



HOLY CROSS

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Pensacola, Florida
850-477-8596

Christmas Eve Services
10:00am & 10:00pm
December 24, 2020

The Service of the Word

Prelude: Christmas Medley
Stephanie Backes (clarinet)
Zach Dake (trumpet)
Samuel Klauss (piano)

Opening Voluntary: “Ave Maria”: F. Schubert
Alicia Umbreit

Welcome

The Rev. Rob Dixon

Opening Hymn: “O Come, All Ye Faithful”

*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.*

*Sing, choirs of angels,
Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
Glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him,
O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.*

Celebrant Alleluia. To us a child is born.
People **Come let us adore him. Alleluia.**

The 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 you Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthinly magnify you holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

The Collect of the Day – prayed by the Celebrant

The Old Testament: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

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 Counselor, 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.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96 (read responsively by whole verse)

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."**

Sequence Hymn: "Away in a Manger"

*Away in a manger; no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus;
I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.*

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-14

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

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!"

Reader The Holy Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Rob Dixon

Prayers of the People (Kneeling as you are able)

In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him. *Silence*

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died. *Silence*

Praise God for all of the blessings of this life. Praise Him especially for this time of Christmas, in which we celebrate the love He showed the world in becoming a lowly baby in a manger. Pray that we may always know His love. *Silence*

Let us now pray for our additional needs and those of others. *Silence*

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**



The Holy Communion

This portion of the service begins on p. 367 in the BCP;
however; you are encouraged to give your attention to the altar.

You are gladly invited to receive communion at Holy Cross. To receive a blessing in lieu of communion simply come to the altar and cross your arms over your chest. If you are physically unable to come forward for communion, please notify the ushers at the door and someone will happily bring communion to you.

Offertory: “O Holy Night”

The Great Thanksgiving (p. 367 BCP)

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Sanctus: S-130 (in front section of blue hymnal)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People **We remember his death,**

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory.

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.*

The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Prayer for Grace and Blessing

Loving God, while I cannot receive your Holy Communion at this time, I sincerely ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon me now and upon all of your children. Fill me, sustain me, and lead me with your life-giving Grace and strength, today and forever. *Amen.*

CANDLE INSTRUCTIONS: When leaving the altar after communion, please pick up a candle! We will light your candle as we sing *Silent Night*.

Communion Hymn: “Mary Did You Know”

*Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day walk on water?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would save our sons and daughters?
Did you know that your baby boy has come to make you new?
This child that you've delivered, will soon deliver you*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy will give sight to a blind man?
Mary did you know that your baby boy will calm a storm with his hand?
Did you know that your baby boy has walked where angels trod?
When you kiss your little baby, you kiss the face of God*

*The blind will see, the deaf will hear, the dead will live again
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak, the praises of the lamb*

*Mary did you know that your baby boy is Lord of all creation?
Mary did you know that your baby boy would one day rule the nations?
Did you know that your baby boy is heaven's perfect lamb?
That sleeping child you're holding is the great I am.*

Mary did you know?

Communion Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem”

*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.*

*For Christ is born of Mary;
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep,
The angels keep their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.*

Post Communion Prayer (p. 365 BCP)

Eternal God, Heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 10am: “Joy to the World”

*Joy to the world, the Lord has come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing*

*Joy to the world, the Savior reigns
Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy*

*He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love
And wonders of His love
And wonders, wonders of His love*

Closing Hymn 10pm: “Silent Night” (light your candle from the torch coming around)

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 Savior is born! Christ, the Savior, 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.

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Ministers for Tonight's Services

Altar Guild: Siegrid McAskill & Greer Mims
Flower Guild: Olga Stone & Ed Austin

10:00am

Clergy: The Rev. Rob Dixon, Rector; The Rev. Roger Hungerford, Associate Rector

10:00pm

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Holy Cross Musicians

Ms. Leanne Whalen
Music Minister

Samuel Klauss
Piano/Organ

Ryan Etheredge
Guitar

Stephen Bell

Angel ZandiKarimi

Alicia Umbreit

Zach Dake
Trumpet

Stephanie Backes
Clarinet

**A gift of flowers for Christmas at
Holy Cross Episcopal Church has been given by:**

- Jackie Lanier in loving memory of Cecil Lanier; Cecil & Molly Lanier; Shirley Parmer; Wilson & Kate Meek; & Shane Meek
- Britt & Nell Landrum in loving memory of our dear friend Cecil “Buddy” Lanier
- Robert Donaldson in memory of Eleanor R. (Gould) Donaldson; Ruth. E Gould & Frank E. Dodwell
- Patrick & Linda Tillery in memory of our Parents
- Art Harrison in loving memory of Mary Harrison
- Susan & Stephen Bell in thanksgiving for our children; grandchildren & great grandchildren
- Rick Hardcastle & Holly Shumpert in thanksgiving for our parents & children
- Elaine Gaines in memory of Robert J. Gaines & Lorraine Gaines
- Hunter & Pam Walker in honor and thanksgiving for our children Dr. Sarah K. Walker & John & Sarah E. Walker
- Ann Jewett in loving memory of Grey Jewett & Tre Chipman
- Barbara Edwards in loving memory of Ron Edwards; Peter Shinkle; & Dan Kessinger
- Christopher Law in memory of special friend Nancy Friedersdorf; & lifelong friends The Penrods
- Gwynn Brockbank in honor of her daughter and son-in-law, April & Michael Schantz
- In memory of and in celebration of the life of Joseph Pullen.
- Ron & Joyce Burk
- Edward Austin
- Nancy Gibbons in honor of Christmas past and present.
- Steve & Sherry Athat in memory of Mary Lee and Terry Foor
- Darrik Kostel
- Herman & Helen Stuebing in memory of Harold & Mary Kent; Mary Kent Scullion; Robert Gaines & William Danson
- Sally Roberts
- Siegrid McAskill in honor of my family
- Greer Mims in memory of Will Mims; Martha & John Wilkinson
- Ronda Hutchinson in honor of Ann Sims
- Charles Swenson

Plus, a few Anonymous Gifts



Services Next Sunday, December 27, 2020
at 8:00am, 10:30am, & 4:00pm (Winter), 5:00pm (Spring, Summer, & Fall)

Wherever you are in your faith journey,
all people are welcome here.

The people and clergy of Holy Cross wish you and your loved ones a most blessed and joyous Christmas. May the Lord guard your travels, give you rest with family and friends, and fill you with His love. May peace always be your's. *AMEN.*