

GRACE

CHURCH ON-THE-HILL

EVE OF CHRISTMAS
7 PM ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH 2021
CHORAL EUCHARIST - ORDER OF SERVICE



—NATIVITY SCENE, FROM THE BOOK OF KELLS

PRELUDE *Symphonie Gothique (Moderato)* CHARLES-MARIE WIDOR
Organist: Adrian Ross

INTROIT *Hodie Christus natus est* BENJAMIN BRITTEN

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

And also with you.

Unto us a child is born.

O come, let us worship.

HYMN 141

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

TUNE: NOEL

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold:
“Peace on earth, to all good will
From heaven’s most gracious King!”
The world in solemn stillness lay
To hear the angels sing.

Still through the cloven skies
They come with peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O’er all the weary world;
Above its sad and lowly plains
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o’er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

And you, beneath life’s crushing load,
Whose forms are bending low,
Who toil along the climbing way
With painful steps and slow;
Look now, for glad and golden hours
Come swiftly on the wing:
O rest beside the weary road
And hear the angels sing.

For lo, the days are hastening on,
By prophets seen of old,
When with the ever-circling years
Shall come the time foretold:
When the new heaven and earth
Shall own the Prince of Peace their King,
And the whole world send back the song
Which now the angels sing.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. 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.

HYMN 135

Shepherds in the Field Abiding

TUNE: IRIS

Shepherds in the field abiding,
Tell us, when the seraph bright
Greeted you with wondrous tiding,
What you saw and heard that night.
℞. Gloria in excelsis Deo, Gloria in excelsis Deo!

We beheld (it is no fable),
God incarnate, King of bliss,
Swathed and cradled in a stable,
And the angel strain was this: *℞.*

Choristers on high were singing
Jesus and his virgin birth,
Heavenly bells the while a-ringing
“Peace, goodwill to all on earth.” *℞.*

Thanks, good shepherds, true your story;
Let us go to Bethlehem.
Angels hymn the King of Glory;
Carol we with you and them. *R.*

COLLECT FOR THE EVE OF CHRISTMAS

Eternal God, this holy night is radiant with the brilliance of your one true light. As we have known the revelation of that light on earth, bring us to see the splendour of your heavenly glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

Isaiah 9:2-7

READ BY VATHSALA THOMAS

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 Counsellor, 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 onwards and for evermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

O sing unto the Lord a new song;
sing unto the Lord, all the whole earth.

Sing unto the Lord and praise his Name;
be telling of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his honour among the nations,
and his wonders among all peoples.

For the Lord is great and cannot worthily be praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.

As for all the gods of the peoples, they are but idols;
but it is the Lord that made the heavens.

Honour and majesty are before him :
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe unto the Lord, O ye kindreds of the peoples,
ascribe unto the Lord glory and power.

Give unto the Lord the honour due to his Name;
bring presents and come into his courts.

O worship the Lord in the beauty of his holiness;
let the whole earth stand in awe of him.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King;
He hath made the round world so fast that it cannot be moved; He
shall judge the people righteously.

Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad;
let the sea make a noise and all that is therein.

Let the field be joyful, and all that is in it;
then shall all the trees of the wood rejoice before the Lord.

For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth,
and with righteousness to judge the world, and the peoples with his
truth.

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

READ BY SYLVIA FAWCETT

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 Saviour, 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.

HYMN 139

The First Nowell

TUNE: THE FIRST NOWELL

The first nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in the fields as they lay,
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
*℞. Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell,
Born is the King of Israel.*

They lookèd up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night. *℞.*

And by the light of that same star
Three wisemen came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went. *℞.*

Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
Who has made heaven and earth of nought,

And with his blood salvation bought. *℞.*

GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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

Glory to you, Lord Jesus 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 Saviour, 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 favours!’

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told

them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

HOMILY

THE REV. MICAH LATIMER-DENNIS

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY MOTET *Tollite portas* GIOVANNI BATTISTA MARTINI

*Tollite portas principes vestras et elevamini portae aeternales,
Et introibit rex gloriae.*

*Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors,
And the King of glory shall come in.*

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

Source of light and gladness, accept all we offer on this joyful feast.
May we grow up in him who unites our lives to yours; for he is Lord
now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of heaven and earth; we give
you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, who in the
mystery of his incarnation was made perfect man of the flesh of the
Virgin Mary his mother; in him we have seen a new and radiant vision
of your glory. Therefore with all the angels of heaven, we lift our voices
and sing our joyful hymn of praise to proclaim the glory of your name.

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

MISSA AD PRAESEPE, GEORGE MALCOLM

Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
Pleni sunt cœli et terra gloria tua,
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God of Hosts,
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory,
Hosanna in the highest.

Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini,
Hosanna in excelsis.

Blessed is He who comes in the name
of the Lord,
Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give thanks to you, Lord our God, for the goodness and love you have made known to us in creation; in calling 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 Saviour 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. On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, a death he freely accepted, 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." And 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, Father, according to his command,
we remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory;

and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, 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, made acceptable in him, may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ, and make them new, and bring us to that city of light where you dwell with all your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of salvation; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father,

who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, the power,

and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.

God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI

MISSA AD PRAESEPE, GEORGE MALCOLM

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis;
Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;
Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION

COMMUNION ANTHEM

In the Bleak Midwinter

HAROLD DARKE

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone.
Snow had fallen snow on
snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter long
ago.

Our God, Heav'n cannot hold
Him,
Nor earth sustain.
Heav'n and earth shall flee
away,
When He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter,
A stable place suffic'd
The Lord God Almighty Jesus
Christ.

Enough for Him, whom
cherubim
Worship night and day,
A breast full of milk,
And a mangerfull of hay.
Enough for Him, whom angels
Fall down before,
The ox and ass and camel
Which adore.
What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a wiseman,
I would do my part.
Yet what can I give Him,
Give my heart, give, give my
heart.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Father of all,
tonight you have united earth and heaven
in sending your Son to take our human nature.
May we who have tasted heavenly things
share in the life of his eternal kingdom.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE BLESSING

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia!
Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

HYMN 138 *Hark! The Herald Angels Sing* TUNE: MENDELSSOHN

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 hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

*℞. Hark! the herald angels sing,
"Glory to the newborn 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 one of us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! *℞.*

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 we no more may die,
Born to raise each child of earth, born to give us second birth. *℞.*

POSTLUDE *Symphonie Gothique (Allegro)* CHARLES-MARIE WIDOR
Organist: Adrian Ross



La Vierge au lys, William-Adolphe Bouguereau

THE FLOWERS AT THE ALTAR ARE GIVEN TO THE GLORY OF GOD AND
IN LOVING MEMORY OF MARILYN ELEAZAR ANDEN, RN, BSCN,
EDWARD W. H. TREMAIN, DR. G. E. PEARSON WILSON, AND ON
BEHALF OF THE EVAN EDWARD PRICE MEMORIAL.

UPCOMING AT GRACE CHURCH ON-THE-HILL

Christmas at Grace | The celebration of Christ's nativity continues at Grace. Join in person or via livestream for a Christmas Day service of Holy Eucharist at 10 am. The first Sunday after Christmas, Dec. 26th, services are at 8 and 10 am.

Food Bank | Donations in kind and by check are accepted for the Churches on-the-Hill Food Bank, which provides food and home goods for our neighbours. Consider supporting this ministry as need has been acute during the pandemic.

Christian Education | Christian Education will not meet on Sunday, Dec. 26, but will resume for Epiphany, Jan. 2. A series on Jewish faith and Christian practice begins Jan. 9.

Lay Pastoral Visitors | Do you know someone who could use a supportive call? The Lay Pastoral Visitors of Grace help extend hospitality beyond the walls of the church. Names and notes can be sent to pastoralcare@gracechurchonthehill.ca

GRACE CHURCH ON-THE-HILL

Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Canon Peter Walker | INCUMBENT
The Rev. Micah Latimer-Dennis | DEACON ASSISTANT
Christopher Leonard | DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION
Jonathan Kang | THEOLOGICAL STUDENT

Clergy Assistants

The Rev. Canon Dr. Judy Paulsen
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CHRISTMAS EVE
CHRISTINA ROSSETTI (1830 TO 1894)

Christmas hath a darkness
Brighter than the blazing noon,
Christmas hath a chillness
Warmer than the heat of June,
Christmas hath a beauty
Lovelier than the world can show:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.

Earth, strike up your music,
Birds that sing and bells that ring;
Heaven hath answering music
For all Angels soon to sing:
Earth, put on your whitest
Bridal robe of spotless snow:
For Christmas bringeth Jesus,
Brought for us so low.