



# CHRIST CHURCH

THE ANGLICAN/EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN VIENNA

CHRISTMAS NIGHT  
24 DECEMBER 2020

## PRELUDE

*Chorale Fantasia on "Wie schön leuchtet das Morgenstern"*  
Dietrich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

## HYMN 66

- 1 **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 host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem.'  
*Hark, the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.***
- 2 **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 man with man to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel.  
*Hark, the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.***
- 3 **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 man no more may die,  
born to raise the sons of earth,  
born to give them second birth.  
*Hark, the herald angels sing  
glory to the new-born King.***

## GREETING

In the name of the living God:  
Father, Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

*The celebrant welcomes those in attendance.*

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom 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.**

## CONFESSION

*The officiant uses an invitation to confession.*

Hear the words of the angel to Joseph:  
'You shall call his name Jesus,  
for he will save his people from their sins.'  
Therefore let us seek the forgiveness of God  
through Jesus the Saviour of the world.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought and word and deed,  
through negligence, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We are truly sorry  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past  
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life  
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

#### **KYRIE ELEISON**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

#### **ABSOLUTION**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

#### **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,**

**almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

#### **COLLECT**

*The celebrant prays the collect set for the day.*

Eternal God,  
who made this most holy night  
to shine with the brightness of your one true light:  
bring us, who have known the revelation of that light on earth,  
to see the radiance of your heavenly glory;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.  
**Amen.**

#### **LESSON**

*Titus 2:11-14*

*A reading from Paul's Letter to Titus:*

(said)

<sup>11</sup> For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, <sup>12</sup> training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, <sup>13</sup> while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ. <sup>14</sup> 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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

*Psalm 96*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 **Sing to the Lord and bless his name;  
tell out 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 For all the gods of the nations are but idols;  
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 **Honour and majesty before him;  
power and splendour are in his sanctuary**
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples;  
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
- 8 **Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name;  
bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;  
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 **Tell it out among the nations that 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;

12 **Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them;  
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.**

13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth;  
with righteousness he will judge the world  
and the peoples with his truth.

## HYMN 84

- 1 **Silent night! Holy night!  
All is calm, all is bright  
round the virgin and her child:  
holy infant so tender and mild,  
sleep in heavenly peace;  
sleep in heavenly peace!**
- 2 **Silent night! Holy night!  
Shepherds quail at the sight,  
glory streams from heaven afar,  
heavenly hosts sing 'Alleluia,  
Christ the Saviour is born,  
Christ the Saviour is born!'**
- 3 **Silent night! Holy night!  
Son of God, love's pure light:  
radiant beams your holy face  
with the dawn of saving grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth,  
Jesus, Lord, at your birth.**

## GOSPEL

*Luke 2:1-20*

*Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:  
Glory to you, O Lord.*

<sup>1</sup> In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> All went to their own towns to be registered. <sup>4</sup> 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. <sup>5</sup> He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. <sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> 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: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!" <sup>15</sup> 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." <sup>16</sup> So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. <sup>19</sup> But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord:  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

#### **SERMON**

*The appointed preacher offers a sermon.*

#### **MUSIC (Soprano Soloist: Eyrun Unnarsdottir)**

*Bethlehemsstjarnan (The Star of Bethlehem)*

Askel Jonsson (911-2002)

#### **CREED**

*The 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,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and 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,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped 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.**

#### **INTERCESSIONS**

*A member of the congregation offers prayers.*

## PEACE

*The celebrant introduces the Peace with a suitable sentence:*

In the tender mercy of our God,  
the dayspring from on high shall break upon us,  
to give light to those who dwell in darkness and in the shadow of death  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you,  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All exchange an appropriate sign of peace.*

## HYMN 83

- 1 See, amid the winter's snow,  
born for us on earth below,  
see, the Lamb of God appears,  
promised from eternal years!  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!*  
*Hail, redemption's happy dawn!*  
*Sing through all Jerusalem:*  
*Christ is born in Bethlehem!*
- 2 Lo, within a manger lies  
he who built the starry skies,  
he who, throned in height sublime,  
sits amid the cherubim!  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!*  
*Hail, redemption's happy dawn!*  
*Sing through all Jerusalem:*  
*Christ is born in Bethlehem!*
- 3 Say, ye holy shepherds, say,  
what your joyful news today;  
wherefore have ye left your sheep  
on the lonely mountain steep?

*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!*  
*Hail, redemption's happy dawn!*  
*Sing through all Jerusalem:*  
*Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

- 4 'As we watched at dead of night,  
lo, we saw a wondrous light;  
angels, singing "Peace on earth,"  
told us of a Saviour's birth.'  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!*  
*Hail, redemption's happy dawn!*  
*Sing through all Jerusalem:*  
*Christ is born in Bethlehem!*
- 5 Sacred Infant, all divine,  
what a tender love was thine,  
thus to come from highest bliss  
down to such a world as this!  
*Hail, thou ever-blessed morn!*  
*Hail, redemption's happy dawn!*  
*Sing through all Jerusalem:*  
*Christ is born in Bethlehem!*

## EUCHARIST

*Eucharistic Prayer A*

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 thanks and praise.**

All glory and honour be yours always and everywhere,  
mighty creator, ever-living God.

We give you thanks and praise for your Son,

our Saviour Jesus Christ,

who for love of our fallen race humbled himself,

was born of the Virgin Mary by the power of your Spirit,

and lived as one of us.

In this mystery of the Word made flesh  
you have caused his light to shine in our hearts,  
to give knowledge of your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.  
In him we see our God made visible  
and so are caught up in the love of the God we cannot see.  
Therefore with all the angels of heaven  
we lift our voices to proclaim the glory of your name  
and sing our joyful hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.]**

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;  
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,  
took bread and gave you thanks;  
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper  
he took the cup and gave you thanks;  
he gave it to them, saying:  
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.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,

we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

Accept through him, our great high priest,  
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,  
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts  
in the presence of your divine majesty,  
renew us by your Spirit,  
inspire us with your love  
and unite us in the body of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,  
we worship you, Father almighty,  
in songs of everlasting praise:

**Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.

#### **BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body,  
because we all share in one bread.**

#### **AGNUS DEI**

Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.

#### **GIVING OF COMMUNION**

Draw near with faith.  
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ  
which he gave for you,  
and his blood which he shed for you.  
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,  
and feed on him in your hearts

by faith with thanksgiving.  
**Amen.**

*The celebrant distributes communion.*

#### **MUSIC**

*Cantique de Noël*  
Adolphe Adam (1803)

#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYERS**

Heavenly Father,  
who chose the Blessed Virgin Mary  
to be the mother of the promised saviour:  
fill us your servants with your grace,  
that in all things we may embrace your holy will  
and with her rejoice in your salvation;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

**Almighty God,  
we thank you for feeding us  
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.  
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies  
to be a living sacrifice.  
Send us out  
in the power of your Spirit  
to live and work  
to your praise and glory.  
Amen.**

#### **NOTICES**

#### **BLESSING**

Christ, who by his incarnation gathered into one  
things earthly and heavenly,  
fill you with peace and goodwill  
and make you partakers of the divine nature;

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

**Amen.**

#### **HYMN 78**

- 1 **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:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!***
  
- 2 **God of God,  
Light of Light,  
lo! he abhors not the Virgin's womb;  
very God,  
begotten, not created:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!***
  
- 3 **See how the shepherds,  
summoned to his cradle,  
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
we too will thither  
bend our joyful footsteps:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!***

- 6 **Sing, choirs of angels,  
sing in exultation,  
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
glory to God  
in the highest:  
*O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
O come, let us adore him,  
Christ the Lord!***
  
- 7 **Yea, Lord, we greet thee,  
born this happy morning,  
Jesu, 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!***

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

#### **ORGAN POSTLUDE**

*Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne in C Major*  
Dietrich Buxtehude (c. 1637-1707)

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This liturgy is taken from The Archbishop's Council 2000, *Common Worship* (London: Church House Publishing, 2000). The hymns are taken from *Ancient & Modern* (Norwich: Canterbury Press, 2013). Scripture reference, unless otherwise noted, are from the NRSV translation of *The Holy Bible*.

**TITHES AND OFFERINGS**

Currently we are not taking a collection during any of the services in the church building, because of Covid-19 restrictions. We ask those of you who would otherwise make your donations to Christ Church to consider setting up regular standing orders or some other electronic means of contributing. More information is available on our website.

**Your contributions make a difference, and we are thankful for them.**