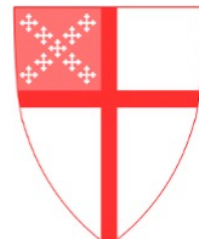




Christ Church

East Norwalk, Connecticut



The Reverend Ian B. Montgomery
Priest-in-Charge, Celebrant

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DURING COVIDTIDE

3RD JANUARY, 2021

Welcome. Whoever and wherever you are in your journey of faith, you are welcome here. Our worship is according to Book of Common Prayer in the Episcopal Church. In this time when we cannot sing together, we are blessed to enjoy the singing of church and chapel choirs from around the Anglican Communion leading our praises. Feel free to join them from your home or wherever you may be! Please do stay on “mute” as Zoom does not do well with many voices singing at once 😊

✠ indicates where one might cross oneself; ✠. indicates “Versicle” said by Celebrant or reader; ✠. indicates “Response”; People’s words are in **bold**

PRELUDIAL MUSIC

From Handel’s Messiah

Behold a virgin shall conceive + O thou that tellest + For unto us a child is born + Pastoral Symphony + There were shepherds abiding in the fields + Glory to God + Rejoice greatly O daughter of Zion + All we like sheep + Why do the nations + He that dwelleth in Heaven + Hallelujah (Chorus) + The trumpet shall sound + But thanks be to God + Amen

OPENING ACCLAMATION

✠. Alleluia, Unto us a child is born

✠ **Unto us a son is given! Alleluia!**

OPENING HYMN

Sung by the choir of King’s College, Cambridge and by YOU in your cars and homes!

1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

Let earth receive its king;
let ev’ry heart prepare him room,
and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n and nature sing,
and heav’n, and heav’n and nature sing.

4 He rules the world with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness,

2 Joy to the earth, 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.

and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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.

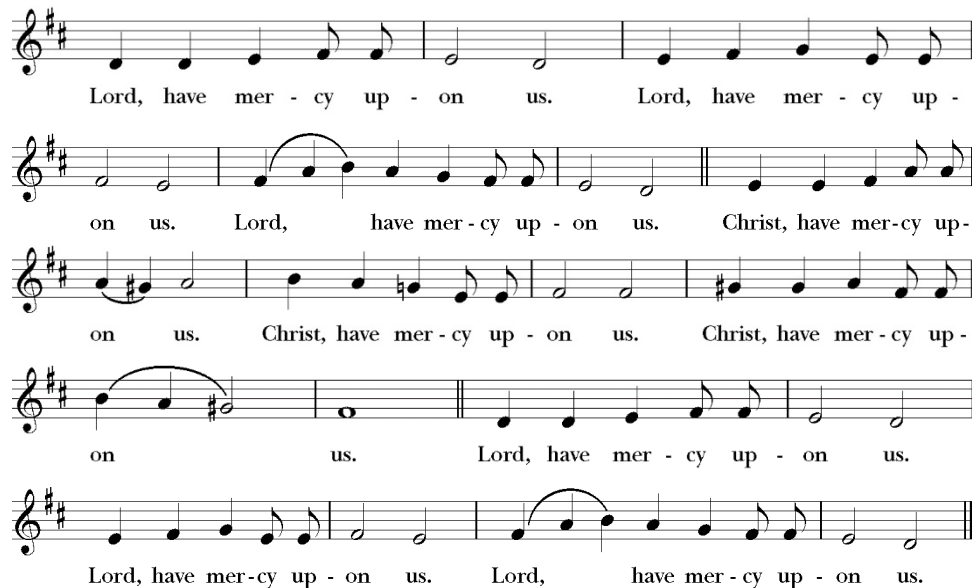
R. Amen.

KYRIE ELEISON

Sung by all

J.H. Willan (1880-1960)

Led by the Choir of Good Shepherd Rosemont



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.
Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

sung by all

Willan

Led by the Choir of Good Shepherd Rosemont



1. Glo - ry be to God on high, and on earth peace,
good will towards men. 2. We praise thee, we bless thee,
we wor - ship thee, we glo - ri - fy thee, we give
thanks to thee for thy great glo - ry, 3. O Lord God, heaven - ly
King, God the Fa - ther Al - might - y.
4. O Lord, the on - ly be - got - ten Son, Je - sus Christ;

5. O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Fa-ther, that
world, re - ceive our prayer. 7. Thou that sit - test at the
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. 6. Thou that ta - kest a - way the sins of the
right hand of God the Fa - ther, have mer - cy up - on us.
8. For thou on - ly art ho - ly; thou on - ly art the Lord; 9. thou
on - ly, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost, art most
high in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. —
A - - - - - men.

THE COLLECT

✠. *The Lord be with you.*

✠. *And also with you.*

✠. *Let us pray*

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature:

Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son

Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

✠. *Amen.*

THE LESSON

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah Chapter 31 beginning at the 27th Verse

FOR thus says the LORD: "Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, 'The LORD has saved his people the remnant of Israel.'⁸ Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, the woman with child and her who is in travail, together; a great company, they shall return here.'⁹ With weeping they shall come, and with consolations^[a] I will lead them back, I will make

them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I am a father to Israel, and E'phraim is my first-born. ¹⁰ "Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands afar off; say, 'He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd keeps his flock.'¹¹ For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.¹² They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall be like a watered garden, and they shall languish no more.¹³ Then shall the maidens rejoice in the dance and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴ I will feast the soul of the priests with abundance, and my people shall be satisfied with my goodness, says the LORD."

✠. The Word of the Lord

✠. Thanks be to God

GRADUAL PSALM

Said responsively by half verse indicated by

Psalm 84 or 84:1-8 *Quam dilecta!*

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
**by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.**

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
**and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;

11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!]

THE EPISTLE

A Reading from the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians, Chapter 1 beginning at the 3rd Verse

BRETHREN: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. ⁵He destined us in love^[al] to be his sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace which he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love^[al] toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power in us who believe, according to the working of his great might.

℣. The Word of the Lord

℟. Thanks be to God

SEQUENCE HYMN vv. 1&2

Sung by the choir of Norwich Cathedral and by YOU in your cars and homes

1 God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power
When we were gone astray:

Refrain:

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy! O
tidings of comfort and joy!*

2 From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The son of God by name: [Refrain]

THE HOLY GOSPEL

℣. The Lord be with you.

℟. And also with you.

℣.✠ The continuation of the Holy Gospel according to Matthew

℟. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

AT that time when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there till I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." ¹⁴And he rose and took the child and his mother by night, and departed to Egypt, ¹⁵and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt have I called my son." ¹⁹But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, ²⁰"Rise, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead." ²¹And he rose and took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. ²²But when he heard that Archela'us reigned over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there, and being warned in a dream he withdrew to the district of Galilee. ²³And he went and dwelt in a city called Nazareth, that what was spoken by the prophets might be fulfilled, "He shall be called a Nazarene."

After the Gospel:

℣. The Gospel of the Lord.

℟. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN vv. 3&4

3 And when they came to Bethlehem
Where our dear Saviour lay,
They found him in a manger,
Where oxen feed on hay;
His mother Mary kneeling down,
Unto the Lord did pray: [Refrain]

4 Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
In with true love and brotherhood
Each other new embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth efface: [Refrain]

SERMON

Fr Montgomery

THE NICENE CREED

Celebrant We believe in one God,
All the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten not made,
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven: *All may bow or kneel*

by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,

and was made man. All rise

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshipped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the ✠ life of the world to come. Amen.

All remain standing or kneel for the Prayers of the People

PRAYERS *The Leader and People pray responsively*

Leader Let us pray for the Church and for the world, remembering especially, Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Ian and Laura, our bishops; Ian our priest and all bishops and other ministers.

In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for: The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

In the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer we pray for: St. Paul's, Brookfield; Trinity, Brooklyn; St. Peter's, Cheshire;

For all immigrants, refugees and the ministries that serve them, especially IRIS - Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services, New Haven and the Let My People Go Ministry Network

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, particularly Donald, our President, Ned, our Governor, Harry, our Mayor, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comfort and heal our nation and communities, torn by racial strife and instances of man's inhumanity to man.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader For all suffering with COVID-19 physically, emotionally, or financially, and for those who care for those who are in pain.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. (We pray especially for *Here may be added birthdays and anniversaries* _____).

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. (We pray especially for _____)

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We commend to your mercy all who have died, (especially _____ and all others we now name *Add your own intercessions silently or aloud* _____;) that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Leader Lord, in your mercy

People **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

The Celebrant bids the people make their confession. All kneel

GENERAL CONFESSION (OMITTED ON MAJOR FEASTS AND IN FESTIVE SEASONS)

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 Celebrant pronounces the absolution, ✠ the people reply Amen.

THE PEACE

✠. *The Peace of the Lord be always with you.*
✠. **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Ding Dong Merrily on High

Sung by the Choir of York Minster

Ding dong merrily on high,
In heav'n the bells are ringing:
Ding dong! verily the sky
Is riv'n with angel singing
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

E'en so here below, below,
Let steeple bells be swungen,
And "Io, io, io!"
By priest and people sung
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Pray you, dutifully prime
Your matin chime, ye ringers,
May you beautifully rhyme
Your eve'time song, ye singers
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!

Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Gloria Hosanna in excelsis!
Hosanna in excelsis!!!

SURSUM CORDA

✠. *The Lord be with you.*
✠. **And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

the Celebrant continues with the preface

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS QUI VENIT

All sing

Willan

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God of
Hosts: Hea - ven and earth are full of thy glo - ry. Glo -
- ry be to thee, O Lord Most High. Bless - ed is he that com - eth
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE CANON

all kneel

The Celebrant continues and concludes the Words of Institution with:

Celebrant Therefore, according to his command, O Father.

All We remember his death. We proclaim his resurrection. We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues the Canon and concludes with:

...Almighty Father, now and for ever.

And all respond AMEN

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say

LORD'S PRAYER

Said by all

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.

FRACTION

℣. Alleluia, Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

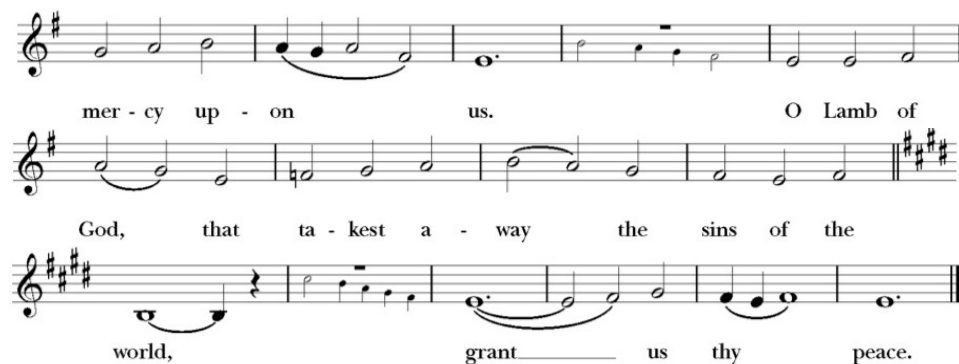
℟. Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

AGNUS DEI

Sung by all

Willan

O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a -
way the sins of the world, have mer - cy up -
on us. O Lamb of God, that
ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, have



THE HOLY COMMUNION

Celebrant: The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you, preserve your body and soul unto everlasting life

THOSE WHO HAVE HOSTS AT HOME SHOULD CONSUME THEM NOW

During these extraordinary times when we cannot GATHER for Holy Communion, the Sacrament (consecrated in advance in the one form of bread only) can be brought in a COVID-safe manner to you for consumption at home during the live service. Contact the Church Office if you would like to have the Sacrament brought to your home.

If you do not have the sacrament available physically, you can make an act of "Spiritual Communion" offered by the Bishop as follows
In union, O Lord with the faithful at every altar of your Church, where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you. And since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I ask you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to you, and embrace you with all the affections of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live and die in your love. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN

Sung by the choir of Gloucester Cathedral and by YOU in your cars and homes

1 Of the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
Evermore and evermore.

5 This is he, whom seer and sibyl
Sang in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;

Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry!
Evermore and evermore.

7 Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
Evermore and evermore.

POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

Celebrant *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant *Let us pray.*

the following said by all

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.

DISMISSAL

℣. *Depart in Peace* *℟.* **Thanks Be to God**

BLESSING

The Celebrant then blesses the people who respond saying **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

Sung by the choir of St Edmundsbury Cathedral and by YOU in your cars and home

1 Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled:
Joyful all ye nations rise,
Join the triumph of the skies,
With the angelic host proclaim,
Christ is born in Bethlehem:

Refrain:

*Hark! the herald angels sing
Glory to the new-born King.*

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
Late in time behold him come
Offspring of a Virgin's womb!
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see,
Hail the incarnate Deity!
Pleased as man with man to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel: [Refrain]

3 Hail the heaven-born Prince of peace!
Hail the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
Risen with healing in his wings;
Mild he lays his glory by,
Born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth,
Born to give them second birth: [Refrain]

4 Come, Desire of nations, come,
Fix in us thy humble home;
Rise, the woman's conquering Seed,
Bruise in us the serpent's head;
Now display thy saving power,
Ruined nature now restore,
Now in mystic union join
Thine to ours, and ours to thine: [Refrain]

“COFFEE HOUR”

All are welcome to linger in the “Zoom Room” and interact after the liturgy!