



**CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH**

*A People United in Justice and Love*



Friday, December 24, 2021

The Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Eve 6:00pm

*An inclusive church welcoming everyone.*

*'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. – Luke 2:10-14*

*We are an affirming church, and we offer a warm welcome to people of all walks of life. This is a safe space for everyone as we are all created in the image of God.*

*We gratefully acknowledge that we are in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.*

Order of Worship  
The Book of Alternative Services

**B**y the fourth century, Christians had adapted the Roman festival at the winter solstice as a day to celebrate the incarnation of God in Jesus. Christ is the Sun, bringing light and life to the world.

**Sentence**

*I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day a Saviour, Christ the Lord. Luke 2: 10-11*

**Introit:** Once in Royal David's City p. 14

*Officiant* Christ has brought us out of darkness:  
*People* **to live in his marvellous light.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome to Christ Church this evening. We have come together in the presence of God to rejoice in the gift of Jesus to us as the light of the world, to hear and receive the story and message of the coming of Christ, and to offer to God our thanksgiving in prayer and song.

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

**Reader 1:** We light the Christ Candle to symbolize God's promise fulfilled.

**Reader 2:** 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. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and peace to all on whom his favour rests.

**All: Blessed be the name of the Lord.**

Prayer said together: **Living God, on this holy night we gather—to stand with shepherds, amazed at your glory; to sing with angels, rejoicing in your work; to wait with Joseph, trusting in your promise; to sit with Mary, cradling your love. May the good news of this night inspire us to tell the world of our great**

**joy: for to us is born a Saviour, the Messiah, the Lord. Glory and praise to you forever! Amen.**

*(All candles are lit.)*

Gathering Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful p. 14

## **The Gathering of the Community**

**The Greeting**      *All stand as able. The minister greets the community.*

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

*People*      **And also with you.**

## **The Collect for Purity**

*Celebrant*      Almighty God,

*All*              **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.**

## **Kyrie (said)**

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

## **Glory to God (sung)**

**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.

**The Christmas Collect (said together) God of promise, from ancient times you have sustained your people. With Mary and Joseph, teach us to treasure in our hearts the birth of Jesus, and with shepherds and angels, lead us to praise the holy Child of Bethlehem in whose name we pray. Amen.**

*Revised Common Lectionary Prayers 2002 alt.*

## **The Proclamation of the Word**

The Old Testament: Isaiah 9:2-7

*That the angels in Luke name the child the Messiah, in Greek “Christ,” recalls oracles such as Isaiah 9, and Christians have seen in Jesus Christ the ancient promises of a coming king fulfilled. Jesus is “wonderful Counselor and mighty God” among us. Thus Christians hear in this oracle references to the triune God.*

**T**hose who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has he people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; 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.

*At the conclusion of the passage, the reader says, This is the word of the Lord.*

People      **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 96**    *Cantate Domino*    (read responsively by the bold verse)

*Psalm 96 is one of the praise songs that names God as king and was perhaps used by the ancient Israelites to laud a king at his enthronement. In response to Isaiah 9 and its proclamation of the birth of the Mighty God, Christians sing Psalm 96 to praise Christ as our king. All the gods, all families of all peoples, the very earth, the sea and the fields all rejoice. Even as we go home to enjoy our Christmas trees, we know that "all the trees of the wood" have shouted in praise to Christ. Yet we remember the promises of Advent: he comes to judge the world.*

Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless the divine name; proclaim the good news of our salvation from day to day.**

Declare the glory of the Lord among the nations and the wonders of God among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but it is you, O Lord, who made the heavens.

**Oh, the majesty and magnificence of your presence! Oh, the power and the splendour of your sanctuary!**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honour and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honour due the divine name; bring offerings and come into the courts of the Lord.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before God.

**Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord reigns! The Lord who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**

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.

**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord who is coming, who is coming to judge the earth.**

The Lord will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with truth. Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

The Second Reading: Titus 3:4-7

*The reading proclaims, not baby Jesus, but the triune God: God in Christ has given us the Holy Spirit. The fruits of Christmas come to us in baptism. Christ is God born among us.*

**B**ut 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.

*This is the word of the Lord.*

People      **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High p. 15

The Gospel: Luke 2: 8-20      *All stand as able for the Gospel as able.*

*Luke 2, the only biblical narrative detailing the birth of Jesus, is proclaimed at the first eucharist of Christmas. In contrast to Matthew's interest in high status males, Luke emphasizes the opposite: a pregnant woman, "no place in the inn," and lower-class shepherds. Thanks in part to Luke's talent in storytelling, this narrative has become for many people synonymous with Christmas. The challenge at this service is to proclaim the truth of this narrative as other than and far beyond stereotypical sentimentality.*

Reader      *The Lord be with you.*

People      ***And also with you.***

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

People      ***Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**I**n 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.

*At the conclusion of the Gospel, the reader says,      The Gospel of Christ.*

People      ***Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.***

**Sermon:** The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner “And Love Came Down”

## **The Prayers of the People**

*(In joy and humility let us pray to the creator of the universe, saying, “**Hear our prayer.**”)*

*Leader* Let us pray to Jesus our Saviour. Christ, born in a stable, give courage to all who are homeless. Jesus, Saviour,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Christ, for whom the angels sang, give the song of the kingdom to all who weep. Jesus, Saviour,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Christ, worshipped by the shepherds, give peace on earth to all who are oppressed. Jesus, Saviour,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Christ, before whom the wise people knelt, give humility and wisdom to all who govern. Jesus, Saviour,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

*Leader* Christ, whose radiance filled a lowly manger, give the glory of your resurrection to all who rest in you. Jesus, Saviour,

*People* **hear our prayer.**

**All:** **Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer. Glory to you for ever. Amen.**

## Confession and Absolution

*Celebrant* Dear friends in Christ,  
 God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy;  
 he welcomes all  
 and invites them to his table.  
 Let us confess our sins,  
 Confident in God's forgiveness.

*Silence is kept.*

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,

*All* **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 neighbours 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.**

*Celebrant* May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to the Trinity and cleanse you from all your sins, that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh, Jesus Christ our Lord.

*People* **Amen.**

## The Peace

Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and his name shall be called the Prince of Peace. The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

Hymn of Offering: The First Nowell p. 16

## The Celebration of the Eucharist

### Prayer over the Gifts (said together)

**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.**

*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 our thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* And now we give you thanks because, in the incarnation of the Word, a new light has dawned upon the world; you have become one with us that we might become one with you in your glorious kingdom.

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.

(sung) **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.**

In Jesus' birth 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, which he freely accepted, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take and eat this, for it is my body which is given to you. Do this and remember me."

After supper he took a cup of wine; he gave it to his friends and said, “Drink this, 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.”

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 our salvation;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father, now and for ever.

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**All            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.**

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

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

**All            God here among us, light in the midst of us,**

**Bring us to light and life.**

**Lamb of God**

**Anthem During Communion:** In the Bleak Midwinter

**Sharing of Christ's Light:** Silent Night p. 17

*As we sing the tapers are lit. Please pass the light along*

**The Prayer after Communion** (said together, please stand as you are able)

**God 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.**

**Doxology** (please stand as you are able)

**Glory to God, whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen**

**The Blessing**

**M**ay the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of those that followed the star, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ-child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with you all, forever more. Amen.

**Hymn of Sending Forth:** Joy to the World p. 17

## Dismissal

To a troubled world,

**All**            **peace from Christ.**

To a searching world,

**All**            **love from Christ.**

To a waiting world,

**All:**            **hope from Christ. Let us go forth to love and serve the  
Lord, Thanks be to God, Alleluia!**

**Postlude:** Hark! The Herald *p. 18*

## HYMNS:

### Once in Royal David's City

Once in royal David's city  
 Stood a lowly cattle shed,  
 Where a mother laid her baby  
 In a manger for his bed.  
 Mary was that mother mild,  
 Jesus Christ her little child.

He came down to earth from heaven  
 Who is God and Lord of all,  
 And his shelter was a stable,  
 And his cradle was a stall.  
 With the poor and mean and lowly  
 Lived on earth our Saviour holy.

Not in that poor lowly stable,  
 With the oxen standing by,  
 We shall see him, but in heaven,  
 Set at God's right hand on high,  
 When, like stars, his children crowned  
 All in white shall gather round.

### O Come All Ye Faithful

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!

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!

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!

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!

Angels We Have Heard on High  
 Angels we have heard on high  
 Sweetly singing o'er the plains  
 And the mountains in reply  
 Echoing their joyous strains  
 Gloria In Excelsis Deo,  
 Gloria In Excelsis Deo.

Shepherds why this jubilee?  
 Why your joyous strains prolong?  
 What the gladsome tidings be?  
 Which inspire your heavenly song?

Gloria In Excelsis Deo,  
 Gloria In Excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see  
 Christ whose birth the angels sing;

Come, adore on bended knee,  
 Christ the Lord, the newborn King.  
 Gloria In Excelsis Deo,  
 Gloria In Excelsis Deo.

### Silent Night

Silent night, holy night  
 All is calm, all is bright  
 Round yon virgin mother and child  
 Holy infant, so tender and mild  
 Sleep in heavenly peace,  
 Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night  
 Shepherds quake at the sight;  
 Glories stream from heaven afar  
 Heavenly hosts sing alleluia  
 Christ the Saviour is born,  
 Christ the Saviour is born.

Silent night, holy night  
 Son of God, love's pure light  
 Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
 With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth,  
 Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

### Joy to the World

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
 Let earth receive the King;  
 Let every heart prepare him room,  
 and heav'n and nature sing,  
 and heav'n and nature sing,  
 and heav'n and nature sing!

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns;  
 Let us glad songs employ,  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains

Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat the sounding joy,  
 Repeat, repeat the sounding joy!  
 No more let wrongs and sorrows grow,  
 Nor thorns infest the ground;  
 He comes to make his blessings flow  
 Far as our sin is found,  
 Far as our sin is found,  
 Far as, far as our sin is found.  
 He rules the world with truth and grace,  
 And makes the nations prove  
 The glories of his righteousness,  
 And wonders of his love,  
 And wonders of his love,  
 And wonders, wonders of his love!

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 General Synod of the Anglican Church of Canada.

Liturgical Setting: Mass of the Celtic Saints by Liam Lawton, arranged by John  
 McCann, GIA Publications, 1998.

## Directory of Parish Officers

### Rector

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner, BA, MDiv, DMin

### Pastoral Visitor

The Rev. Bonnie Baird, BJ, MDiv

### Parish Administrator

John Gallant, BA

### Music Leadership

Tessa Short, Joey Dowell, John MacDonald

### Sexton

Mark Murphy

### Honorary Assistants

The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke

(Theologian in Residence)

The. Rev. Canon David Greenwood

### Lay Reader

Vanessa Turner

### Wardens

Steve Smith, Don Murray, Cathy Connors

### Altar Guild

Marg Seaman

### Chair of Finance

John MacDonald

### Youth Ministry

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner

### Parish Contacts:

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Wednesday, Friday 9am-4pm\*

Tuesday and Thursday:

Closed or by chance

\*Please call as hours may vary

**Church Hall:** 61 Dundas Street

### Pastoral Ministry

Carolyn Chenhall

### Historical

Janice Silver

### Property

Larry Graham

### Anglican Church Women

ACW Isabel Creighton Unit:

Lindsay Patriquin; ACW Ethel F.

Stevens Unit: Carolyn Chenhall

### Perpetual Care Committee

Marg Seaman

### Food and Clothing Ministry

Christine Hoehne

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