



St. Peter's Episcopal Church

22 N. Union Street, Smyrna, Delaware 19777

A Faith Community Offering Hospitality, Hope and Healing

www.stpeters-smyrna.org

**Second Sunday after Christmas
The Holy Eucharist Rite Two
Sunday, January 3, 2021 – 9:00 A.M.**

PRELUDE: Bagatelle on "We Three Kings" By: John G. Barr,
Tune: "Kings of Orient" by John Henry Hopkins Jr.

The Word of God

ENTRANCE HYMN: *What star is this, with beams so bright (Puer nobis)*

Unison or harmony

1 What star is this, with beams so bright, more beau - teous
2 True spake the pro - phet from a - far who told the
3 The guid - ing star a - bove is bright; with - in them
4 O Je - sus, while the star of grace im - pels us
5 To God the Fa - ther, heaven - ly Light, to Christ, re -

1 than the noon - day light? It shines to her - ald
2 rise of Ja - cob's star; and east - ern sa - ges
3 shines a clear - er light, and leads them on with
4 on to seek thy face, let not our sloth - ful
5 vealed in earth - ly night, to God the Ho - ly

1 forth the King, and Gen - tiles to his crib to bring.
 2 with a - maze up - on the won - drous to - ken gaze.
 3 power be - nign to seek the Giv - er of the sign.
 4 hearts re - fuse the guid - ance of thy light to use.
 5 Ghost we raise our e - qual and un - ceas - ing praise.

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.

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The Lessons

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:7-14

A Reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

⁷Thus says the LORD: “Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, ‘Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel.’ ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock.’ ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty,” says the LORD.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 84

¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

²The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

³Happy are they who dwell in your house! *

they will always be praising you.

⁴Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁵Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

⁶They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

⁷LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

⁸Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

⁹For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

¹⁰For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;

¹¹No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

¹²O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

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

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

¹⁵I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers.

¹⁷I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ^{19a}and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *When Jesus left his Father's throne (Kingsfold)* [Verse 1]



1 When Je - sus left his Fa - ther's throne, he chose an hum - ble birth;
2 Sweet were his words and kind his look, when mo - thers round him pressed;
3 When Je - sus in - to Zi - on rode, the chil - dren sang a - round;



like us, un - hon - ored and un - known, he came to dwell on earth.
their in - fants in his arms he took, and on his bos - om blessed.
for joy they plucked the palms and strowed their gar - ments on the ground.



Like him may we be found be - low, in wis - dom's path of peace;
Safe from the world's al - lur - ing harms, be - neath his watch - ful eye,
Ho - san - na our glad voic - es raise, ho - san - na to our King!



like him in grace and know - ledge grow as years and strength in - crease.
thus in the cir - cle of his arms may we for ev - er lie.
Should we for - get our Sa - vior's praise, the stones them - selves would sing.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:41-52

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

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

⁴¹Every year Jesus' parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. ⁴²And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. ⁴³When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. ⁴⁴Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." ⁴⁹He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" ⁵⁰But they did not understand what he said to them. ⁵¹Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother

treasured all these things in her heart. ⁵²And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

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 Bishop; 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/StPetersSmyrna/Give> to give online *OR* text **RISENCHRIST \$amount** (ex: RISENCHRIST \$30) to **73256** to give by phone. *Thank you in advance for your generosity!*

ANTHEM: “Hodie” Words and Music by Jay Althouse

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 *For the beauty of the earth (Lucerna Laudoniae)*

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2 For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
4 For the joy of hu-man love, bro-ther, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
5 For the Church which ev - er - more lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,

1 for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
2 hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
3 for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,
4 friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
5 of - fering up on ev - ery shore thy pure sac - ri - fice of love,

Refrain

Christ our God, to thee we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

6 For each perfect gift of thine
to the world so freely given,
faith and hope and love divine,
peace on earth and joy in heaven,

Refrain

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 *We three kings of Orient are (Three Kings of Orient)*

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I: in - cense
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and



1 gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2 bring to crown him a - gain, King for ev - er,
 3 owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4 life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5 God and Sac - ri - fice; heaven sings al - le -



1 moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2 ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 3 glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship him, God Most High.
 4 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5 lu - ia: al - le - lu - ia the earth re - plies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night,

star with roy - al beau - ty bright; west - ward lead - ing,

still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

“See Amid the Winter's Snow” by: Douglas E. Wagner, Tune: Humility by John Goss

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Hymns: *What star is this, with beams so bright:* Words, Music in the Public Domain. *When Jesus lift his Father's throne:* Words, Music in the Public Domain. *For the beauty of the earth:* Words, Music in the Public Domain. *We three kings of Orient are:* 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: Ms. Bonnie Forgacs

Choir: Mrs. Pat Womelsdorf

Reader: Mrs. Shirley Biddle

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: Second Sunday after Christmas “*Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity...*” **How is the divine life reflected in us as we go about our daily lives? Do we strive to have others see the face and hands of Jesus in us? Perhaps it's not too late to make such a resolution for the coming year.**

Prayers for this Week

All Members and Friends who have asked for our prayers

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: Christ Church, Dover

The Rev. Charles Sumner Weiss, Rector

The Venerable Patricia Malcolm

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Episcopal / Anglican Province of Alexandria

Smyrna/Clayton Ministerium Cycle of Prayer: Smyrna Wesleyan Church

Parish Cycle of Prayer: Marge and Mary Block

Leroy Brown and Stan McIntyre

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 efficient and widespread distribution of the vaccines and medication to help those who are ill; and ALL medical staff and First Responders.

Aumbry Candle

Given to the Glory of God in Thanksgiving for the Members of St. Peter's and
for the Gift of the life of Fr. William A. Barry, SJ

By: Mo. Donna Jean

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.

Harvest Sharing (Outreach) Opportunity: In January and February we will be collecting funds for the Smyrna Emergency Fund administered by the Smyrna-Clayton Ministerium. Funds can be sent or dropped off to St. Peter's marked for the "Emergency Fund." We're working on getting a Harvest Sharing fund set up online for you to donate online. Stay tuned for more details later.

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.