The Eve of the Feast of the Nativity

Saturday the Twenty-Fourth of December
at Three o'clock in the Afternoon
Two Thousand and Twenty-Two
Welcome to St. Peter’s

St. Peter’s Church, Morristown: Where All Are Welcome!

A warm welcome to all newcomers and visitors! We are delighted that you are here. Everyone is welcome in this community of faith. Please help us get to know you by filling out a welcome card found in the pews or available from an usher. After you fill it out, please give it to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

+ UPCOMING SERVICES +

Christmas Day
Holy Eucharist—10:30 a.m.

Christmas I
Sunday, January 1—10:30 a.m.

Epiphany
Sunday, January 8
Holy Eucharist: 8:00, 10:30 a.m.
Worship Together 9:15 am
A service of Eucharist for Families

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PRELUDE

WELCOME

A GATHERING SONG (sung twice by all)

PRIEST: Today we light the final candle, the Christ candle, for Christ is born among us. Our Advent waiting is done, yet our yearning for justice is renewed, as we continue to work and wait for God's final re-creation. We give thanks for the light of hope—unrelenting and inexplicable.

All Our hope in Christ shines on.

PRIEST: We give thanks for the light of peace—strong and unafraid.

All The peace of Christ lights our way.

PRIEST: We give thanks for the light of joy—persistent and unpredictable.

All The joy of Christ brightens our lives.

PRIEST: We give thanks for the light of love—hot and holy.

All The love of Christ comforts and challenges.

PRIEST: Now let us light the Christ candle as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

All Thank you, God, for your light in this world through Jesus Christ.

PRIEST: The light shines in the darkness.

All And the darkness has not overcome it.

PRIEST: Let us pray together:

All God of reconciliation, source of all life, may we seek Christ with the wonder and curiosity of a child, may we find Christ flowing through your beloved waters and healing your beloved land, and may we wait on Christ, the reconciler of nations and peoples, whose reign of justice will never end. Amen.

OPENING PRAYER (please stand as you are able)

CELEBRANT: Let us love God with our hearts.

All And our neighbors as ourselves.

CELEBRANT: Let us love God with our minds.

All And our neighbors as ourselves.
Celebrant  Let us love God with our strength.
All  And our neighbors as ourselves.

O COME ALL YE FAITHFUL

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;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ, the Lord.


The Rev. Anne C. Thatcher

Priest  The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All  Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

Priest  The Gospel of the Lord.
All  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

(please be seated)
ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

Angels we have heard on high,
Come to Bethlehem and see
him whose birth the angels sing;
and the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight,
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

THE NATIVITY STORY

The Rev. Elizabeth S. Ivell

CREED (sung twice together, please stand as you are able)

We believe in God the Creator, we believe in Jesus, the Son,
we believe in God, Holy Spirit, with us 'til our journey is done.
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  *(please be seated)*
Jesus, whose mother was Mary: we pray for …
Priest: Lord Jesus,
All: Hear our prayer.
Jesus, cradled in a manger: we pray for …
Priest: Lord Jesus,
All: Hear our prayer.
Jesus, sharing the stable with the animals: we pray for …
Priest: Lord Jesus,
All: Hear our prayer.
Jesus, worshiped by shepherds and kings: we pray for …
Priest: Lord Jesus,
All: Hear our prayer.
Jesus, our Emmanuel: we pray for …
Priest: Lord Jesus,
All: Hear our prayer.
Jesus, Saviour, child of Mary, you know us and love us, you share our lives and hear our prayer.
Glory to you forever. Amen.

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION  *(please stand as you are able)*
Celebrant  Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor, repeating after me:

Loving God, sometimes we make mistakes. We forget to love you and ourselves. We say and do things that hurt people. Please forgive us and help us to do better. Amen.

Celebrant  God loves you and forgives you.
Many  Amen.

THE PEACE
Celebrant  The Angel said, “Be not afraid…” The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All  And also with you.

Let us share with one another a sign of God’s peace with a high five, hug, or handshake.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

All are welcome to receive communion. The bread is gluten-free and dairy free.
THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERING (please be seated)

Half of this evening’s offering will go to Nourish NJ and New Jersey Battered Women’s Shelter.

THE FIRST NOWELL

The first Noel, the angel did say
They looked up and saw a star.
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
Shining in the east beyond them far.

In fields as they lay, keeping their sheep,
And to the earth it gave great light,
On a cold winter’s night that was so deep.

And so it continued both day and night.

No well, No well, No well, No well,
Born is the King of Israel.

Please stand as you are able.
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
All And also with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.

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

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God 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 sing our praises with angels, saints, and Christians of every time and place.

On the night before he died, Jesus gathered his friends together at a table to share a meal. He lifted up the bread to God and gave thanks. Then Jesus broke the bread and gave it to his friends saying, “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, gave thanks, and said, “Drink of this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”
Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith, saying:

All Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Celebrant Holy God thank you for your presence, and ask that your Holy Spirit be in this bread, this wine and in us. Fill them and us with the Spirit of Jesus. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER
Celebrant As Jesus taught us, we now pray,
All 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD
Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

INVITATION TO COMMUNION
Communion will be distributed in person at the crossing. Please sit and wait for an usher to guide you. All are welcome to drink from the common Chalice, however intinction is not permitted at this time.

COMMUNION CAROL - WHAT CHILD IS THIS

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?
Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping?
Good Christian, fear: for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.
This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary.

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COMMUNION CAROL - O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM

O little town of Beth-le-hem, how still we see thee lie!
For Christ is born of Ma-ry; and gath-ered all a-bove,
O ho-ly Child of Beth-le-hem, de-scend to us, we pray;
A-bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si-lent stars go by;
while mor-tals sleep, the an-gels keep their watch of won-d'ring love.

yet in thy dark streets shin-eth the ev-er-last-ing Light;
O morn-ing stars, to-geth-er pro-claim the ho-ly birth!
We hear the Christ-mas an-gels the great glad tid-ings tell;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.
and prais-es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.
O come to us, a-bide with us, our Lord Em-man-u-el!

COMMUNION CAROL - AWAY IN A MANGER

A-way in a man-ger, no crib for his bed,
The cat-tle are low-ing, the ba-by a-wakes,
the lit-tle Lord Je-sus laid down his sweet head.
but lit-tle Lord Je-sus no cry-ing he makes.

The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
I love thee, Lord Je-sus! Look down from the sky,
the lit-tle Lord Je-sus a-sleep on the hay.
and stay by my side un-til morn-ing is nigh.

Please stand as you are able
PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Celebrant       Let us pray.
All             We thank you, Lord, for this life. We thank you for this holy food. Strengthen us to be your hands and feet in this world. And thank you for being with us. Amen.

SILENT NIGHT

As the Clergy come down the aisle, please light your candle, passing the light to your neighbors.
Once your candle is lit, keep it upright; have others tip their unlit candles into the flame.

1. Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
2. Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight,
3. Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light

round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant so tender and mild,
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing alleluia;
radiant beams from thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace,
sleep in heavenly peace. Sleep, in heavenly peace.

Christ, the Savior is born! Christ, the Savior is born.
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.

THE BLESSING

Celebrant      May the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the perseverance of the wise men, the obedience of Joseph and Mary, and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

WELCOME

THE DISMISSAL & PROCESSION TO THE NATIVITY

Priest       Let us go forth into this holy night renewed by the presence of Christ in our midst.
All           Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!

You are invited to process with us as we bring baby Jesus to the Nativity scene outside the front of the church.
GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN

Refrain

Go tell it on the mountain, o-ver the hills and ev-’ry-where;
go tell it on the moun-tain that Je-sus Christ is born!

While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o’er si- lent flocks by night,
Down in a low-ly man-ger the hum-ble Christ was born,

be-hold, through-out the hea-vens there shone a ho-ly light.
and God sent us sal-va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.

+ THIS AFTERNOON’S LITURGICAL MINISTERS +

The Rev. Elizabeth Ivell, Celebrant
The Rev. Anne Thatcher, Assisting
Dr. Anthony Hammond, Music Director
Jimmy Ivell, Guitarist
Allie Hammond, Vocalist
Bret Sharretts, Chalice Bearer

Join in learning about God and creating a joyful noise!
You are invited to “Worship Together”, A Holy Eucharist for young families on Sunday mornings from 9:15-9:45 am. We hope you'll join us for this fun service designed for the wiggles and participation of children 5 and under and their families.

St. Peter’s KiDS program will resume Sunday January 8th at 9:15 am with Godly Play for elementary school children in Classroom 7 of the Undercroft. Godly Play is a nationally recognized Montessori-style religious education curriculum. For more information, contact Mother Elizabeth at eivell@stpetersmorristown.net or 973-538-0555 ext. 113.
The Ministry of the People Is Supported by the Church Staff

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Pastoral Care  
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CHRISTMAS FLOWER & GREENS DEDICATIONS
IN MEMORY OF:

Doris M. Allen
Burnett Andrews
Elizabeth Andrews
Patricia Emberley Bacon
Liam Bailey
Solon Bailey
Charles & Vera Beck
Anne Jean Bendetti
Jack Bickerton
Carol Boccino
Ardie Borowick
Edward H. Burnet
Anne Cardillo
Dominick Cardillo
Louis Cardinali
Louise Cardinali
Diane Clifton
Don Clifton
Helen Bourne Clifton
Elizabeth Conklin
Herbert Conklin
Peter Conklin
Beatrice Cooney
Reverend Matthew Corkern
Henry & Florence Custy
William Dickinson
Agnes Dickinson
Daniel Patrick Dooley
The Duke Family
John Dyer
Amanda Emberley
Charles Walter Emberley
Charlotte Theiler Emberley
Chief (Mrs.) Flora Fajemirokun
Chief Henry Fajemirokun
Funsho Fajemirokun
Tunde Fajemirokun
Delphine Ferguson
Rev. Hughes Garvin
Valarie Gilliland
John R. Hartman
William & Annie C. Hasher
William Hasher
Emily Mary Hasher
Frances K. Hazen
Robert M. Hazen
Rev. David Hegg
Edward James Hill
Marie Theiler Hill
Margaret E. Hoffman
Gale Jackson
Gladys Jeffery
Fred Jeffery
Joe
Walter Kaupe
Mary Howard Keasley
Peggy Kelley
Theresa Kitson
Julius & Mary Knapnik
Alice E. Lindsley
Bertha H. Lindsley
Lina Miceli
Mike
The Mitchell Family
Monroe Moseley
Minnie Moseley
Nella
Laurel Anne Olcott
Candace C. Owen
H. Martyn Owen Jr
Howard & Ann Palmer
Rev. William J. Patterson
Elisabeth S. Patterson
Deborah B. Phillips
Frank L. Phillips
Phyl
Emily L. Porges
James B. Porges
Bruce Rand
Rev. Charles Rice
Frederick & Vera Riedel
Cynthia Robinson
Charles Robinson
Nancy Sabatos
Rudolf Schmidt
Joanne Sullivan Siotka
Nicholas C. Siotka
Marta and Paul Sommer
Charles Edwin St. Martin
The Talmage Family
Cecil Teekasingh
Doreen Teekasingh
Grace G. Terwillger
Hal R. Terwillger
William Terrell
Edwin Thompson
Lucille Thompson
William Thompson
Tia
Alice Tildsley
Arthur Tildsley
Marianne Koppisch Tobler
Paul Watson
Brent Wentz
Laura Wolf
Cornelius P. Yernbridge
CHRISTMAS FLOWER & GREENS DEDICATIONS
IN THANKSGIVING FOR:

Dominick Beck
The Reverend Michel Belt
Josh & Alaina Boccino
St. Peter’s Choir
St. Peter’s Choristers
Gwendlyn Foster
Health & The Gottlieb Family
The Knapnik Family
Lorenzo Maslany
Annalyse Olcott
Kailina Olcott
Rye Olcott
Echo Olcott
Cash Olcott
Sarah & Dan’s Marriage

The St. Peter’s Christmas Tree in the Chapel is given in loving memory of Bruce Rand

ST. PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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stpetersmorristown.org | 973.538.0555