



ST HELENA *The Parish Church of*

KNOWING *the Savior*
ALIGNING *with the Lord*
SEEING *the Kingdom come*

An Anglican Congregation • Beaufort, South Carolina

The First Sunday of Christmas

Sunday, December 27, 2020

8:30 a.m.

Welcome to our Worship Service

Giving to St. Helena's

Thank you for worshipping with us this morning. Please keep your offering as part of your spiritual practice. You can give online by visiting www.StHelenas1712.org (click the blue "Give Online" button on the homepage) or by texting the number (843) 202-4739. You can also mail your check to the Parish Church of St. Helena, PO Box 1043, Beaufort, SC 29901.

Order of Worship

Prelude

Welcome

Opening Hymn: Good Christians Men, Rejoice

In Dulci Jubilo

Good Christians men, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Give ye heed 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!

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye hear of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born to for this!
He hath oped the heav'nly door,
And man is blessed evermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian men, rejoice
With heart, and soul, and voice;
Now ye need not fear the grave;
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all
To gain his everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

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

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

The celebrant prays:

The Collect for Purity

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 Summary of the Law

Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets.
Matthew 22:37-40

Gloria: Angels We Have Heard on High

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night,
and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day (*Remain standing*)

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, kindled 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.*

Please be seated for the reading of God's Word.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10 - 62:5

- 10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul 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 like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
- 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.
- 1 For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet, until her righteousness goes forth as brightness, and her salvation as a burning torch.
- 2 The nations shall see your righteousness, and all the kings your glory, and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.
- 3 You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
- 4 You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.
- 5 For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John.

People: *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

The Gospel: John 1:1-18

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ² He was in the beginning with God. ³ All

things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made. ⁴ In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵ The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ⁶ There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. ⁸ He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ⁹ The true light, which gives light to everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. ¹¹ He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. ¹² But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, ¹³ who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John bore witness about him, and cried out, “This was he of whom I said, ‘He who comes after me ranks before me, because he was before me.’”) ¹⁶ For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon:

The Rev. Joe Lawrence

The Prayers of the People (*Kneeling or seated as you are able*)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, “hear our prayer.”

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well-being and unity of the people of God.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For Foley, our Archbishop, and Mark, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our diocese and congregation.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity, especially those on our parish prayer list.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray.

Reader: Lord, in your mercy:

People: *Hear our prayer.*

The celebrant concludes:

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Confession and Absolution of Sin

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker and judge of us all: We acknowledge and lament our many sins and offenses, which we have committed by thought, word, and deed against your divine majesty, provoking most justly your righteous anger against us. We are deeply sorry for these our transgressions; the burden of them is more than we can bear. Have mercy upon us, Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may evermore serve and please you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest says:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who in his great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who sincerely repent and with true faith turn to him, have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: *And with your spirit.*

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem

St. Louis

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in the thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hope and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to men on earth.

How silently, how silently
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of his heav'n.
No ear may hear his coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him, still
The dear Christ enters in.

O holy child of Bethlehem,
Descend to us we pray!
Cast out our sin and enter in;
Be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
The great glad tidings tell;
O come with us, abide with us,
Our Lord Emmanuel.

Please stand as you are able.

The Sursum Corda

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And with your spirit.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

The Sanctus

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory: glory be to thee, O Lord Most High. Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Kneeling or seated as you are able.

The Prayer of Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

The Fraction

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed, once for all upon the Cross.

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Prayer of Humble Access

We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table; but you are the same Lord whose character is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body, and our souls washed through his most precious blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation

Celebrant: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Ministration of Communion

Communion Response: Away in a Manger

Away in a Manger

Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,
The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask thee to stay
Close by me for ever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven, to live with thee there.

The Post Communion Prayer

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us, through this Sacrament, of your favor and goodness towards us: that we are true members of the mystical body of your Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of your everlasting kingdom. And we humbly ask you, heavenly Father, to assist us with your grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all the good works that you have prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: Go Tell it on the Mountain

Go Tell it on the Mountain

Refrain: Go tell it on the mountain, Over the hills and ev'rywhere,
Go tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching
O'er silent flocks by night,
Behold, throughout the heavens
There shone a holy light. *Refrain.*

The shepherds feared and trembled
When lo! Above the earth,
Rang out the angel chorus
That hailed our Savior's birth. *Refrain.*

Down in a lowly manger
The humble Christ was born,
And God send us salvation
That blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain.*

The Dismissal

Deacon: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power
of the Holy Spirit. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.*

Postlude

*Please take your bulletin with you and be mindful of
social-distancing recommendations as you leave.*

Participating in the Service:

The Rev. Joe Lawrence, Associate Rector
The Rev. Jim Cato, Deacon
Sydney Lawrence, Organist
Austin Stout, Lector

Our Vision

St. Helena's will boldly proclaim the saving Gospel and Lordship of Jesus Christ, and through intentional discipleship, will raise up servant leaders and worshipping communities in Beaufort and beyond, seeing the Kingdom come.

For pastoral care concerns for yourself or another parishioner, please contact Anne Mitchell, our Pastoral Care Coordinator, at (843) 575-1780 or email her at amitchell@sthelenas1712.org.

The Parish Church of St. Helena

AN ANGLICAN CONGREGATION

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