



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

22 N. Union Street, Smyrna, Delaware 19777

A Faith Community Offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing

www.stpeters-smyrna.org

**First Sunday after Christmas
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, December 27, 2020 – 9:00 A.M.**

PRELUDE: “*Gentle Mary Laid Her Child*” by James Southbridge Tunes: Tempus Adest Floridum from Pies Cantiones, 1582, and French Carol, traditional French

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN *Of the Father's love begotten (Divinum mysterium)*



1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, ere the worlds be -
 2 O that birth for ev - er bless - ed, when the Vir - gin,
 3 Let the heights of heaven a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 4 Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 prais - es sing; powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him,
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing,



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that
 bore the Sa - vior of our race; and the Babe, the
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be; hon - or, glo - ry



are, that have _____ been, and that fu - ture
 world's Re - deem - er, first re - vealed his
 earth be si - lent, ev - ery voice in
 and do - min - ion, and e - ter - nal

years shall see, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 sa - cred face, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 con - cert ring, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!
 vic - to - ry, ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

This hymn may be performed in equal note values: ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.**

THE GLORIA

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 COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Isaiah 61:10--62:3

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah.

¹⁰I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. ¹¹For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

^{62:1}For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch. ²The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the LORD will give. ³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 147

¹Hallelujah!

How good it is to sing praises to our God! *
how pleasant it is to honor him with praise!

²The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; *
he gathers the exiles of Israel.

³He heals the brokenhearted *
and binds up their wounds.

⁴He counts the number of the stars *
and calls them all by their names.

⁵Great is our LORD and mighty in power; *
there is no limit to his wisdom.

⁶The LORD lifts up the lowly, *
but casts the wicked to the ground.

⁷Sing to the LORD with thanksgiving; *
make music to our God upon the harp.

- ⁸He covers the heavens with clouds *
and prepares rain for the earth;
- ⁹He makes grass to grow upon the mountains *
and green plants to serve mankind.
- ¹⁰He provides food for flocks and herds *
and for the young ravens when they cry.
- ¹¹He is not impressed by the might of a horse; *
he has no pleasure in the strength of a man;
- ¹²But the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, *
in those who await his gracious favor.
- ¹³Worship the LORD, O Jerusalem; *
praise your God, O Zion;
- ¹⁴For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; *
he has blessed your children within you.
- ¹⁵He has established peace on your borders; *
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.
- ¹⁶He sends out his command to the earth, *
and his word runs very swiftly.
- ¹⁷He gives snow like wool; *
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.
- ¹⁸He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; *
who can stand against his cold?
- ¹⁹He sends forth his word and melts them; *
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.
- ²⁰He declares his word to Jacob, *
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.
- ²¹He has not done so to any other nation; *
to them he has not revealed his judgments.
Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Galatia.

²³Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. ²⁵But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, ⁵in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. ⁶And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” ⁷So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *Unto us a boy is born (Puer nobis nascitur)* [Verse 1]



1 Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre -
 2 Cra - dled in a stall was he with sleep - y cows and
 3 He - rod then with fear was filled; “A prince,” he said, “in
 4 Now may Ma - ry’s son, who came so long a - go to
 *5 Un - to us a boy is born! The King of all cre -



1 a - tion, came he to a world for - lorn, the
 2 ass - es; but the ve - ry beasts could see that
 3 Jew - ry!” All the lit - tle boys he killed at
 4 love us, lead us all with hearts a - flame un -
 5 a - tion, came he to a world for - lorn, the



1 Lord of ev - ery na - - - tion.
 2 he all men sur - pass - - - es.
 3 Beth - le - hem in his fu - - - ry.
 4 to the joys a - bove _____ us.
 5 Lord of ev - ery na - - - tion.

GOSPEL: John 1:1-18

Priest The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

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

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And 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. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

Priest The Gospel of our Savior.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE 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:
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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.

For Michael our Presiding Bishop, and Kevin our Bishops; and for all bishops and other ministers;

For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

We will exalt you, O God our King;

And praise your Name for ever and ever.

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (revised)

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants

give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;

but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world

by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your presence,

that as we lament our separation from one another during this time of disease, we may continually show forth your praise, not only with our lips,

but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

The Holy Communion

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

“All things come of thee, O Lord...”

The Vestry of St. Peter’s wishes to thank all who are able to maintain their pledges and gifts to the Church during these challenging times. Offerings may be mailed to the Church office or made online using the information included:

To financial contribute to our ministry, click on <https://onrealm.org/StPetersSmyna/Give> to give online *OR* text **RISENCHRIST \$amount** (ex: RISENCHRIST \$30) to **73256** to give by phone. *Thank you in advance for your generosity!*

CONGREGATIONAL ANTHEM:

ONCE IN ROYAL DAVID'S CITY

IRBY



1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y Stood a low - ly
2. He came down to earth from heav - en Who is God and
3. And through all his won - drous child - hood He would hon - or
4. For he is our child - hood's pat - tern, Day by day like
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, Through his own re -



1. cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her ba - by
2. Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a sta - ble,
3. and o - bey, Love and watch the low - ly maid - en
4. us he grew; He was lit - tle, weak, and help - less,
5. deem - ing love; For that child so dear and gen - tle



1. In a man - ger for his bed. Mar - y was that
2. And his cra - dle was a stall. With the poor and
3. In whose gen - tle arms he lay. Chris - tian chil - dren
4. Tears and smiles like us he knew: And he feels for
5. Is our Lord in heav'n a - bove: And he leads his



1. moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle Child.
2. mean and low - ly Lived on earth our Sav - ior ho - ly.
3. all should be Kind, o - be - dient, good as he.
4. all our sad - ness, And he shares in all our glad - ness.
5. chil - dren on To the place where he has gone.

Text: 87 87 77; Cecil Frances Humphreys Alexander, 1818–1895, alt. Music: Henry J. Gauntlett, 1805–1876.

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant: All things come of Thee, O Lord
People: **And of Thine Own, have we given Thee. 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.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being:
sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing.
You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away;
and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.
And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity,
lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine.
Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:
“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant,

which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins.
Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation,
and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come,
we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ.
Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation,
the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.
In the fullness of time bring us, with Joseph, Mary, and all your saints,
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. *AMEN*

And now, as our Savior 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar.
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in
the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and
strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you.
May I live in you, and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.**

COMMUNION HYMN *Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Picardy)*



1 Let all mo - rtal flesh keep si - lence, and with fear and
 2 King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry, as of old on
 3 Rank on rank the host of hea - ven spreads its van - guard
 4 At his feet the six - winged ser - aph; cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; pon - der noth - ing earth - ly -
 earth he stood, Lord of lords in hu - man
 on the way, as the Light of Light de -
 sleep - less eye veil their fac - es to the



mind - ed, for with bless - ing in his hand
 ves - ture, in the Bo - dy and the Blood
 scend - eth from the realms of end - less day,
 Pres - ence, as with cease - less voice they cry,



Christ our God to earth de - scend - eth,
 he will give to all the faith - ful
 that the powers of hell may va - nish
 "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!"



our full hom - age to de - mand.
 his own self for heaven - ly food.
 as the dark - ness clears a way.
 Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Let us pray.

Eternal God, heavenly Father, 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.

CHRISTMAS BLESSING

May Almighty God, who sent his 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 among you for ever. **Amen.**

RECESSIONAL HYMN *Joy to the world! the Lord is come (Antioch)*

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2 Joy to the world! the Sa - vior reigns; let us our
 *3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive her King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room, and
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, re -
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow far
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness, and

heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his

1 and heaven and na - ture sing, and
 2 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re -
 3 far as the curse is found, far
 4 and won - ders of his love, and

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing,
 peat the sound - ing joy,
 as the curse is found,
 won - ders of his love,

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: “He Is Born, the Holy Child” by James Southbridge, Tune: *IL Est Me*, Traditional 18th-century. French

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Hymns: *Of the Father’s love begotten:* Words, Music in the Public Domain. *Unto us a boy is born!:* Words, Music in the Public Domain. *Let all mortal flesh keep silence:* Words, Music in the Public Domain. *Once in Royal David’s City:* One License #84482. Used with permission. All rights reserved. *Joy to the world:* Words, Music in the Public Domain. Subscriptions: riteplanning.com #SB157752, expires 3/31/2021 and ONE LICENSE Annual License with Podcasting #A-736373, expires 8/26/2021. All rights reserved.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Donna Jean Kiessling, Rector

Music Minister: Mrs. Bonnie Forgacs

Reader: Mrs. Pat Womelsdorf

Thank you for worshipping virtually with *St. Peter’s Episcopal Church* in Smyrna, Delaware this morning! Your presence and participation are important to us.

The video of this service will be posted to our Facebook page at **St. Peters Smyrna** as well as on the homepage of our website: www.stpeters-smyrna.org.

Stewardship Reflection: First Sunday after Christmas “...you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives...” What kind of light shines through you to reflect your love of God, and your desire to spread that light in the service of others?

Prayers for this Week

All Members and Friends who have asked for our prayers

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Brandywine Collaborative Ministries: Calvary Church, Hillcrest; Grace Church and Brandywine Hundred and Church of the Ascension, Claymont

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: Pray for Christians in other denominations and the work of the ecumenical movement

Smyrna/Clayton Ministerium Cycle of Prayer: Smyrna Wesleyan Church

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Shirley Biddle
Carol Binns

Welfare of the World: Healing for all those infected with the Coronavirus; Consolation for Loved Ones of those who have Died during this pandemic; For the development of a vaccine and medication to help those who are ill; and ALL medical staff and First Responders.

Aumbry Candle

Given to the Glory of God and
In Memory of Dave, Norma & Dave Jr. Hyer and John & Peg Jacobs
By: Evy & Dave Jacobs

Announcements

Virtual AA Meetings Available: Many AA groups are no longer able to meet in-person due to restrictions surrounding the coronavirus. Please spread the word that virtual AA meetings are available on [the e-AA website](#).

The Episcopal Church in Delaware has a COVID-19 response page that includes all of the bishop's responses, State of Emergency and all modifications, worship service information, parish and worship resources, news from the Episcopal Church, and public health information. It can be found by following this link: <https://delaware.church/covid-19-response/>.

Our Church Office is open by Appointment. Please call the office Monday through Thursday from 8:30AM to 12:30PM or contact Mo. Donna Jean. Please do not hesitate to call if you need something.

Church Office will be closed on Thursday, December 31, 2020.

**Join St. Peter's Episcopal Church for a Virtual Christmas Sing-along
December 31st from 7pm to 8pm**

A donation of \$10 to St. Peter's will enter you into several door prize drawings for gift cards worth \$50 to \$100 each.

**To enter for the drawings, contact:
Shirley Biddle at 508.272.0708 or the Church Office at 302.653.9691**

**To Join our Sing-along go online to St. Peter's Facebook page at:
[Link to Live Video of Sing-along](#)**

January 17, 2021 is our Annual Meeting. We will have **1** service (Facebook Live) at 9:00am (Rite II), with the meeting starting at 10:00am by Zoom.

Deadline for Annual reports: Thursday, January 7th.
Please submit them to the Church office. Thanks.

**Happy New Year!
“2021”**

May God be with you through the New Year and fill your life with
COMFORT, LOVE and CHEER.

May this day and the days ahead hold many
BLESSINGS for you and yours.