

ST. GEORGE'S ON-THE-HILL ANGLICAN CHURCH

The Epiphany of the Lord | Sun, Dec 31st, 2023, 10:30am Eucharist

Childcare and children's programming are not available at this service.

Welcome & Announcements

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

We gather with song and prayer as the People of God

Opening Hymn: #143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

PLEASE STAND

Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;

You who sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.

Shepherds in the field abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,

God with us is now residing; yonder shines the infant Light:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.

Sages, leave your contemplations; brighter visions beam afar;

Seek the great desire of nations; you have seen his natal star:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.

Saints before the altar bending, watching long in hope and fear,

Suddenly the Lord, descending, in his temple shall appear:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.

Though an infant now we view him, he shall fill the eternal throne,

Gather all the nations to him; every knee shall then bow down:

Come and worship, come and worship, worship Christ, the new-born king.

Welcome & Greeting

Presider: "Do I not fill heaven and earth?" says the Lord.

All: Now the Word is made flesh and laid in a narrow manger.

Presider: From eternity to eternity you are God,

All: and now we see you as a newborn child.

Presider: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Gloria in Excelsis (Tune: Iris)

Glory be to God in heaven, peace on earth in all our days!

King and Lord, almighty Father, praise and blessing now we raise:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Lamb of God, O Lord most holy, Jesus, take our sins away;

You are seated with the Father, hear our voices as we pray:

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Jesus, you are Lord and Saviour, you alone the Holy One,

With the Holy Spirit blessed and the Father on the throne.

Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

The Collect for Epiphany

Presider: Eternal God, who by a star led wise men to the worship of your Son. Guide by your light the nations of the earth, that the whole world may know your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

We read and respond to God's message in scripture

First Reading: Isaiah 60:1-6

PLEASE BE SEATED

A Reading from the Book of Isaiah.

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you. Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms. Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you. A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Psalm 72:1-7, 1-14 *(Tune: Hark! the Herald Angels Sing)*

PLEASE REMAIN SEATED

Give the king your justice, Lord; share it with your royal son.

May he justly rule your folk and give justice to th'oppressed.

May the land be prosperous; may the hills know righteousness;

May he be fair to the poor, help them but oppressors crush.

May he be fair to the poor, help them but oppressors crush.

May the rulers of far lands bring their gifts unto the king.

May all kings bow down to him; may the nations all serve him.

For he heeds the needy's call, helps the poor and helpless ones.

He takes pity on the weak and he saves the poor ones' lives.

He redeems from violence; precious is their blood to him.

Second Reading: Ephesians 3:1-12

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Church in Ephesus.

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles — for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel. Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please keep a period of silence for reflection)

Gospel Acclamation

PLEASE STAND

Cantor: Hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah! *People:* Hal - le, ha - le lu - jah!

Cantor: Hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

People: Hal - le - lu - jah, ha - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah! *repeat v.*

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

Reader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, Lord Jesus 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.

Reader: The Gospel of Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon: Fr. Michelle

(After the sermon, please keep a period of silence for reflection)

The Apostles' Creed (pg 189)

PLEASE STAND

The Prayers of the People

PLEASE KNEEL OR STAND AS YOU PREFER

Please respond to the petition, "Holy God," with, "**hear our prayer.**"

The Peace

PLEASE STAND AS YOU ARE ABLE

Prsider: The peace of the Lord be always with you!

People: And also with you!

(We encourage you to share a sign of peace with those around you as you are comfortable.)

THE CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

We share God's banquet of love for this community of faith

Offertory Hymn: CP #148 See Amid the Winter's Snow

PLEASE JOIN IN SINGING

See amid the winter's snow, born for us on earth below,
See, the tender Lamb appears, promised from eternal years!
Hail, thou ever blessed morn! Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem: Christ is born in Bethlehem.

Lo, within a manger lies he who built the starry skies,
Who enthroned in height sublime sits amid the cherubim. *Refrain.*

Say, ye holy shepherds, say what your joyful news today;
Wherefore have ye left your sheep on the lonely mountain steep? *Refrain.*

"As we watched at dead of night, lo, we saw a wondrous light;
Angels, singing 'Peace on earth' told us of the Saviour's birth." *Refrain.*

Sacred infant, all divine, what a mighty love was thine,
Thus to come from highest bliss down to such a world as this! *Refrain.*

Prayer Over the Gifts

Eucharistic Prayer

Presider: The Lord be with you. *People:* And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise

The Presiding Celebrant will begin the Eucharistic Prayer by either singing or saying the preface to the prayer. The preface will conclude with the words "to proclaim the glory of your name."

We then sing verses 1-2 of the Sanctus as follows:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly.
Lord God of pow'r, Lord God of pow'r - and might
1. Hea - ven and earth are filled this night with glo - ry Ho -
2. Bless - ed is he who comes this night in God's name: Ho -

san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
 san - na in the high - est! Ho - ly Lord!
 san - na in the high - est! Bless - ed are you!

*The Presiding Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.
 After the words over the cup and the elevation of the chalice, we sing:*

People: *(sing)* **Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
 Hosanna in the highest. Glory to you!**

*The Presiding Celebrant concludes the Eucharistic Prayer,
 and at the elevation of the bread and cup, we sing:*

People: *(sing)* **Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
 Hosanna in the highest. Amen!**

The Lord's Prayer

Presider: As our Saviour taught us, let us pray:

Music by McNeil Robinson

All Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name, your king-dom come,
 your will be done, on earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai-ly bread,
 For-give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a-gainst us.
 Save us from the time of trial, and de-liv-er us from e - vil. For the king-dom,
 the pow-er, and the glo-ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread #6

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

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

Song for the Breaking of the Bread

Sing 5 times:

Ha-py are those who are called to the sup - per of the Lamb;
Al - le - lu - - - ia! ia, A - men!

*Music: D. Cowling
• copyright 1995*

Choir: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

All: **Happy are those . . .**

Choir: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us.

All: **Happy are those . . .**

Choir: Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: Grant us peace.

All: **Happy are those . . .**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The Communion

PLEASE BE SEATED

All who are baptized are welcome to receive the sacrament of communion in the Anglican Church. Those who are not yet baptized are encouraged to come forward to the altar for a blessing – simply fold your arms across your chest as an indication of your desire for a blessing. This invitation is extended to all – children and infants included. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Music During Communion

O Sweet Saviour

J.S. Bach

Hymn: #161 *Wise Men, They Came to Look for Wisdom*

Wise men, they came to look for wisdom, finding one wiser than they knew;
Rich men, they met with one yet richer--King of the kings, they knelt to you:
Jesus, our wisdom from above, wealth and redemption, life and love.

Pilgrims they were, from unknown countries, searching for one who knows the world;
Lost are their names and strange their journeys, famed is their zeal to find the child:
Jesus, in you the lost are claimed, aliens are found and known and named.

Magi, they stooped to see your splendour, led by a star to light supreme;
Promised Messiah, Lord eternal, glory and peace are in your name.
Joy of each day, our song by night, shine on our path your holy light.

Guests of their God, they opened treasures--incense and gold and solemn myrrh;
Welcoming one too young to question how came these gifts, and what they were.
Gift beyond price of gold or gem, make among us your Bethlehem.

Prayer after Communion & Doxology

PLEASE STAND

Presider: 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.**

Leaving Liturgy

Presider:

Let us pray together.

All:

O God, you have bound us together for a time as priest and people. We give you thanks for the ministry we have shared during these years together. We thank you for your patience with us despite our blindness and slowness of heart. We thank you for your forgiveness and mercy in the face of our failures.

We thank you for those who have been joined to the Church family through the Sacrament of Baptism. We thank you for opening our hearts and minds to your Word, for feeding us abundantly with the Body and Blood of your Son, Jesus Christ. We thank you for the faithful departed who have laboured with us and are now at rest in Christ.

Now, we pray be with those who leave and those who stay: and grant that all of us, by drawing nearer to you, may always be close to each other in the communion of saints. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Michelle:

As I journey onward, I give thanks for all those I have lived, worshipped, and shared life within this community for the past 9 1/2 years – the many people, places and communities whose fellowship has enriched, encouraged and taught me so much.

People:

Go with God.

Fr. Michelle:

I know that God goes with me.

Fr. Michelle:

I ask forgiveness for where I have failed in thought, word, and deed; where I have let others down, lacked wisdom or understanding, or have cared too much about my own concerns or reputation.

People:

Go with God.

Fr. Michelle:

I know that God goes with me.

Fr. Michelle:

When I took up ministry here, I was given keys to this church and a parish list that I might serve and care for the people of this parish. Please receive these keys and parish list as a sign that I now lay down my ministry in this place to begin a new stage of life and discipleship.

People:

Go with God.

Fr. Michelle:

I know that God goes with me.

People:

As you begin this new stage in your life, we pray that you may grow and flourish in every way, and bear fruit for God.

Fr. Michelle:

I know that God goes with me.

People:

As you walk through the good times and the bad, we pray that you may never lose sight of the shelter of God's loving arms.

Fr. Michelle:

I know that God goes with me.

People:

We praise and thank you, God of the journey, for all that is ending and beginning now for Michelle. We thank you for all she has been to us. We entrust her into your loving care, knowing that you are always the faithful traveller and companion on the Way. Shield and protect her from harm and anxiety. Grant her the courage to meet the future and grace to let go, as she goes forward into your new life. Through Christ our Saviour. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: #160 As with Gladness, Men of Old
As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold;
As with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright;
So, most gracious Lord, may we evermore be led to thee.

As with joyful steps they sped, Saviour, to thy lowly bed,
There to bend the knee before thee, whom heaven and earth adore;
So may we with willing feet ever seek thy mercy seat.

As they offered gifts most rare at that cradle rude and bare,
So may we with joyful song, raising voices pure and strong,
All our costliest treasures bring, Christ, to thee our heavenly king.

In the heavenly country bright need they no created light:
Thou its light, its joy, its crown, thou its sun which goes not down;
There forever may we sing alleluias to our king.

Dismissal

Fr. Michelle: I pray to be faithful in all God asks of me, and I ask your prayers for John and for myself.

People: We will remember you in our prayers, and ask that you pray for us. We thank God for the ministry we have done together and for the laughter and tears we have shared. Now go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Fr. Michelle: Thanks be to God!

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