

The Eve of the Nativity



December 24, 2017
Four O'clock in the Afternoon

St. John's Cathedral
Jacksonville, Florida

Welcome to Saint John's Cathedral! We invite you to join us as an active participant in the worship of God. This bulletin contains the entire service and music. If you are in need of an assisted listening device, please see an usher. Thank you for being here, and we hope that you will worship with us again soon! Blessings to you in this Holy Season.

Dean: The Very Rev. Kate Moorehead
Sub-Dean: The Rev. Allen LaMontagne
Canon for Music: Timothy Tuller

THE WORD OF GOD

Music Before the Service

Behold, a rose bursts into bloom

Johannes Brahms

The People remain seated. The candles are lit on the Advent wreath as the light of Christ comes into the world.

The People stand.

In Procession,

“O come, all ye faithful” (*Stanzas 1-3*)

Adeste fideles

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;

Refrain: O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
only-begotten Son of God the Father; *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest; *Refrain*

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.

The Celebrant and People say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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. Amen.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

The Celebrant continues

The Collect of the Day

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.*

The People are seated.

The Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-7

Lector A reading from the Book of Isaiah.

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.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Luke 2:1-14

Gospeler The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. 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. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 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. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 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: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

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

Homily

Terry Jamerson Hunt, Director of Children's Ministries

The Prayers of the People

Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men.

Let us pause for a moment and give thanks to God for all our many blessings. I invite you to speak aloud your thanksgivings...

Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting. Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

We ask your blessing on all who are grieving or ill during this holiday season. Let us speak their names aloud...

We ask your peace throughout the world, especially in the Middle East and on the streets of our own city.

May Christmas morning make us happy to be your children, and Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake. Amen. *- altered from a Christmas prayer by Robert Louis Stevenson*

Silence
The Celebrant concludes the prayers.

The Peace

All stand. The Celebrant says

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Merry Christmas and a warm welcome to our visitors and guests today. Please know how happy we are to have you worship with us. We would love to welcome our guests, so please fill out a visitor card and drop it in the offering plate as it comes by. God's blessings for a merry Christmas. We hope you will come again!

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Representatives of the congregation collect the offerings of the People.

The Offertory

I Saw Three Ships

English Carol

Children, Go Where I Send Thee
St. John's Junior Choristers and Children's Chapel Friends

Spiritual

Representatives of the congregation bring forward the People's offerings of bread and wine, money, and other gifts. The People stand when the offerings are brought forward and placed on the Altar. If you forgot your checkbook or cash, you can text your gift. Just text the dollar amount to 904-584-3116.

The People stand and sing.

“Hark! The herald angels sing”

Mendelssohn

Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the newborn 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!

Christ, by highest heaven adored; Christ, the everlasting
Lord; late in time behold him come, offspring of the
Virgin's womb. Veiled in flesh the Godhead see; hail the
incarnate Deity. Pleas'd as man with us to dwell; Jesus,
our Emmanuel! *Refrain*

Refrain: Hark! The herald angels sing glory to the newborn 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! *Refrain*

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be 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 him 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 perfect Man 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 Peo-

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp). The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. The score includes a *ple* dynamic marking at the end of the first line.

The People stand or kneel. The Celebrant continues

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

The Celebrant continues

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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. *AMEN.*

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.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Celebrant continues

The gifts of God for the People of God. (Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.)

The Lord's Table is open to all. Baptized persons are welcome to receive communion. Unbaptized persons are invited to the altar to receive a blessing. To signify that you do not desire communion, please cross your arms over your chest, and a priest will administer a blessing.

Music at Communion

"Away in a Manger"

Luther's Carol

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus no crying he makes. I love thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my side until morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay close by me for ever, and love me I pray. Bless all the dear children in thy tender care, and fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

“Silent night, holy night”

Stille Nacht

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.

Silent night, holy night,
shepherds quake at the sight,
glories stream from heaven afar,
heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
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.

Postcommunion Prayer

The Celebrant says
Let us pray.

The People kneel. The Celebrant and People say

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.

The 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. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

In Procession,

“Joy to the world! The Lord is come”

Antioch

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

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.

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

The Dismissal

People Alleluia, alleluia. Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

Concluding Voluntary

In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach



Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem is over...our Savior is born and lies in a manger.
The shepherds have listened to the angel and hurried to see the babe in swaddling clothes.

The Wise Men travel on, led by a star.

Two ways to meet our Lord—drop everything and believe
or with quiet study and longing, find the way.

The journey to Bethlehem is complete, but the story is only beginning...

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US AGAIN SOON!

CHRISTMAS DAY - 10:30 A.M.

Holy Eucharist in celebration of the birth of Christ

NEW YEAR'S EVE, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 - 5 P.M.

THE FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME

A traditional candlelight Christmas Carol Service
sung by the Choir of St. John's Cathedral.

HOLY EUCHARIST ON SUNDAYS

Our regular Sunday service times of 8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. resume December 31.

HOLY EUCHARIST ON WEEKDAYS

7 a.m. every Wednesday
12:10 p.m. every Tuesday-Friday

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN & PARENTS

We invite all children to join us for Children's Chapel during the 9 a.m. Sunday service. Please join us in the back of the Cathedral. Children will return to join their family for communion. Godly Play and our Parent Group resume Sunday, January 7 at 10 a.m.

Please contact Terry Jamerson Hunt for information about our programs for children and parents.
thunt@jaxcathedral.org

PROGRAMS FOR YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS

Sunday classes for middle school and high school students resume January 7 at 10 a.m.

Youth Group resumes Wednesday, January 10 from 6:30-8 p.m.
Join us for games, prayer and worship!

All young adults age 21-35, married and single, are invited to an evening social.
Friday, January 12 from 5:30-7 p.m. in Ingram Lounge.

For more information about our programs, retreats and activities for youth and young adults, contact Devanne Jones - djones@jaxcathedral.org or Father Allen - alamontagne@jaxcathedral.org



Christmas Flowers Given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of

Mary Ellen Germany
John Germany, Sr.
Afifeh & Mitchell Mackoul
Dr. H. Raymond Klein
Dr. Victor P. Mackoul
Walter E. Mackoul
Leila Jones
Valerie Dunn
Hunter Kelly
Dr. Robert Sneller
Jimmie W. Harden
Russell T. Baker
Our parents, Melvin & Fay
Doiron and Eugene & Joyce
Schrader
Jack, Ruth & Craig Carpenter
Donald & John Deakin
Amy Caroline Purcell
Barbara Ann Spancake
Paul & Clara Hafner
Janet K. Collins
Richard Marty
Bonnie T. Grissett
Ted Grissett
Clinton D. Griswold
Dorcas F. Griswold
Carolyn R. Michaels
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Osborn
Chester & Tate Wilkinson

Ransome Sutherland
Wait & Virginia Brewer
Herbert & Skippy Jenkins
Harry & Rosemary Kimball
Dick Bush
Andrew & Olga Bush
Lucius & Ethel Paul
Lillian & William Armsby
Chester A. Gillis, Jr.
F. Mark Gillis
Charles & Marilyn Lewis
Douglas & Sylvia Tubre
Buddy Walker
Gary F. Keys
Michael J. Keys
Cecelia Bearden
George Baccash
Driscoll Family
Watts Family
Scully Family
Conklin Family
Mr. & Mrs. Ray Hood
Mr. & Mrs. Sherill Wisner
Moses & Sadie Meide
Clara Meide
Ollie Meide
Julia Brannam
Randall Collins
Edith Hulsey Shurley

Fletcher R. Shurley
Mary Laverne Watts
Calvin T. Watts
Doris Seiler
Agnes Stoddard
Grant Peterson
Patricia Corrigan
Nassif Abdelnour
David Abdelnour
George & Helen Barket
Patrick Rash
Bob Rash
Patricia Rash
Bubbie & Uncle Grier
Heather, Manny & Debbie
Frank Barker
Ann Millan
Patricia Nicholas
Amelia Shields DeMuth
Carl Robertson Kurtz, Jr.
Bayard Shields Ferber
Paul L. Ferber
Amelia K. Ferber
Bayard Benoit Shields
Members of the Shields family
George H. & Annie West
George H. West, Jr.
Col. Jim & Adele Higgins
Michael Spruill

Christmas Flowers Given to the Glory of God and in Thanksgiving for

Family & friends
Jean Harden
Charley, Lauren, Stella
and Ruby Baker
Our daughters and their
families; Leslie, Roger & Baby
Girl Clark and Laura, Kenny,
Savannah & James Kwaak
Tom & Lorraine Corey
Thomas & Emily Corey
Renee Corey
Alex Ellis

Abigail Hunt
David Alexander II
Kamryn Alexander
Nicholas Spicer
Elizabeth Spicer
Tory Walker
Collin Walker
Kristen Santarone
Jim, Isabella, Jack &
Eva Lewis-Tubre
Dot Walker
Kathy Lind

Russ Lind
Ray & Lillian Hood
Brooke, Skip, Alec &
Victoria Valet
Katie, Whit, Mallory &
Brendan Wisner
Tom, Lori & Brandon
Hounshell
Our Children
Cleo