



Saint Paul's Church

Brookfield, Connecticut

December 24, 2017

Christmas Eve

9:00 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.

Gloria in Excelsis

Hymnal, S280

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
 peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
 King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
 give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
 Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
 take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
 on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
 ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
 you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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 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.

First Reading: Isaiah 62:6-12

Upon your walls, O Jerusalem, I have posted sentinels; all day and all night they shall never be silent. You who remind the LORD, take no rest, and give him no rest until he establishes Jerusalem and makes it renowned throughout the earth. The LORD has sworn by his right hand and by his mighty arm: I will not again give your grain to be food for your enemies, and foreigners shall not drink the wine for which you have labored; but those who garner it shall eat it and praise the LORD, and those who gather it shall drink it in my holy courts. Go through, go through the gates, prepare the way for the people; build up, build up the highway, clear it of stones, lift up an ensign over the peoples. The LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to daughter Zion, "See, your salvation comes; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him." They shall be called, "The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD"; and you shall be called, "Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken."

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalms 97

- 1 The LORD is King; let the earth rejoice; *let the multitude of the isles be glad.
- 2 Clouds and darkness are round about him, *righteousness and justice are the foundations of his throne.
- 3 A fire goes before him *and burns up his enemies on every side.
- 4 His lightnings light up the world; *the earth sees it and is afraid.
- 5 The mountains melt like wax at the presence of the LORD, *at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth.
- 6 The heavens declare his righteousness, *and all the peoples see his glory.
- 7 Confounded be all who worship carved images and delight in false gods! *Bow down before him, all you gods.
- 8 Zion hears and is glad, and the cities of Judah rejoice, *because of your judgments, O LORD.
- 9 For you are the LORD, most high over all the earth; *you are exalted far above all gods.

10 The LORD loves those who hate evil; *he preserves the lives of his saints and delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

11 Light has sprung up for the righteous, *and joyful gladness for those who are truehearted.

12 Rejoice in the LORD, you righteous, *and give thanks to his holy Name.

Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

When the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit. This Spirit he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

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

“Go, Tell it on the Mountain”

Traditional Spiritual

Sung by Choir

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

"Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming"

Sung by Beth and Jay Trott

"Child in the Manger"

Child in the manger, infant of Mary,
Outcast and stranger, Lord of all,
Child who inherits all our transgressions,
All our demerits on him fall.

Once the most holy child of salvation
Gently and lowly lived below.

Now as our glorious mighty redeemer,
See him victorious over each foe.

Prophets foretold him, infant of wonder;
Angels behold him on his throne.

Worthy our savior of all our praises;
Happy forever are his own.

Words: Mary MacDonald (1789-1872); Music: Bunessan, Gaelic melody

"Once in Royal David's City"

Hymnal, 102

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	Robert Ferris	Dorothy Holt Powell
Charles and Irene Allen	Stanley and Julia Ferris	Glenn and Marie Provino
Keith James Allen	Joseph Forcier-Allen	Cecilia H. Ray
Gay Baksa	Brian Ford	Thomas Ray
Alex Balitsos	Patricia Ford Friese	Alan Ready, Sr.
Francesca Barbieri	Patricia Carlin Friese	Valerie Reed
Niles W. Baxter	Susan Friese	Buck Reilly
Walter Biscardi	Donald J. and Elizabeth W.	Anna Rybak
James and Dorothy Blake	Gardner	Gordon Rydell
Ralph and Lucile Blasiole	Kyle Gardner	Vernon and Ethel Rydell
Peter Boehm	Robert R. and Bernice E.	Flora Jane Ryder
John Boesel	Goodfellow	Charles E. Rynd
Gary and Elizabeth Brazier	Frank Gurski, Sr.	Frederick and Florence Scholefield
Francis Brought	Frank and Eva Gurski	Harold Schultz
Alma Williams Brush	Harry Gurski, Jr.	Craig Selvage
Benjamin Buchanan	Mary and Harry Gurski, Sr.	Dean and Marie Sherk
Warren and Alberta Buck	Ruth Gurski	Raymond and Muriel Sparling
Alex and Martha Chaleski	Stanley and Marjorie Gurski	John Stauffer
Myra Cogswell	George and Frances Hamelman	Raymond Swift
Esther Covill	Barbara Jeanne Hill	Douglas and Evelyn Thomas
John and Elizabeth Covill	Mercedes Hobson	Barbara and James E. Trask III
Patricia Creigh	Joseph and Hazel Hodge	Alvin and Lois Tuck
Barbara N. Crocker	Fred and Evelyn Kaeser	Mary Van Gordon
Drew L. Crocker	Richard and Barbara Kast	Janet and Harry Wanzer, Jr.
Muiriel Davis	Kenneth and Alice Keller	Minnie and Harry Wanzer. Sr.
Robert Davis	Paul and Julia Kovacs	Mary Warakomski
Carmine and Mary DeCarlo	Roger P. Kovacs	Michael and Marie Waschenko
Ralph B. DeCristoforo	Thomas and Lulu Malloy	Henry and Mary Washburn
Ralph and Fern DeCristoforo	Thomas J. McManus, Jr.	Matthew James Williams
Salvatore and Joan Donadio	Joseph and Frances McRoberts	James and Beatrice Winkley
Kevin James Donnelly	Clifford and Hazel Medley	David Yarbrough
Barbara Drentwett	Wallace and Lily Merritt	Elizabeth Zimmerman
Anna Durkin	Valerie Ann Miller	Kenneth and Catherine Zdzieba
Joan K. Eldridge	James and Helen Morris	Helen Zytowski
Ralph W. and Gladys Emerson	Lidia Neto	
C. Floyd Evans	Victor and Emily Neuwirth	
Whitney T. Ferguson	Joseph and Verona Pawlowski	