glo ry shone a - round. 1 2 "Glad tid - ings I bring to and all man-kind. of great joy you shall be the sign: Christ the Lord; and this 3 the Sa - vior, who is a man-ger laid." 4 all mean - ly wrapped in swath - ing bands, and in an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad - dressed their joy - ful song: 5 of 6 "All glory be to God on high and on the earth be peace; good will henceforth from heaven to men

begin and never cease."

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

# THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The People stand as able.



### The Celebrant adds a proper preface

...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**SANCTUS** | "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord" (Schubert/Proulx)



S 130



The People stand or kneel as able.

#### The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In Christ, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In Christ, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me." Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

# We remember Christ's death, We proclaim Christ's resurrection, We await Christ's coming in glory;

### The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.



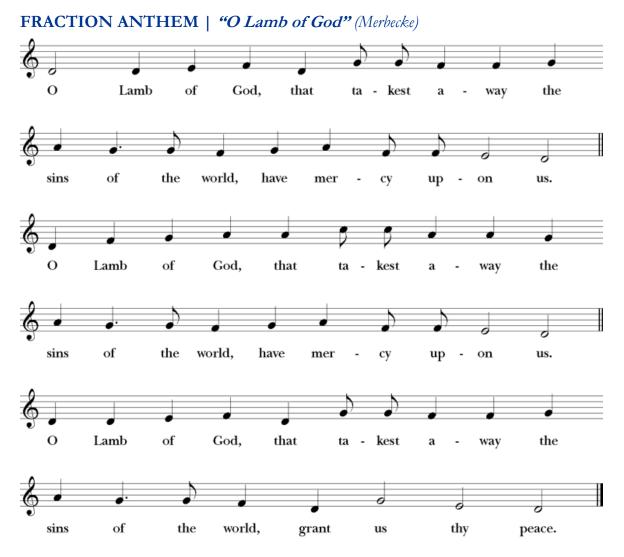
# THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

# Celebrant and people:

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.

# THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD



### THE INVITATION

The Celebrant says:

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

### THE COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion. Wait at the front of the pews until a space is available then approach and stand or kneel at the rail. Families are invited to approach the rails together to receive communion. A minister will move to you with bread and another minister with wine. Put your cupped hands out to receive the wafer. If you require a gluten-free wafer, put one hand over your cupped hand so that the minister does not give you a regular wafer. All persons are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing; if you prefer a blessing, please cross both arms over your chest as a priest approaches.

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

Dr. Miriam Hickman

S 157

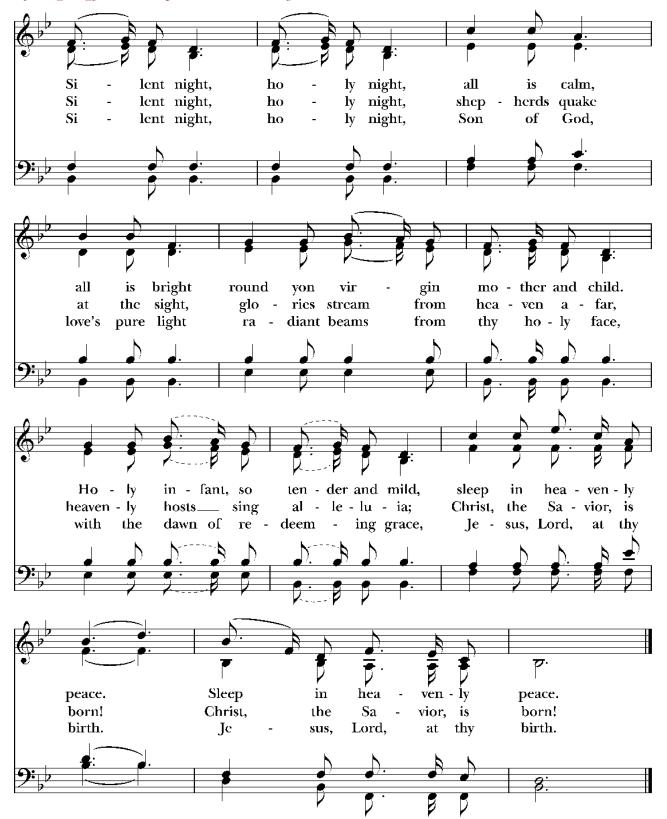
#### COMMUNION HYMN | "In the Bleak Mid-Winter"



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

COMMUNION HYMN | "Silent Night"

After lighting your candle, please sit or kneel as you are able.



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).

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

# THE 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**.

EXIT HYMN | "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"



### THE HOLY GOSPEL

Please remain standing, as you are able.

# Deacon:The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.People: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.

Deacon:	The Gospel of the Lord
People:	Praise to you, Lord Christ.

### THE DISMISSAL

Deacon:	Let us go forth in the name of Christ, alleluia, alleluia!
People:	Thanks be to God, alleluia, alleluia!

### Lay Minsters

Karen Ford, Tamara Noel, Stanlie James	Readers
Dave Bauer, Nancy Keith	Acolytes
Jane Konrad	Thurifer
Tamara Noel, Cece Wilhite	Eucharistic Ministers
Jerry Adwell, Lynn Adwell, Delaney Balk, Anne Bennett, Peter Crane, Cassidy Duclos, Grant Duclos, Drew Gooden, Elizabeth Gooden, Beth Hunt, Ava O'Brien, Maureen Schmid, Joy Shearman, Carolyn Smith, Colleen VanSlyke, Rich VanSlyke, Barbara Veitch, Steve Veitch	Parish Choir
Guest Musicians	
Scott Glasser & Cyndi Seagraves	Violins
Jill Osborne	Viola
Elliot Yang	Cello
Dariah Laadara & Vaatru	
Parish Leaders & Vestry Mary O'Grady	Senior Warden
Dylan Westbrook	Junior Warden
Ann Neal	Treasurer
Andrea Stewart	Clerk
Diane Spillum, Pamela Waterman, Alex Davis, Cece Wilhite, Jan Wagner, Jude Wickelgren, Aaron Van Briesen, Steve Geislinger	Vestry
Parish Clergy & Staff	
The Rev. C. Hunter Ruffin	Rector
The Rev. Carmen Valenzuela	Pastor for Community Life
The Rev. Martha Seaman	Deacon
The Rev. Canon Stephen Schaitberger	Seasonal Assisting Priest
The Rev. Dr. Corey Meier	Assisting Priest
Dr. Miriam Hickman	Organist, Pianist
Matthew Flora	Choir Director

Christian Rodriguez-Ortiz

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**Communications** Assistant