



**Family Service of Lessons and Carols
for Christmas Eve
4 pm**

**St. Martin's Episcopal Church
Bridgewater, NJ**

Please stand

Opening Carol: *Once in Royal David's City*, vv 1,2

Hymnal 1982, 102

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

And blessed be God's Kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Let us pray: Almighty God, you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this night of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and forever. *Amen.*

First Reading:

The Angel Gabriel tells the Virgin Mary that she will be the mother of Jesus

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin engaged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be called the Son of the Most High." "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Carol: *The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came* vv.1,4

Hymnal 1982, 265

Second Reading: Jesus is born

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was expecting a child, and who was engaged to be married to him. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

Carol: *Away in a Manger* vv. 1,2

Hymnal 1982, 101

Third Reading: The angel tells the Shepherds that the Son of God has been born

An angel of the Lord appeared to shepherds who were watching their flocks at night. The glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger.

Carol: *Go Tell It On the Mountain* vv.1,3

Hymnal 1982, 99

Fourth Reading: The Mystery of the Incarnation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all. And the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Carol: *O Come All Ye Faithful*, v. 1,6

Hymnal 1982, 83

Peace and Announcements

Offertory Carol: *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*

Hymnal 1982, 87

The Liturgy of the Altar

The Lord be with you/ *And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts/ *We lift them up to the Lord.*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *It is right to give God thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who, by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother; so that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

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.

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, Drink this, all of you: 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.

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine. We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with the Ever

Blessed Virgin Mary, St. Joseph her Spouse, St. Martin of Tours, and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of 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 him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Fraction

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

The Holy Communion

All are welcome to receive Communion. We will be offering communion with both Christ's Body and Blood. Following ancient Christian teaching, all persons may, but no person must, receive communion in both kinds to receive the fullness of Christ's Body and Blood. You may choose to receive only the host. Please do not dip the host into the chalice at this time.

Communion Hymn

Silent Night, Holy Night

Hymnal 1982, 111

Post Communion Prayer (Please kneel or stand)

BCP, 365

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.

Blessing

May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Closing Hymn: *Joy to the World*

Hymnal 1982, 100

Crucifer: Clay Kellam Banner Bearer: Delaney Swain

Readers: First Reading: Natalie Kellam Second Reader: Ella Ziolkowski

Third Reader: Hayden Elfand Fourth Reader: Alex Kellam

Nativity Characters: Angel Gabriel: Gavin Elfand Virgin Mary: Ava Ziolkowski

St. Joseph: Anthony Ziolkowski Shepherds: Annarose Zazzali, Sean Hawley