

**A Service of Morning Prayer
December 25, 2022
Christmas Day**



Adoration of the Shepherds by Gerard van Honthorst, 1622,
Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, Cologne, Germany.

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*

CP 118. O Come, All Ye Faithful

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;

Refrain:

***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: [Refrain]

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God, glory in the highest: [Refrain]

4 See how the shepherds, summoned to his
cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
[Refrain]

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy
morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
[Refrain]

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God,
And the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all.

And also with you.

May his grace and peace be with you.
May he fill our hearts with joy.

Almighty God,
**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.**

Psalm 98 *Refrain:* All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

98:1 O sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things. His right hand and his holy arm have gotten him victory.

98:2 The LORD has made known his victory; he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.

98:3 He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

98:4 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises.

98:5 Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody.

98:6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD.

98:7 Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it.

98:8 Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy

98:9 at the presence of the LORD, for he is coming to judge the earth. He will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

A Reading from Isaiah 52:7–10

52:7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."

52:8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the LORD to Zion.

52:9 Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the LORD has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem.

52:10 The LORD has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CP 143 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
you who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

2 Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

3 Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
you have seen his natal star:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

4 Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

5 Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill the eternal throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:
come and worship, come and worship
worship Christ, the new-born King.

A Reading from Hebrews 1:1-12

1:1 Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,
1:2 but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things,
through whom he also created the worlds.

1:3 He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he
sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down
at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

1:4 having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more
excellent than theirs.

1:5 For to which of the angels did God ever say, "You are my Son; today I have begotten
you"? Or again, "I will be his Father, and he will be my Son"?

1:6 And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says, "Let all God's angels
worship him."

1:7 Of the angels he says, "He makes his angels winds, and his servants flames of fire."

1:8 But of the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever, and the righteous
scepter is the scepter of your kingdom.

1:9 You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness; therefore God, your God, has
anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions."

1:10 And, "In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth, and the heavens are the work of
your hands;

1:11 they will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like clothing;

1:12 like a cloak you will roll them up, and like clothing they will be changed. But you are the
same, and your years will never end."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CP 153 Good Christians All, Rejoice

1 Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Listen now to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today;
ox and ass before him bow,
and he is in the manger now.
Christ is born today;
Christ is born today!

3 Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Now you need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save:
come at his most gracious call
to find salvation, one and all!
Christ was born to save;
Christ was born to save!

2 Good Christians all, rejoice
with heart and soul and voice!
Hear the news of endless bliss:
Jesus Christ was born for this;
he has opened heaven's door
and we are blessed for evermore!
Christ was born for this;
Christ was born for this!

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John
Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

John 1:1–14

1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

1:2 He was in the beginning with God.

1:3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being.
What has come into being

1:4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

1:5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

1:6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

1:7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

1:8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

1:9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

1:10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

1:11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

1:12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

1:13 who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

1:14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of Christ

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon by the Rev. Heather LiddellCCLI 7163734 Light Of The World

1 Light of the World Treasure of Heaven
 Brilliant like the stars in the wintery sky
 Joy of the Father reach through the darkness
 Shine across the earth send the shadows to flight

2 Light of the World from the beginning
 The tragedies of time were no match for Your love
 From great heights of glory You saw my story
 God You entered in and became one of us

Chorus
Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah
Sing hallelujah for the things He has done

Come and adore Him
Bow down before Him
Sing hallelujah to the Light of the World

3 Light of the world crown in a manger
 Born for the cross to suffer to save
 High King of Heaven death is the poorer
 We are the richer by the price that He paid

4 Light of the World soon will be coming
 With fire in His eyes He will ransom His own
 Through clouds He will lead us straight into glory
 And there He shall reign forevermore
 forevermore

Affirmation of Faith (The Apostles' Creed)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
 creator of heaven and earth.
 I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
 and born of the Virgin Mary.
 He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried.
 He descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again.
 He ascended into heaven.
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again
 to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic Church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People compiled and led by the Rev. Alison Westervelt

In the power of the Spirit and in union with Christ, let us pray to the Father saying, Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, you promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in faith.

Loving God, the season of waiting and anticipation is over as we celebrate the birth of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We thank you for sending your son to us here on earth to heal us, teach us, show us the way that we should live our lives and we pray that we can be obedient servants to your will.

We pray today for the leaders of your church throughout the world.

- for the Anglican Church of Melanesia

- for the Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh and Bishop the Rt. Rev. Lydia Mamakwa; the Suffragan Bishop for the Northern Manitoba Area Mission, the Rt. Rev. Isaiah Larry Beardy.

- for the retired clergy of the Diocese of Edmonton: Arthur Dyck; Ted Eden; René Faille; Bishop Ken Genge; John Gifford; Neil Gordon; Sheila Hagan Bloxham; Sally Harrison; Peter Heritage; Ron Hörst; Karen Hunt; Ellis Jagoe; Ed Kostyk.

- for the Buyé Synod Office and Archbishop the Most Rev. Sixbert Macumi; Dominique Ciza, Diocesan Executive Secretary; Leonidas Nizigiyimana, Treasurer, Archdeacon of Gashikanwa; Jean Berchmans Mweningoma, Development Officer; Damascene Bagirubwira, Vice-Development Officer.

- for the people and community of the Montana First Nation.

- for Bishop Stephen and all clergy in our Diocese. We pray for Heather and Alison and all others who lead us in our faith and in our worship. We pray for their continued wellbeing and that you will continue to guide them in your service.

As we prepare to say goodbye to your servant, Heather, we ask that you continue to be her shepherd and guide as she moves on to do your work in a new place. It is our prayer and hope that she will find a new spiritual family and that your love will be ever present.

We ask for your guidance and wisdom as we search for a new shepherd, one that will help us to grow your kingdom here at St. Peter's. Give us open hearts and minds as we journey through these next steps. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Bless and guide Charles, our king and all the leaders of the world. Be present in the hearts and minds of all those who have authority over others. We pray for all the world's leaders of countries where there is conflict or suffering. Help them and those that work with them to see the way to peace and prosperity. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

We pray for all who suffer from loneliness and anxiety. Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. We pray for those near to us who are suffering, especially: Sandra... Merle..... Mona..... Mary..... Irene Kathryn..... Helen..... Jenifer..... Tony and Mary Jean..... Luisa..... Miranda..... Bill..... Maxime..... Geraldine.... Florence..... Joan..... Shirley and Cyril..... Mark and Blake..... Lisa..... Marijke..... Chrissie, Cathy, and the family..... Diane..... Janelle, for all those on our prayer list and anyone known to us;

(silence)

Care for them and their friends and families, give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Hear us as we remember those who have died recently or who's anniversary falls around this time. We take a moment to think about them.

(silence).

Comfort those who are grieving their losses, help us to remember and celebrate the lives they have lived in this world and according to your promises, grant us, with them a share in your eternal kingdom. Lord in your mercy,

Hear our prayer

And so Lord, rejoicing in the fellowship of St Peter and all your saints, we commend ourselves and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen

Collect

**Almighty God,
you wonderfully created
and yet more wonderfully restored our human nature.
May we share the divine life of your Son Jesus Christ,
who humbled himself to share our humanity,
and now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

CP 154 Joy To The World

1 Joy to the world the Lord is come
 Let earth receive her King
 Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room
 And heav'n and nature sing
 And heav'n and nature sing
 And heav'n and heav'n and nature sing

2 Joy to the earth the Savior reigns
 Let men their songs employ
 While fields and floods
 Rocks hills and plains
 Repeat the sounding joy
 Repeat the sounding joy
 Repeat repeat the sounding joy

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow
 Nor thorns infest the ground
 He comes to make His blessings flow
 Far as the curse is found
 Far as the curse is found
 Far as far as the curse is found

4 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

The Dismissal

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*

Let us bless the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Let us depart in peace and take with us the certain knowledge that God is
 always coming into the world.

May the blessing of Christmas make us a blessing to others.

May the peace of the season pervade all that we do.

Let us go forth in hope, peace, joy, and love.

Thanks be to God.