



Saint Paul's Church

Brookfield, Connecticut

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve

5:00 P.M. Service

www.saintpaulsbrookfield.com

203-775-9587

A warm welcome in Christ's name to our parish family and guests who have joined us for worship this Christmas Eve. We pray God's blessings on you and your family this Christmastide. The Rector, Wardens, Vestry, and Staff of Saint Paul's Church wish you a Blessed Christmas full of His love and peace!

Prelude

"In the Bleak Midwinter"

D. Wagner

Opening Hymn

"O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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.

God from God, Light from Light eternal,
Lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;
Only begotten Son of the Father;
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,
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.

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.

Words: John Francis Wade; Music: *Adeste fidelis*, att. John Francis Wade

THE WORD OF GOD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

Celebrant:

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.

Praise Hymn

“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”

Hymnal, 87

Prayer of the Day (Celebrant and People)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray together.

O God, you make us glad by the yearly festival of the birth of your only Son Jesus Christ: Grant that we, who joyfully receive him as our Redeemer, may with sure confidence behold him when he comes to be our Judge; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

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.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalms 96:1-13

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

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.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

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.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:1-20 (Please Stand As Able)

Priest: 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!"

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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Gospel Response (Please Stand As Able)

“O Little Town Of Bethlehem”

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.

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!

Sermon

The Reverend Joseph Shepley

Nicene Creed (Please Stand As Able)

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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped 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 (You May Stand, Sit or Kneel)

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Father, we pray for your holy Universal Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;
That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;
That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;
That they may be delivered from their distress.

We remember the faithful departed this day in whose memory the altar flowers are given: The people listed in the back of the bulletin.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;
May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.
The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.

Confession of Sin (Please Kneel)

Priest: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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.

Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

Peace (Please Stand As Able)

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Offertory

"Behold the Lamb of God"

A. Peterson

Sung by Patrick O'Connors, Bill Schrull, Marie Williams

Presentation

"Doxology"

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him, all creatures here below,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

Praise him above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Great Thanksgiving (Please Stand As Able)

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.

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 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, archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your name.

Sanctus

Hymnal, S129

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 Celebrant continues. (You may stand, sit or kneel)

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.

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 Saint Paul and 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:

People and Celebrant

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

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People: *Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

Agnus Dei

John Merbecke, 1549



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 mer - cy up - on us.



O Lamb of God, that ta - kest a - way the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.

All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Holy Communion. To receive in one kind is considered full communion. If you choose to receive a blessing only, please cross your arms over your chest. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please let the priest know as you kneel at the altar rail. For those who wish to intinct the Bread, by dipping it in the Wine rather than drinking directly from the Chalice, you may signify this choice by holding the consecrated Bread between your fingers. Please intinct the Bread in the small Chalice which will come before the larger Chalice.

Communion Hymns	“Away in the Manger”	Hymnal, 101
	“Angels We Have Heard on High”	Hymnal, 96
	“God Rest You Merry Gentlemen”	Hymnal, 105
	“The First Noel”	Hymnal, 109
	“What Child is This”	Hymnal, 115

Closing Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

“Silent Night, Holy Night” **Hymnal, 111**

Blessing

Closing Hymn **“Joy To The World! the Lord is Come”** **Hymnal, 100**

Dismissal

Lay Reader: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Postlude **“Unto Us a Child is Born”** **G. Young**

Christmas 2017 Memorials

The Christmas flowers and decorations in the church are given to the greater glory of God, and in loving memory of:

Patricia Abu-Suneima
Charles and Irene Allen
Keith James Allen
Gay Baksa
Alex Balitsos
Francesca Barbieri
Niles W. Baxter
Walter Biscardi
James and Dorothy Blake
Ralph and Lucile Blasiolo
Peter Boehm
John Boesel
Gary and Elizabeth Brazier
Francis Brought
Alma Williams Brush
Benjamin Buchanan
Warren and Alberta Buck
Alex and Martha Chaleski
Myra Cogswell
Esther Covill
John and Elizabeth Covill
Patricia Creigh
Barbara N. Crocker
Drew L. Crocker
Muiriel Davis
Robert Davis
Carmine and Mary DeCarlo
Ralph B. DeCristoforo
Ralph and Fern DeCristoforo
Salvatore and Joan Donadio
Kevin James Donnelly
Barbara Drentwett
Anna Durkin
Ralph W. and Gladys Emerson
C. Floyd Evans
Whitney T. Ferguson
Robert Ferris

Stanley and Julia Ferris
Joseph Forcier-Allen
Brian Ford
Patricia Ford Friese
Patricia Carlin Friese
Susan Friese
Donald J. and Elizabeth W.
Gardner
Kyle Gardner
Robert R. and Bernice E.
Goodfellow
Frank Gurski, Sr.
Frank and Eva Gurski
Harry Gurski, Jr.
Mary and Harry Gurski, Sr.
Ruth Gurski
Stanley and Marjorie Gurski
George and Frances Hamelman
Barbara Jeanne Hill
Mercedes Hobson
Joseph and Hazel Hodge
Fred and Evelyn Kaeser
Richard and Barbara Kast
Kenneth and Alice Keller
Paul and Julia Kovacs
Roger P. Kovacs
Thomas and Lulu Malloy
Thomas J. McManus, Jr.
Joseph and Frances McRoberts
Clifford and Hazel Medley
Wallace and Lily Merritt
Valerie Ann Miller
James and Helen Morris
Lidia Neto
Victor and Emily Neuwirth
Joseph and Verona Pawlowski
Dorothy Holt Powell

Glenn and Marie Provino
Cecilia H. Ray
Thomas Ray
Alan Ready, Sr.
Valerie Reed
Buck Reilly
Anna Rybak
Gordon Rydell
Vernon and Ethel Rydell
Flora Jane Ryder
Charles E. Rynd
Frederick and Florence Scholefield
Harold Schultz
Craig Selvage
Dean and Marie Sherk
Raymond and Muriel Sparling
John Stauffer
Raymond Swift
Douglas and Evelyn Thomas
Barbara and James E. Trask III
Alvin and Lois Tuck
Mary Van Gordon
Janet and Harry Wanzer, Jr.
Minnie and Harry Wanzer. Sr.
Mary Warakowski
Michael and Marie Waschenko
Henry and Mary Washburn
Matthew James Williams
James and Beatrice Winkley
David Yarbrough
Elizabeth Zimmerman
Kenneth and Catherine Zdzieba
Helen Zytowski

Christmas Day Holy Communion Service
10:30 A.M.

