

Christmas Eve

Vigil of the Nativity of Jesus Christ



Nativity (2012) by Mary Sullivan

First Evensong of Christmas

Hymn *O Little Town of Bethlehem, omit v 4* #79

Scripture Sentences *BCP p. 78 ff*

A Song of True Motherhood.

God chose to be our mother in all things *
and so made the foundation of his work,
most humbly and most pure, in the Virgin's womb.

God, the perfect wisdom of all, *
arrayed himself in this humble place.

Christ came in our poor flesh *
to share a mother's care.

Our mothers bear us for pain and for death; *
our true mother, Jesus, bears us for joy and endless life.

Christ carried us within him in love and travail, *
until the full time of his passion.

And when all was completed and he had carried us so for joy, *
still all this could not satisfy the power of his wonderful love.

All that we owe is redeemed in truly loving God, *
for the love of Christ works in us;

Christ is the one whom we love.

-Julian of Norwich

Confession *BCP. p. 116*

Advent Wreath

*Each member of the congregation is asked to light a candle, wherever they
may be to acknowledge the coming of Jesus Christ into our world and into
our lives*

Celebrant: *Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and
shall call his name Immanuel. Isaiah 7.14*

All: *O Come, let us adore him.*

The Psalter *Psalm 96* *BCP. p. 725*

Following the Psalm,....

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit // As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen

THE WORD OF GOD IN SCRIPTURE

The lessons should be announced by the lector, citing the complete citation so that people may follow along in their bibles. The following format is suggested:

“The First (...or Second) Lesson is written in (such a book), the (...such a) chapter, beginning at (..such a) verse.”

At the end of the reading the following should be said:

“Here ends the first (...Second) Lesson.”

First lesson *Titus 2. 11-14* *Andy Blackley*

Magnificat *H Walford Davies* *BCP. p. 119*

Second lesson *Luke 2. 1-14* *Carolyn Dolan*

Nunc dimittis *Geoffrey Burgon* *BCP. p. 120*

The Apostles' Creed *BCP. p. 120*

Homily

Hymn *Angels from the realms of glory* #93

The Prayers *BCP p.121*

Suffrages

BCP. p, 122

Collect

The Nativity of Our Lord

O God, who hast caused this holy night to shine with the radiance of the true Light: Grant us, we beseech thee, that as we have known the mystery of that Light upon earth, so may we also perfectly enjoy him in heaven; where with thee and the Holy Spirit he liveth and reigneth, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen.*

Lord, to purify our hearts, we pray, that they may be worthy to become your dwelling place. Let us never fail to find room for you, but come and abide in us, that we also may abide in you, for as at this time you were born into the world for us, and live and reign, King of kings and Lord of lords, now and for ever. *Amen.*

Parish Intercession/Prayer List:

- Michael our Presiding Bishop, Mark our Bishop, Arthur and William assisting bishops; ...for clergy of this diocese, for parishes gathering this night in vigil, for those who prepare worship for this night of waiting
- For the whole world for which Jesus came to earth in great humility, ...praying especially for those who are afoot this night in search of safe lodging, a hot meal, a warm welcome; for those who have never known the love of other, that tonight they may come to know the love of the saviour of the world
- Our parish family, ...those listed in our commemorations and in whose memory, flowers were purchased for parish members at home.

- For all who have asked our prayers: Thelma, Shirley, Georgette, Joan, Donna, Nora, Pastor Tim, Jan, Dave and Suzanne, Martin
- Faithful departed:

Intercessions

To us a child is born, to us a son is given; let us pray for the people he came to save, saying: *R... "Lord bear our prayer."*

Wonderful Counsellor, you order all things with your wisdom: help the Church to reveal the mystery of your love and fill her with the Spirit of truth: *R*

Mighty God, the government is on your shoulders: guide the leaders of the nations and bring in your kingdom of justice and righteousness: *R*

Everlasting Father, you call us to live together in unity: protect by your mercy all your children, bless our families and renew our communities: *R*

Prince of Peace, you bring reconciliation through the cross: by your healing power give to all who suffer your gift of wholeness and peace: *R*

Remembering especially in this holy night,.....

Let us commend the world, to which Christ came, to the mercy and protection of God. *R*

The General Thanksgiving

BCP p. 125

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom

BCP p. 126

A Christmas benediction

Officiant: May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit be upon us all this night and for ever more. Amen.

Hymn *Silent Night*

#111

Today's Readings

The First Evensong of Christmas

Psalm 96

¹ O sing to the LORD a new song;*
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

² Sing to the LORD, bless his name;*
tell of his salvation from day to day.

³ Declare his glory among the nations,*
his marvelous works among all the peoples.

⁴ For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; *

he is to be revered above all gods.
⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are idols, *
 but the LORD made the heavens.
⁶ Honor and majesty are before him; *
 strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.
⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, *
 ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
⁸ Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; *
 bring an offering, and come into his courts.
⁹ Worship the LORD in holy splendor; *
 tremble before him, all the earth.
¹⁰ Say among the nations, “The LORD is king! *
 The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved.
 He will judge the peoples with equity.”
¹¹ Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; *
 let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
¹² let the field exult, and everything in it. *
 Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
¹³ before the LORD; for he is coming,
 for he is coming to judge the earth. *
 He will judge the world with righteousness,
 and the peoples with his truth.

FIRST READING

The first lesson is taken from the Letter to Titus, the second chapter, beginning at the eleventh verse. [2. 11-14]

¹¹ For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all,^[a] ¹² training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³ while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior,^[b] Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ 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.

SECOND READING

The second lesson is taken from the gospel of Luke, the first chapter beginning at the first verse. (2.1-14)

² In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ 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. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ 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.

The Shepherds and the Angels

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ 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: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah,^[a] the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host,^[b] praising God and saying,
¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
 and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”^[c]

POEM FOR REFLECTION

[little tree]

E. E. Cummings - 1894-1962

little tree
little silent Christmas tree
you are so little
you are more like a flower

who found you in the green forest
and were you very sorry to come away?
see i will comfort you
because you smell so sweetly

i will kiss your cool bark
and hug you safe and tight
just as your mother would,
only don't be afraid

look the spangles
that sleep all the year in a dark box
dreaming of being taken out and allowed to shine,
the balls the chains red and gold the fluffy threads,

put up your little arms
and i'll give them all to you to hold.
every finger shall have its ring
and there won't be a single place dark or unhappy

then when you're quite dressed
you'll stand in the window for everyone to see
and how they'll stare!
oh but you'll be very proud

and my little sister and i will take hands
and looking up at our beautiful tree
we'll dance and sing
"Noel, Noel"

Worship on Christmas Eve



Best Wishes
for a
Merry Christmas

Plants & Greens given In Loving Memory of:

Arnold & Delilah Bottger
Lyman & Mary Lamb
Richard & Roberta Seaman
Don & Wilma Dolan
Beloved family members
John Gregory
Earl Kulgoske

Susan Mullet
Grace Butcher
Doug & Carolyn Dolan

Fr Chris, Dr Greg
John Gregory II
Carmen Kulgoske

Given in Thanksgiving:

Our grandsons
Our family

By:

Susan Mullet
Andy & Debby Blackley
Kate & Gary Witosky