

Christmas Eve



**3 o'clock Holy Eucharist
December 24, 2019**

Saint Dunstan's Episcopal Church

Welcome to St. Dunstan's

The clergy and staff of St. Dunstan's wish you a blessed Christmas season and peace in the coming year! Please silence your cell phone at this time, and please join us for a reception immediately following the service.

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The people stand at the ringing of the bell.

Procession Carol Hymn 83 O Come, All Ye Faithful
verses 1—3, & 6

Adeste fideles

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

People **And Blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

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.

Gloria: Carol Hymn 96 Angels we have heard on high

Gloria in Excelsis

Verses 1 & 4

The Collect of the Day *The people remain standing.*

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born of a pure virgin: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Gradual Carol Hymn 105 God rest you merry, gentlemen

God rest ye merry

Verse 4 is sung after the Gospel reading.

Luke 2:1-14

from The Message

The gospel presents the story of the birth of Jesus. He is born amid very humble human circumstances.

A government registration program requires Joseph and Mary to go to Bethlehem, the city of David.

Because there was no other place for them to stay, Mary lays her new son in a stable manger. An angel tells the joyful news of the Savior's birth to shepherds who come to Bethlehem and report the angelic vision.

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

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

About that time Caesar Augustus ordered a census to be taken throughout the Empire. This was the first census when Quirinius was governor of Syria. Everyone had to travel to his or her own ancestral hometown to be accounted for. So Joseph went from the Galilean town of Nazareth up to Bethlehem in Judah, David's town, for the census. As a descendant of David, he had to go there. He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

While they were there, the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the hostel.

There were shepherders camping in the neighborhood. They had set night watches over their sheep. Suddenly, God's angel stood among them and God's glory blazed around them. They were terrified. The angel said, "Don't be afraid. I'm here to announce a great and joyful event that is meant for everybody, worldwide:

A Savior has just been born in David's town, a Savior who is Messiah and Master. This is what you're to look for: a baby wrapped in a blanket and lying in a manger."

At once the angel was joined by a huge angelic choir singing God's praises:

Glory to God in the heavenly heights,

Peace to all men and women on earth.

Priest The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The Sermon

After the sermon a brief silence is kept.

The Rev. John Saville

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The people stand or kneel.

- Leader Brothers and sisters, on this most holy night of our Lord's birth,
let us pray for ourselves and all those in need of our prayers, saying:
Lord, in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.
- Leader Eternal God, bless your holy church, that it may boldly proclaim
the good tidings of salvation to all the ends of the earth.
Lord, in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.
- Leader For your servants in this congregation, that, nourished by your word and holy
sacraments, we may minister in faithfulness to you and in love to one another.
Lord, in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.
- Leader For peace in our troubled world, that the darkness of war and injustice
may be replaced by the light of peace and love.
Lord, in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.
- Leader For those who travel during this holiday season,
that their reunions and celebrations may be occasions for joy,
and that they return safely to their homes and loved ones.
Lord, in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.
- Leader For those who labor this night on behalf of others: doctors and nurses,
police officers and firefighters, gas station attendants, bus and taxi drivers,
those in the armed forces, and all those whose work prevents them from
sharing this evening with those they love.
Lord, in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.
- Leader For those in need of our prayers: the homeless; the unemployed; the hungry;
those who are hospitalized or sick at home; those who are imprisoned in body
and soul; and those for whom this season is one not of joy but of trial and sadness.
Lord, in your mercy,
- People Hear our prayer.

Leader In thanksgiving we remember before you, O Lord, those saints who bore witness to the light, especially St. Dunstan and St. Andre. Grant that we may persevere in the faith to which we have been called and at the end behold your glory.

Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Leader Let us offer our prayers, thanksgivings, and names on our hearts tonight.

The people may add their own prayers.

Priest All these things we ask in the name of him who came as the light in darkness of our world, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin *The people stand or kneel. Silence may be kept.*

Priest Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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 Absolution

Priest 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 *All stand.*

Priest The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people exchange the peace with one another.

Christmas Greeting *The people are seated.*

*The Rev. John Saville,
Interim Rector of St. Dunstan's*

The Offertory

Priest Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us,
an offering and sacrifice to God.

Offertory Anthem What Child is this

*Greensleeves;
arr. John Fenstermaker*

What child is this, who, laid to rest on Mary's lap, is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?

*This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing:
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the Son of Mary.*

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here, the silent Word is pleading.

Refrain

So bring Him incense, gold, and myrrh. Come peasant king to own him
The King of kings, salvation brings. Let loving hearts enthrone him.

Refrain

All stand.

Offertory Carol Hymn 100 Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Verses 1—2 & 4

Antioch

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Priest All things come of thee, O Lord.

People And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer B

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Priest It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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 S125 Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

A Community Mass; Richard Proulx

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

- Priest 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 him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, 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,
- People We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;
- Priest 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

Priest And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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, for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.



Priest The Gifts of God for the People of God.
Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

All are welcome to receive the Holy Communion.

The bread is received in the open palm. The wine, if desired, may be taken from the cup by drinking (guide the chalice gently to your lips by the base) or by dipping the bread.

Those who do not wish to receive Communion are welcome to come forward
for a blessing, indicated by crossing your arms over your chest.

During this time a prayer leader will be in the back of the church,
by the font, to offer healing prayers.

If you have a wheat sensitivity, you may ask the priest for a gluten-free wafer.

Communion Carol Hymn 79 O little town of Bethlehem
Verses 1—3, & 5

St. Louis

Anthem & Candle Lighting

During the Anthem the people's candles are lighted by an acolyte at the center aisle.

Carol Hymn 101 Away in a manger

*Cradle Song:
Kirkpatrick; arr. David Willcocks*

Post-Communion Carol Hymn 111 Silent Night
The people extinguish their candles after the singing of Silent Night.

Stille Nacht;
Franz Gruber

The Post-Communion Prayer *All stand.*

Priest Let us pray.

People 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, and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Priest May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly,
fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father,
the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Closing Carol Hymn 87 Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

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

Postlude Chorale prelude: *From heaven on high to earth I come*

J.S. Bach

Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her (BWV 606)

*The people are invited to listen and observe silence during the postlude.
All are welcomed to enjoy fellowship at a reception following the service.*

*St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church celebrates God's diverse creation
and strives to build an inclusive community that welcomes everyone, no matter age, gender, sexual identity,
culture, ethnicity, economic status, or ability.*

Christmas flowers are given to the Glory of God by

Clayton & Victoria Clark

*Ollie Collins
in memory of Leland G. Collins*

*Joe & Marilyn Green
in memory of parents Helmuth & Edith Voellger and Velma & Kenneth Green*

Joe & Beth Heston

*Gigi McWilliams
in memory of Kathy and George McWilliams*

*Grace Merrill
in memory of Dick Merrill*

*Yanira Pereira
in thanksgiving for her four children*

*Natalie Stewart
in memory of Margaret, Hampton Jr. and John Stewart*

*Dede & Ollie White
in thanksgiving for family*

Officiant & Preacher: The Rev. John Saville
Celebrant: The Rev. Marcia M. Lockwood
Assisting Priest: The Rev. Joe Patronik

Verger: Joe Heston

Intercessor: Sarah Kasdan
Chalice Bearers: Susan Baxter & Rodger Langland

Acolyte
Joshua Pavloff

Ushers: Sue & Tom Masters
Greeter: Beth Heston
Reception Host: Elizabeth Buche

Music
Steve Denmark, Organist & Director of Music
Arthur Wu, Choir Director

St. Dunstan's Choir

Pam Austin, Melanie Cervi, Stephanie Cervi, Bobby Clampett, Marianna Clampett,
Phil Clarkson, Margo Fuselier, Chantal Grybas, Betty Kasson, Otto Neely, Art Pasquinelli,
Elizabeth Pasquinelli, Sarah Pease, Louis Powell, Bob Priestley, and Arthur Wu

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WE HOPE YOU FIND YOURS HERE

Here is a place that is ancient and new, a faith that we hold going back to Jesus, back to his spiritual ancestors, back to those who walked the earth and found holy ground. And what we do is often based on really ancient patterns—worship and music; loving service to the poor, the hurting, the lonely; working for justice and peace; lively, fearless education and formation of minds and souls. And that faith is also completely contemporary, engaged in the culture and the needs of the moment.

WHAT WE ARE FOR

The dignity and worth of every person. An open minded, passionate commitment to truth. The importance of everyone's own spiritual journey. God's friends wherever we find them. Seeking Christ in every person who comes through the door. The sacredness of life's rites of passage. The value of community. The hard work necessary to make sure that all are welcomed. Telling the truth about life's challenges. A "user-friendly" church experience. Children, youth and families. We believe that God is love, and we pray that God will use us to spread that love.

WHAT WE ARE AGAINST

Claiming to have all the answers. Elitism and exclusivism, especially in church. Bigotry for any reason. Authoritarianism. Indifference to injustice and suffering. Certitude in the face of ambiguity and superficial answers to hard questions. Boring sermons, bad music and general cluelessness. (So, God help us, because we don't always avoid these!)

WHAT WE VALUE

Community, open hearts, open minds, open arms. Faith. Fortitude. Staying current, but equally staying rooted in tradition. Reason and honesty. Civic responsibility. Debate that allows for mutual respect. Music and beauty for their own sake. Joy in God's creation. Anyone who makes an effort to get to know and follow Jesus.

WELCOME!

Originally written by the people of St. Bartholomew's, New York, this statement has been modified for our use with their permission.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church

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stdcv.org