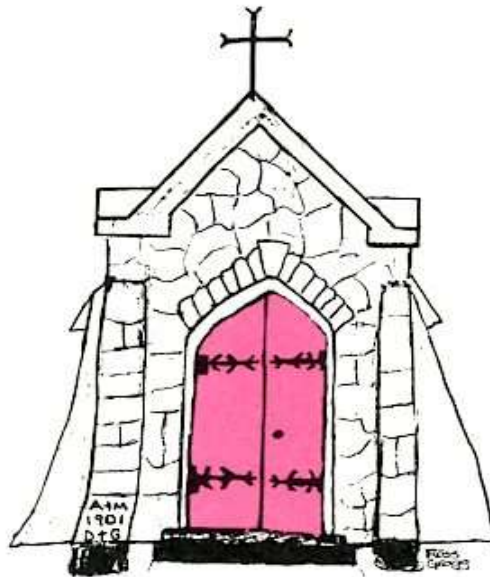




Millbrook, NY
“Deep Roots, Open Doors”



The Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ

An Online Service of Word and Music

Christmas Eve
December 24, 2020

Prelude: Les Anges dans Nos Campagnes
Christmas Fantasy

D. Buxton
S. Ogaard

Carol: O Come O Come All Ye Faithful

Welcome and Blessing of the Creche

Almighty God, who in the Incarnation of your Son has revealed to us the holiness of creation, be pleased to bless and hallow this image of his sacred birth, so that those who gaze upon it may behold this mystery, whereby humanity shares in your very nature; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Bidding Prayer

Dear People of God: on this holy night, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger.

Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against him until the glorious redemption brought to us by his holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of his whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which he died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because he particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God his pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, to gather up all these petitions, let us pray in the words which Christ himself has taught us, saying:

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, trial, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Almighty God bless us with his grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and to the fellowship of the citizens above, may the King of Angels bring us all. Amen.

The Lessons

Reading 1: Adam and Eve rebel against God and are cast out of the Garden of Eden [Genesis 3:1-15](#)

Carol: O come O come Emmanuel

Reading 2: The people who have walked in darkness [Isaiah 9:2-7](#)

Carol: In Dulci Jubilo

D. Buxtehude 1637 - 1707

Meditation the Rev. Alison Quin

Reading 3: The Annunciation [Luke 1: 26-38](#)

Carol: Sleep, Little, Holy Child

M. Williams

Reading 4: The birth in Bethlehem [Luke 2:1-14\(15-20\)](#)

Homily the Rev. Matthew Calkins

The Prayers of the People

God of darkness and silence, you have pierced the quiet of this night by the utterance of your Word in our flesh. May your word of compassion and reconciliation resound in us and through us.

God of love: Hear our prayer.

In this holy night angels proclaimed the peace of your unconquered Sun of righteousness. Strengthen all who work for peace and justice.

God of love: Hear our prayer.

In this holy night you came to us in a child cradled in a borrowed bed of straw as there was no room in the inn. Open our hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

God of love: Hear our prayer.

In this holy night shepherds and outcasts heard your good news. Give us grace to spread your gospel of joy and liberation.

God of love: Hear our prayer..

In this holy night we rejoice at the coming of this time of re-creation. Be with those who travel, enrich our rejoicing, and strengthen the bonds between us.

God of love: Hear our prayer.

In this holy night Christians throughout the world are celebrating Christ's birth. Unite us in one family that we may shine with the one light that scatters all our darkness.

God of love: Hear our prayer.

In this holy night your living Word leaped down, shedding light on all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Give strength and peace to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit.

God of love: Hear our prayer.

In this holy night heaven and earth embrace and in your true child you give us power to be your children. Fulfil in your love all who have gone before us in the faith. May we, like them, remain faithful to the mystery of the Word made flesh and live in your eternal light.

God of love: Hear our prayer.

Hear these prayers we bring to you and fulfil your purposes in us in the name of Jesus, your incarnate Word. Amen.

Carol: Silent Night

arr. B. Chilcott. b.1955

People watching at home are encouraged to light a candle and dim the lights for the singing of Silent Night and the final reading.

Last Reading: In the Beginning was the Word [John 1:1-14](#)

Closing collect:

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,

When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.
---Howard Thurman

Blessing and dismissal

Christmas Season 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.

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.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord



OUR 2020 CHRISTMAS FLOWERS HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY:

Gladys Archambault in loving memory of Gladys & Alfred Johnson.

Jim and Mary Louise Ball in loving memory of Lewis Ball, Sally Ball, John D. Eller, Aurelia Eller, Mark Cathey, Fred Ball, and in thanksgiving for Gus Ball, Sally Ball, Chico, Grimaldi, Smurf.

Kurt Barnes in loving memory of his parents, Norman and Doris Barnes.

Lynda & Bruce Boissey in loving memory of our parents Celia & Water Friedrich, Rita and Bernard Boissey and in thanksgiving for our many blessings.

Matt & Mary Calkins in loving memory of Mary Lou Walker.

Margaret & Cooper Kasin in loving memory of Lynn Kasin.

Cathy Shanks & John Wicker in loving memory of all who passed away this year due to COVID 19 and in thanksgiving for all who are working so hard to combat COID 19.

Jon Wicker & Cathy Shanks in loving memory of their parents and in thanksgiving for their children and grandchildren.

In thanksgiving for the Grace Church community and the warm support given in the pandemic.



Merry Christmas

Participants

Officiants: the Rev. Dr. Matthew Calkins, the Rev. Alison Quin
Lay Readers: Ron Mustello, Pam Freeman, ML Ball, Nick Augustine,
Elliott Lindsey
Director of Music: Suzanne McDonald

Musicians

Sopranos: Eden Cowles, Jeanmarie Lally, Katherine Mustello,
Elinor Quiao Thea Scotti,
Altos: Lynda Boisse, Marissa Coté, Molly Cowles,
Carolina Kipnis, Nancy Kryzak, Marian Thompson
Bass: Ron Madden, James Marshall Philippe Treuille
Violinists: Emily Hale, Zongheng Zhang