

St. Bede's Episcopal Church, Menlo Park
The First Sunday in Christmas
December 26, 2021
Christmas Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist
9:30 a.m., Rite II



WELCOME! 🌿

In song and sermon, prayer and practice, we seek to renew our ancient traditions in light of the modern world. We affirm the transformative power of God's word and Jesus' call to active charity. Whoever you are and wherever you find yourself on your journey of faith, please join us today in fellowship. You are our most welcome guest!



ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE DIOCESE OF CALIFORNIA

The Rt. Rev. Marc Handley Andrus, Bishop

The Rev. Daniel Paul Spors, Rector

2650 Sand Hill Road, Menlo Park, CA 94025 ✦ (650) 854-6555 ✦ stbedesmenlopark.org

CHRISTMAS LESSONS AND CAROLS

Organ Prelude Variations on Gelobet sei Gott

Marilyn Kaiser (b. 1941)

Hymn 102, vv 1,2,4,6 *Sung by all, standing as able*

Once in Royal David's City

Bidding Prayer

The Book of Occasional Services

Presider Dear People of God: In this Christmas Season, let it be our duty and delight to hear once more the message of the Angels, to go to Bethlehem and see the Son of God lying in a manger. Let us hear and heed in Holy Scripture the story of God's loving purpose from the time of our rebellion against God until the glorious redemption brought to us by the holy Child Jesus, and let us make this place glad with our carols of praise.

But first, let us pray for the needs of God's whole world, for peace and justice on earth, for the unity and mission of the Church for which Jesus died, and especially for his Church in our country and in this city.

And because Jesus particularly loves them, let us remember in his name the poor and helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed, the sick and those who mourn, the lonely and unloved, the aged and little children, as well as all those who do not know and love the Lord Jesus Christ.

Finally, let us remember before God, Christ's pure and lowly Mother, and that whole multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom, in Jesus, we are one for evermore.

And now, the Almighty God bless us with grace; Christ give us the joys of everlasting life; and unto the fellowship of the citizens above may the King of Angels bring us all. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS

First Lesson Genesis 22: 15–18

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

*God promises to faithful Abraham that in his seed
shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*

Carol

I wonder as I wander

I wonder as I wander, out under the sky, how Jesus the Savior did come for to die.
For poor on'ry people like you and like I ...I wonder as I wander, out under the sky.
When Mary birthed Jesus all in a cow's stall, with wise men and farmers and shepherds and all.
But high from god's heaven a star's light did fall, and the promise of ages it then did recall.
If Jesus had wanted for any wee thing, a star in the sky, or a bird on the wing,
Or all of god's angels in heav'n for to sing, he surely could have it, for he was the King.
I wonder...

Orlia Budge, *soloist*

Second Lesson Isaiah 9: 2; 6–7

NRSV

The prophet foretells the coming of the Savior

Hymn 81 *sung by all*

Lo, how a rose e'er blooming

Third Lesson Luke 1: 26–35; 38

NRSV

The angel Gabriel salutes the Blessed Virgin Mary

Hymn 265 *sung by all*

The angel Gabriel

Fourth Lesson Luke 2: 1; 3–7

NRSV

St. Luke tells of the birth of Jesus

Hymn 78 *sung by all*

O little town of Bethlehem

Fifth Lesson Luke 2:8-16

NRSV

The shepherds go to the manger

Hymn 109, vv 1,2 *sung by all*

The first Nowell

Sixth Lesson Matthew 2:1-12

NRSV

The wise men are led by the star to Jesus

Hymn 109, vv 3-6 *sung by all*

The first Nowell

Seventh Lesson John 1:1-14

NRSV

St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation

Hymn 107 *sung by all*

Good Christian friends rejoice

Please stand as you are able.

All

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.**

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

The congregation may stand, kneel, or sit for the Confession.

All **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.**

Presider 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.**

THE HOLY COMMUNION 

Presider Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge the Name of the Lord.

Please be seated.

Anthem O Holy Night Adolphe Adam (1803-1856)
arr. Russel Ronnebaum (b. 20th century)
Dora Ho, *soloist*

Hymn 91 *Sung by all, standing as able* **Break forth, o beauteous heavenly light**

The congregation may stand, kneel, or sit.

Presider We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

All **We praise you, we bless you,
We give thanks to you,
And we pray to you, O Lord our God.**

Presider

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Justin the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Marc our Bishop, and Dan our Rector, and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember the Nation and all in authority, especially Joe our President and Gavin our governor.

Remember the peace and welfare of the world, especially in places threatened by disease, oppression, and violence.

Remember the concerns of the local community, especially those in need this day of housing, nutrition, and education.

Remember those who suffer and those in any trouble, especially those we now name, either silently or aloud.

Remember those celebrating birthdays, especially Lenox Y. and Alexis R., and for those celebrating anniversaries this week, especially Lin Yu and Kelly Clarke.

Remember the departed: may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with matriarchs and patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with the Venerable Bede, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Anthem**The Holly and the Ivy**

Traditional, arr. Richard Shephard (1949-2021)

The holly and the ivy, now both are full well grown,
 Of all the trees that are in the wood, the holly bears the crown.
 Refrain: Oh, the rising of the sun and the running of the deer,
 The playing of the merry organ, sweet singing in the choir.
 The holly bears a blossom as white as lily flower,
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to be our sweet saviour. (Refrain)
 The holly bears a berry as red as any blood,
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ to do poor sinners good. (Refrain)
 The holly bears a bark as bitter as any gall,
 And Mary bore sweet Jesus Christ for to redeem us all. (Refrain)

Orlia Budge and Christopher Brown, *soloists***Hymn 115***Sung by all, seated or kneeling***What child is this?***Please stand as you are able.*

Presider Let us pray,

All **Eternal God, heavenly Father,** BCP, p. 365
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.

Announcements**The Blessing**

Book of Occasional Services 2018, p. 9

Presider Almighty God, who sent the 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.**

ST. BEDE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MENLO PARK

Church Staff

Rector: Dan Spors
Parish Administrator: Siri Huntoon
Music Director: Katherine McKee
Organist: Rani Fischer
Bookkeeper: Angela Sherry
Sunday School Teacher: Claire Lawrence
Nursery Caregiver: Lina Jiang

Vestry

Vicki Blayney
Susan Chan Egan
Laura Gable, *Junior Warden*
Irene Lawrence
Miranda Pinckert
Sue Sartor, *Senior Warden*
Nancy Stork, *Clerk*
Dick Zeren

Altar Guild: Elizabeth Bellock,
Elaine Kriegh, Sue Sartor, Anne
Vitullo

Buildings and Grounds:

Miranda Pinckert, Mike Sartor,
Richard Zeren

Community Outreach:

Julie Backlund, Vicki Blayney, John
Hickson, Sue Sartor, Angela Sherry, Anne
Vitullo, Becky Zeren

Finance: Julie Backlund, *Treasurer*,
Randy Kriegh, Irene Lawrence,
Hal Louchheim, Jon Poe, Angela
Sherry,
Michelle Swenson, *Assistant
Treasurer*

Hospitality: Helen Greenwood,
Kathy Thompson and Anne Vitullo,
Captains

Deanery Delegates

Laura Gable, *Alternate*,
Michael Graebner, Irene Lawrence

Trinity School Board

Representatives

Michelle Swenson, Jon Poe