



CHRISTMAS EVE 2010 + THE FEAST OF THE INCARNATION
SAINT DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, BEAN BLOSSOM, INDIANA

Merry Christmas, and welcome to Saint David's! Carols are found in the Hymnal, the larger of the two books under each chair, and in this booklet.

We can pray and praise God in any posture. Our tradition is to stand for certain parts of the service, but you are welcome to remain seated if you prefer.

Children are always welcome to bring quiet activities in to worship – toys, sketch pads, and crayons are at the south end of the nave, by the window to the woods.

MUSIC AT THE LAMPLIGHTING

Reflections on *Silent Night*

Tammera Lane

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Hymnal #78

Please remain seated until the last verse of the carol.

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

**For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.**

**O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth!
and praises sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.**

**How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear his coming, but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.
Where children pure and happy pray to the blessed Child,
where misery cries out to thee, Son of the Mother mild;
where charity stands watching and faith holds wide the door,
the dark night wakes, the glory breaks, and Christmas comes once more.**

If you are able, please stand.

**O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

The People standing, the Celebrant says

Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Celebrant and People read this passage of scripture.

[Isaiah 52:7-10]

Leader How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger who announces peace,
who brings good news, who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, Your God reigns.

People **Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.**

Leader Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

People **The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.**

The Celebrant continues Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

BLESSING OF THE MANGER

Children are invited to come forward for the Blessing of the Manger. As they come forward, this Carol is sung. Please remain seated for the Carol at the Manger.

CAROL AT THE MANGER

Silent Night

Hymnal #111

**Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep in heavenly peace.**

**Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar. Heavenly hosts sing, Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!**

**Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth. Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

The Baby Jesus is placed in the Manger by one of the children.

Leader Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things,
for you have brought us together here in this holy time.
Blessed are you!

People **Blessed are you!**

Leader Blessed are you, Creator of humanity,
for your purpose towards us: a world of justice, peace, and
abundance. You sent your Son Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
to call us to the way of wisdom and compassion.
You give us grace to stay awake and hear his call.
Blessed are you!

People **Blessed are you!**

Leader Blessed are you, O Lover of souls,
for you have commanded us to tell your splendor to our children
and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy.
Blessed are you!

People **Blessed are you!**

Leader Be with us this night and bless this manger,
that it may be a sign of your compassionate grace and love
offered to us through Jesus Christ, our brother, Savior, and friend.

People **Amen.**

After the Blessing of the Manger the children may return to their seats.

THE FIRST READING: ISAIAH 9: 2-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness - on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom.

He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.

The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Silence for reflection.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God**



PSALM 96

The Psalm refrain is sung by everyone.

For copyright reasons, Richard Hawthorne's psalm refrain is omitted in this online version.

The words to the Psalm are spoken by everyone.

- 1 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the LORD and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations, and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but it is the LORD who made the heavens.

The Psalm refrain is sung by everyone.

- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples;
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the LORD the honor due his Name;
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

The Psalm refrain is sung by everyone.

- 10 Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is King!
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.
- 12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the LORD when he comes, when he comes to judge the earth.
- 13 He will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with his truth.

The Psalm refrain is sung by everyone.

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THE SECOND READING: TITUS 2:11-14

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

Silence for reflection.

Reader Here what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God**

Please stand.

CAROL AT THE GOSPEL

Hymnal #81

**Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
of Jesse's lineage coming, as seers of old have sung.
It came, a blossom bright, amid the cold of winter,
when half-spent was the night.**

**Isaiah 'twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind;
with Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
when half-spent was the night.**

**O Flower, whose fragrance tender with sweetness fills the air,
dispel in glorious splendor the darkness everywhere;
true man, yet very God, from sin and death now save us,
and share our every load.**

Tonight at Saint David's we observe an ancient practice of singing the birth story from the Gospel. This story is so full with meaning that singing it raises the sense of mystery and awe.

The Priest sings the Gospel, first saying

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

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE GOSPEL: LUKE 2:1-20

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord has made known unto us. And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger.

And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

THE SERMON

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE FOR CHRISTMAS EVE

If you are able, please stand for the Prayers of the People. At “Lord in your mercy,” the people respond, “Hear our prayer.”

Leader As we celebrate with joy the Word made flesh, let us offer prayers to God who dwells among us to the end of time.

For our planet. For the web of life and energy sustaining us and all creatures, let us pray to the Lord.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For peace in the whole world. For peace in Bethlehem, Iraq, Afghanistan, in Somalia, Zimbabwe, and the Congo, and all those other places and peoples we remember in our hearts tonight.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For Cate, our Bishop, for Donald and for all who minister in Christ, and for all the holy people of God.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For Saint David’s, that we may never grow weary of praising you, caring for one another, and serving our neighbors, and that we may always seek to know the mind of Christ and to do and be the Gospel.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who seek light in the darkness and for all who put their trust in the incarnate Son of God.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those who exercise authority in the world, that they may be inspired by the great humility of God who comes to us as a homeless baby.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For all who travel this night seeking comfort and safety, and for those who live without any home.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For the sick and the suffering, for the hungry and the oppressed, for refugees and those in prison.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those whose hearts have been wounded by violence or broken by loss, for those who cannot find their path, and for those who live in fear.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For peace for the dead, and comfort for mourners.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For those we have wronged, for those who have wronged us and those who wish us harm.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For forgiveness, generosity and love among all people everywhere, and for the coming kingdom of peace.

(Additional prayers may be spoken here by members of the congregation.)

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In fellowship with all God's holy people in every time and place, let us commend ourselves and one other, and all our lives through Christ to God.

All **To you, O Lord our God.**

The Leader continues

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate word. Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the holy spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

THE PEACE

All stand. The Celebrant says to the People

The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

You are invited to exchange the Peace of Christ.

THE OFFERING

Everyone is invited to make an offering. Our offerings might be our inner prayers and commitments to God, food for Mother's Cupboard, the work of our hands, or our money. The choir makes an offering of music. Today's money offering will be used for the ministries of this faith community, for the Episcopal Church in Indiana, and for the needs of our neighbors here in Brown County and all over the world. The offering of bread is made by members of St. David's.

Tonight's anthem is from the Charpentier Christmas Oratorio. Here is the text:

Oh, see how small he is! Oh, see how frail he is! Oh, see how sweet he is, this newborn boy! Fresh-come to us from Heav'n, sent to our human pain, welcome, O welcome him, he brings us joy!

Mighty divinity here in the manger see, with our humanity tenderly meshed, timelessness born tonight, boundlessness here wrapped tight, all that is vast and bright, hidden in flesh.

Take joy, O mother pure! Blessed is your labor here, blessed is your womb that bore this child within. The water of his birth cleanses as it breaks forth! Take joy! He'll wash the earth free from our sins!

*Choral arrangement: Joe Ridenour
Translation: Pamela Grenfell Smith*

As the Offering is brought forward, all stand and sing.

***Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise God all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.***



THE HOLY COMMUNION

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Tonight we are using Eucharistic Prayer A.

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and says

God is with you.

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Lift up your hearts.

People

We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

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 fully human 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:

Celebrant and People sing
THE SANCTUS

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The people stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself,
and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death,
you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son,
to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us,
to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself,
in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,
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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father,
in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving.

Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.
Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of
your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ:
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.

All sing together

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

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 Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Celebrant God of promise, you have prepared a banquet for us.

People **Happy are those who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.**

All members of Christ's Body are welcome to join us at God's holy table, no matter your background or denomination in The Church. You may receive kneeling at a prayer desk or standing. If you choose not to receive, please feel free to come forward for a blessing. Simply fold your arms across your chest to indicate that this is your preference.

Gluten-free Communion bread is available. To receive it, cup one hand over the other, palms down, as the Celebrant approaches. Then, turn your hands over to receive the bread.

CAROLS AT COMMUNION

Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

Hymnal #87

**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.'
Hark, the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.**

**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 us to dwell, Jesus our Emmanuel.
Hark, the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.**

**Mild he lays his glory by, born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth, born to give us second birth.
Risen with healing in his wings, light and life to all he brings,
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness! Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace!
Hark, the herald-angels sing glory to the new-born King.**

O Come, All Ye Faithful!

Hymnal #83

**O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem;
come, and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
glory to God, glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

**Child, for us sinners poor and in the manger,
We would embrace thee, with love and awe;
who would not love Thee, loving us so dearly?
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,**

**O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

After Communion, the Celebrant says Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty God, you gave your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and be born of the Virgin Mary; 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 Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and for ever. Amen.

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The Priest then blesses the People with these words.

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.**

CLOSING CAROL

Joy to the World!

Hymnal #100

**Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King;
let every heart prepare him room, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the world! the Savior reigns; let us our songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as the curse is found,
far as the curse is found, far as, far as the curse is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness, and wonders of his love,
and wonders of his love, and wonders, wonders of his love.**

DISMISSAL *The Celebrant dismisses the People with these words.*
 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!
People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**

SAINT DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Corner of SR 135 and SR 45, Bean Blossom, Indiana

PO Box 1798, Nashville IN 47448 www.saintdavidbeanblossom.org

Pastor: **The Rev. Donald A. Jones**

Pastor's Cell: **812-361-1283** ~ Pastor's email: **donjones4@juno.com**

Choir Director: **Joe Ridenour** ~ Assisting Director: **Ray Laffin**

Organist: **Tammera Lane**

Parish Secretary: **Sandy Richardson**

Parish Secretary's email: **parishsecretarysandy@gmail.com**

Church Office: **812-988-1038** ~ Church email: **stdavids@stdavidsbb.org**

The invitation to tonight's Prayers of the People is by the Rev'd Ormonde Plater; the prayers are from Saint Gregory of Nyssa Episcopal Church, San Francisco.